



Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report

Annex A - Plans & Programmes

June 2024



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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

This document forms an annex (Annex A) to the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report of the Castle Point Plan. An SA/SEA forms part of an assessment process designed to consider and report upon the significant sustainability issues and effects of emerging plans and policies, including their reasonable alternatives. Such an assessment informs the plan-making process by helping to refine the contents of such documents, so that they maximise the benefits of sustainable development and avoid, or at least minimise, the potential for adverse effects.

The purpose of the Scoping Report is to provide the context for, and determine the scope of, the SA/SEA of the Castle Point Plan and to set out the assessment framework.

This document forms a report on the plans and programmes (contextual review) annex (Annex A) to the main SA Scoping Report.

1.2 Identifying Other Relevant Policies, Plan and Programmes

The SEA Directive requires the production of the following information:

“an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;” Annex 1(a); and

“the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;” Annex 1(e).

2. List of Relevant Plan and Programmes

Local Plans must have regard to existing policies, plans and programmes at national and regional levels. It is therefore important to identify and review those policies, plans and programmes which are likely to influence the Plan.

Brexit

Whilst the SEA statutory process was originally required under the European SEA Directive, the Directive became transposed in the UK by the SEA Regulations and amended by the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232). As set out in the explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Brexit amendments, necessary to ensure that the law functions correctly following the UK's exit from the EU. No changes were made by this instrument to the way the SEA regime currently operates. Therefore, the SEA regulations remain in force.

The following table offers a reference to the plans and programmes relevant to the Castle Point Plan and the accompanying SA.

International Plans and Programmes
European Commission (EC) (2011) / Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. (Transposed in the UK by the SEA Regulations and amended by the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232) ¹
European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2002)
United Nations Kyoto Protocol
World Commission on Environment and Development 'Our Common Future' 1987
The World Summit on Sustainable Development Johannesburg Summit 2002
National Plans and Programmes
Planning Practice Guidance (updated)
The Localism Act 2011
National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023)
National Design Guide MHCLG (2021)
Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth, HM Treasury (2021)
Agricultural Act 2020, UK Parliament (2020)
Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024, DEFRA (2020)
UK Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future, HM Government (2018)
Developing a sustainable framework for UK aviation - Scoping document (March 2011)
Building a Greener Future: Policy Statement (July 2007)
The Road to Zero, DfT (2018)
Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain, DCLG (2021)
Future of Transport: Supporting Rural Transport Innovation, DfT (2023)
Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge, DEFRA (2023)

¹ To ensure that the law functions correctly following the UK's exit from the EU. No substantive changes were made by this instrument to the way the SEA regime currently operates. Therefore, the SEA Regulations remain in force, and it is a legal requirement for the Castle Point Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.

The Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy report to Parliament, Secretary for Transport (2022)
Community Infrastructure Levy An Overview, DCLG (9th May 2011)
Underground, Under Threat - Groundwater protection: policy and practice (GP3)
Land contamination risk management (LCRM), EA (2020, and subsequent updates)
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations, DEFRA and DfT (2017)
Clean Air Strategy 2019, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2019)
The Air Quality Strategy for England, DEFRA (2023)
The Carbon Budget Delivery Plan, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023)
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, DEFRA (2022)
The British energy security strategy, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street (2022)
The Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2021)
Safeguarding Our Soils: A Strategy for England (2009)
Natural Environment White Paper: The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (2011)
The Environment Act 2021, HM Government (2021)
The 25 Year Environment Plan, HM Government (2018)
The Waste Prevention programme for England: Maximising Resources, Minimising Waste, DEFRA (2023)
Waste Management Plan for England, DEFRA (2021)
The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations, HM Government (2020)
The Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations, HM Government (2021)
Green Infrastructure Framework, Natural England (2023)
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (December 2023)
Sub-national Plans and Programmes
Essex Gypsy and Traveller Showpeople Accommodation Assessment 2016 - 2033, ORS (Update 2018)
South Essex Gypsy, Traveller, and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment Update 2016 – 2038, ORS, (2019) (to be updated by the Castle Point Borough Council Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment 2024 for Castle Point)
Castle Point demographic projections 2023 -33, CLG, ONS
Essex Local Transport Plan 2011 (LTP3)
South Essex Transport Study, Jacobs, 2024 (LTP4) (underway to be completed by June 2024)
Essex Biodiversity Action Plans 2010 - 2020
Essex Design Guide – Ecology and Biodiversity (2023)
Heritage at Risk, East of England register 2022, Historic England
Essex Thames Gateway Historic Landscape Characterisation, ECC, 2007
School Organisation 10-year plan for Essex school places 2024 – 2033 (ECC)
ECC Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007-2032
ECC Draft Waste Strategy for Essex 2024 - 2054
Water Strategy for Essex, 2024, ECC
Water for life and livelihoods River Basin Management Plan Thames River Basin District
Essex Wildlife Trust Living Landscape Plans

Essex Wildlife Trust Living Landscape Statements
Essex Wildlife Trust Living Landscapes A Vision for the Future of Essex
Essex Rural Strategy: 2020 Vision for Rural Essex (under review to be launched 2024) Essex Rural Partnership
ECC Development Management Policies (February 2011)
ECC Parking Standards: Design and Good Practice (September 2009) (to be updated once work completed)
Essex Design Guide – Parking Design (live document)
The Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide for Essex 2020
Essex Wildlife Trust Living Landscape Statements
The Essex County Council Developers’ Guide to Infrastructure Contributions (Revised Edition 2023)
Essex Sector Development Strategy (Essex County Council 2022)
River Basin Management Plan Thames River Basin District 2022
The Essex Design Guide – Health and Wellbeing (updated 2021) Live Document
Essex Healthy Places – Advice Notes for Planners, Developers and Designers (ECC)
Essex Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, ECC, 2022
Everyone’s Essex: Our Plan for levelling up the county 2021 to 2025 (ECC)
Essex Minerals Local Plan (2014)
Essex Minerals Local Plan Review 2025 - 2040
Essex Design Guide – Minerals and Waste Policy S8 – Safeguarding Mineral Resources (live document)
Essex Design Guide (2024) Live Document
Essex Climate Action Commission Plan, Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral, 2021
Local Plans and Programmes
Castle Point Local Plan 1998 (withdrawn)
South Essex Joint Strategic Plan Statement of Common Ground (June 2018)
Castle Point Engagement Through Art (underway)
Local Reports and Assessments (Evidence Base)
Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2018), to be updated (Urban Land Capacity Assessment) in 2024 and Brownfield Land Register (2022)
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report 2023
Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) (2018)
Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation SPD (2020) Adopted
Local Wildlife Site Review (underway / to be completed Spring 2024)
Essex Wildlife Trust – Hadleigh and Daws Heath Living landscape Vision, 2010
Essex Wildlife Trust – South Essex Marshes Living Landscape Vision, 2010
Castle Point Design Code (to completed 2024)
Greenbelt Review – Part 1 (2018)
Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy, ECC (2020)
South Essex Green and Blue Infrastructure Study, 2020
Castle Point Open Space Assessment, 2023 (Final April 2024)
Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy 2018 (updated 2022)
Sport and Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment (2018)
South Essex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Part 1) (2018)
Castle Point Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Part 1) (2024) in progress
Castle Point Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Part 2) (to be completed Autumn 2024)
Castle Point Local Walking and Cycling Improvement Plan Stage 1 and Stage 2 Analysis (2023)
Castle Point Bus Network Review (2023)
Whole Plan Viability Assessment (2018) To be updated Autumn 2024

Essex & District Population Projections 2020 All Ages
Essex Area Profiles – Essex Open Data
South Essex Economic Development Needs Assessment (November 2017)
Essex Sector Development Strategy (Essex County Council 2022)
Economic Development Strategy (underway / to be completed April 2024)
South Essex Retail Study Volume 1 (May 2017)
Castle Point Town Centre Shopping Frontages Assessment (2019)
Castle Point Transport Evidence Phase 2 Report (2015)
Castle Point Transport Evidence Refresh Interim Report, Mott Macdonald (2018)
Transport Assessment, Jacobs Update (to be completed June 2024)
South Essex SHMA Addendum (May 2017)
South Essex Strategic Housing Market Assessment (May 2016)
Castle Point Local Housing Needs Assessment (2023)
Greater Essex GTAA (September 2017)
Castle Point Borough Gypsy, Traveller, and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment 2017 (to be updated / completed March 2024)
Castle Point Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2015)
Castle Point Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Update (2018) withdrawn
South Essex Employment Land Availability Assessment Site Assessment Report (2022)
South Essex ELAA Stage 4: Site Assessment and Stage 5: Site Typologies (2023)
Castle Point Economic Development Site Review (to be completed May 2024)
Urban Capacity Assessment (underway to be completed March 2024)
Sustainability Appraisal of Sites in the Green Belt (2011) to be updated
Sustainability Appraisal of Sites Review (2013) & Second Review (2014) to be updated
Extract from the Essex Historic Environment Record – Castle Point Records (2013)
Castle Point Urban Characterisation Report (2013)
Castle Point Local List of Non-Designated Historic Assets Review (2013)
Castle Point Appendix Five: Designated Historic Assets (2022) (to be reviewed)
Nationally Described Space Standards Report (2015)
Essex Air Quality Live Map (for Castle Point)
Castle Point Air Quality Annual Status Report (2023)
Essex Thames Gateway Historic Landscape Characterisation (2007)
Greater Essex Growth and Infrastructure Framework 2016 - 2036 (2016)
Essex Design Guide – South Essex Surface Water Management Plan (2022)
Canvey Island IUD Model (2015) – to be updated through SFRA to incorporate up to date climate change allowances (update to be completed Summer 2024)
Canvey Island 6 Point Plan (2015)
Castle Point Infrastructure Delivery Plan (to be completed Autumn 2024)
Castle Point Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Supplementary Planning Document, Jan. 2024
Castle Point Developer Contributions Guidance Supplementary Planning Documents March 2023
Castle Point Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule, May 2023
Castle Point Habitats Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, November 2021 (withdrawn)
Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping for Castle Point Plan (due Summer 2024)
Habitats Regulations Assessment for Castle Point Plan (due Autumn 2024)

The following section offers a summary of each of these above plans and programmes and the implications of them for the Plan and the SA.

It should be noted that many of the Castle Point Plan evidence base documents have been summarised in more depth within the relevant sections of Annex B which also

accompanies the SA Environmental Report. These findings are summarised within that Annex and are not duplicated here.

3. Review of Plans and Programmes

3.1 Review of International Plans and Programmes

International Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
<p>European Commission (EC) (2011) / Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.</p> <p>(Transposed in the UK by the SEA Regulations and amended by the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232)²</p>	<p>The policy aims to enjoy the benefits of a resource- efficient and low-carbon economy, through achieving three conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, to take coordinated action in a wide range of policy areas and this action needs political visibility and support. • Second, act urgently due to long investment lead-times. While some actions will have a positive impact on growth and jobs in the short-term, others require an upfront investment and have long pay- back times but will bring real economic benefits in the long term. • Third, to empower consumers to move to resource-efficient consumption, to drive continuous innovation and ensure that efficiency gains are not lost. 	<p>The Plan should incorporate these principles into the local scale development strategy to create targets contributing to national targets. In this way, the Plan will assist in facilitating similar benefits as those described in the transposed EC policy for the population of Castle Point.</p>
<p>European Landscape Convention (Florence 2002)</p>	<p>The aims of this Convention are to promote landscape protection, management, and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</p>	<p>In order to co-operate on matters concerning landscape conservation and protection, the Plan will need to consult with this policy to inform practices of development and avoid substantial harm to protected landscapes.</p>
<p>United Nations Kyoto Protocol</p>	<p>This protocol aims to Implement and/or further elaborate policies and measures for member states in accordance with its national circumstances, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of energy 	<p>The Plan should attempt to create new developments that adhere to the low carbon and low emissions ethos that is within the Kyoto Protocol. Any development that utilises new technologies, techniques or</p>

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International Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	<p>efficiency in relevant sectors of the national economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, considering its commitments under relevant international environmental agreements, promotion of sustainable forest management practices, afforestation and reforestation. • Promotion of sustainable forms of agriculture considering climate change considerations. • Research on, and promotion, development, and increased use of, new and renewable forms of energy, of carbon dioxide sequestration technologies and of advanced and innovative environmentally sound technologies. • Progressive reduction or phasing out of market imperfections, fiscal incentives, tax and duty exemptions and subsidies in all greenhouse gas emitting sectors that run counter to the objective of the Convention and application of market instruments. • Encouragement of appropriate reforms in relevant sectors aimed at promoting policies and measures which limit or reduce emissions of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol. • Measures to limit and/or reduce emissions of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol in the transport sector. • Limitation and/or reduction of methane emissions through 	<p>materials should be included in the Plan where possible and appropriate.</p>

International Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	<p>recovery and use in waste management, as well as in the production, transport, and distribution of energy.</p>	
<p>World Commission on Environment and Development 'Our Common Future' 1987</p>	<p>This report aims were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to propose long-term environmental strategies for achieving sustainable development by the year 2000 and beyond; • to recommend ways concern for the environment may be translated into greater co-operation among developing countries and between countries at different stages of economic and social development and lead to the achievement of common and mutually supportive objectives that take account of the interrelationships between people, resources, environment, and development. • to consider ways and means by which the international community can deal more effectively with environment concerns; and • to help define shared perceptions of long- term environmental issues and the appropriate efforts needed to deal successfully with the problems of protecting and enhancing the environment, a long-term agenda for action during the coming decades, and aspirational goals for the world community. 	<p>The Plan would have to contribute to the co-operative effort to reduce the environmental impacts of development through policy to promote more efficient and carbon neutral techniques and materials in design and construction.</p>
<p>The World Summit on Sustainable Development Johannesburg Summit 2002</p>	<p>The Summit sought to address social, environmental, and economic with particular focus on the issues facing some of the most deprived people across the world. It aimed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • halve the proportion of the 	<p>Despite many of these issues and aims having limited relevance to the population in Castle Point, who have a comparatively high level of wealth and a good quality of life, issues surrounding climate change and renewable energy</p>

International Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	<p>world's population that lives on less than \$1 a day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • halve the number of people living without safe drinking water or basic sanitation; and • reduce mortality rates for infants and children under five by two thirds, and maternal mortality by three quarters. • Other provisions address a comprehensive range of environmental and development issues, such as climate change, energy, agriculture, trade, African development, and small island States. The Implementation Plan calls for a substantial increase in use of renewable sources of energy "with a sense of urgency". Although it sets no specific targets; implementation of a new global system for classification and labelling of chemicals was discussed in an attempt to restore depleted fish stocks. 	<p>have significant implications for development in the Borough. The Plan should strive to produce developments of low carbon housing and reduce environmental degradation through responsible design and construction practices.</p>

3.2 Review of National Plans and Programmes

National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
<p>Planning Practice Guidance</p>	<p>This web-based resource provides guidance to support the National Planning Policy Framework and its application in practice. It is also easy to link easily between the National Planning Policy Framework and relevant planning practice guidance, as well as between different categories of guidance.</p>	<p>Provides guidance on the preparation of Local Plans and accompanying SEA.</p>
<p>Localism Act 2011</p>	<p>The Localism Act provides a general power of competence for local authorities in England. It gives these authorities the same power to act</p>	<p>The Localism Act gave new powers to local authorities to support a much more localised</p>

National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	<p>that an individual generally has and provides that the power may be used in innovative ways, that is, in doing things that are unlike anything that a local authority – or any other public body – has done before or may currently do. Where an authority can do something under the power, the starting point is that there are to be no limits as to how the power can be exercised. The power does not need to be exercised for the benefit of any place or group and can be exercised anywhere and in any way.</p>	<p>approach to development than had previously been possible. Following this, the Plan can utilise statistics and information relating only to the Borough to inform planning policy and allow the focus to be primarily concerned with the benefits for the population within the Borough.</p>
<p>National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023)</p>	<p>This framework sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It replaces all Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance.</p> <p>The framework seeks to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development by pursuing economic, environmental, and social gains jointly and simultaneously through the planning system. It defines planning as having:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive, and competitive economy, • a social role – supporting strong, vibrant, and healthy communities; and • an environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built, and historic environment. <p>The framework provides guidance on preparing Local and Neighbourhood Plans and on determining planning applications.</p> <p>The framework also describes the role of planning in delivering sustainable development under 16 themes. These are:</p>	<p>This framework sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied into local plans.</p>

National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving sustainable development • Plan-making • Decision-making • Delivering a sufficient supply of homes • Building a strong, competitive economy • Ensuring the vitality of town centres • Promoting healthy and safe communities • Promoting sustainable transport • Supporting high quality communications • Making effective use of land • Achieving well-designed and beautiful places • Protecting Green Belt Land • Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change • Conserving and enhancing the natural environment • Conserving and enhancing the historic environment • Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals <p>A key part of the NPPF is the presumption in favour of sustainable development which is relevant to both plan making and decision making.</p>	
<p>The 25 Year Environment Plan, HM Government (2018)</p>	<p>This Plan sets out government policy to help the natural world regain and retain good health. Key areas related to biodiversity are set out in the Plan around which actions are to be focussed. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes: 	<p>The Plan should have regard to this Plan and include measures which seek to achieve the goals and policies set, including within development (inclusive of housing and infrastructure).</p>

National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a Natural Recovery Network to protect and restore wildlife and provide opportunities to re-introduce species that have been lost from the countryside. • Securing clean, healthy productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Achieve a good environmental status of the UK’s seas while allowing marine industries to thrive and complete our economically coherent network of well-managed marine protected areas. • Protecting and improving our global environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity. ▪ Support and protect international forests and sustainable agriculture. 	
<p>Community Infrastructure Levy An Overview</p>	<p>The Community Infrastructure Levy (the levy) came into force in April 2010. It allows local authorities in England and Wales to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their area. The money can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure that is needed as a result of development.</p> <p>The Community Infrastructure Levy charging authorities (charging authorities) in England will be district and metropolitan district councils, London borough councils, unitary authorities, national park authorities, The Broads Authority, and the Mayor of London. These bodies all prepare development plans for their areas, which are informed by assessments</p>	<p>The Plan will need to set out the Borough’s funding mechanism for new infrastructure and community facilities through the planning process. The Community Infrastructure Levy must be factored into costings of any developments.</p>

National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	of the infrastructure needs for which the levy may be collected.	
Underground, Under Threat – Groundwater protection: policy and practice (GP3) / The Environment Agency’s approach to groundwater protection (update 2018)	<p>This document sets out the Environment Agency’s (EA) aims and objectives for groundwater, their technical approach to its management and protection, the tools they use to do their work and the main policies and approach to the application of legislation. The main aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage co-operation between the EA and other bodies with statutory responsibilities for the protection of groundwater. • To promote policies, so that land-users and potential developers may anticipate how the EA are likely to respond to a proposal or activity. • To influence the decisions of other organisations on issues the EA are concerned about but which they do not regulate. • To ensure that groundwater protection and management are consistent with EA’s Vision for the environment and a sustainable future; and • To provide vital information and background on groundwater protection in England and Wales. 	<p>Land use planning can have negative impacts on groundwaters. Relevant to the Plan, impacts can occur from urban development and over-abstraction. Groundwaters will have to be a consideration in the Plan policy.</p>
Land contamination risk management (LCRM), EA (2020, and subsequent updates)	<p>This government guidance sets out how to assess and manage the risks from land contamination, providing a technical framework for structured decision making about land contamination to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and assess if there is an unacceptable risk. • Assess what remediation options are suitable to manage the risk. 	<p>Contaminated land can affect Plan policy where it may present a risk to a range of receptors including humans, ecosystems, water quality, and property. Not understanding the risks may inhibit the development or redevelopment of land, and in some cases contribute to long-term dereliction and increase pressure to develop Greenfield land. In addition, the Plan</p>

National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and carry out remediation, and Verify that remediation has worked. 	<p>should endeavour to incorporate best practice principles provided by the guidance to prevent contamination in the borough for the future and align with government policy and legislation.</p>
<p>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)</p>	<p>This document relates to nature conservation, biodiversity, SSSIs and Rights of Way amongst others in regard to a duty to protect and enforce codes of conduct in relation to these designated and non-designated elements of the environment.</p>	<p>The Plan can influence the protection of these designations and non-designated elements of the environments through policy and appropriate site allocations.</p>
<p>Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</p>	<p>Further information on Rights of Way in relation to nature conservation with wildlife protection, SSSIs and biological diversity amongst other elements of the environment, including regulations to restrict the impacts of vehicles on the environment.</p>	<p>The Plan can influence the protection of these designations and non-designated elements of the environments through policy and appropriate site allocations.</p>
<p>Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).</p>	<p>The SEA Regulations set out the mandatory requirements regarding Sustainability Appraisal for Local Plans and also the requirements of the process.</p>	<p>The Plan must and has undertaken Sustainability Appraisal. These Regulations inform the SA as to what is required to be included in formulating and presenting the Report.</p>
<p>Environment Act 2021</p>	<p>This document sets statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality Biodiversity Water, and Resource efficiency and waste reduction <p>It also establishes the Office for Environmental Protection which will act as an impartial and objective body for the protection and improvement of the environment. The Act sets out legislation which covers local air quality management</p>	<p>A requirement of the NPPF's (2023) environmental objective is that the planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural resources prudently. The framework states that Local Plans should "identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks" and "promote the conservation, restoration and recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and</p>

National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	frameworks and the recall of motor vehicles.	pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.”
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act	<p>The PCPA requires local authorities to produce a local plan to guide future development and change within its area.</p> <p>The act aims to promote sustainable development by requiring a Sustainability Appraisal to be produced for all local plans, encouraging the integration of social, environmental, and economic considerations into development documents.</p>	<p>The RPB (in this case the Borough Council) must:</p> <p>a) Carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals in the draft.</p> <p>b) Prepare a report of the findings of the appraisal.</p> <p>This appraisal informs the viability of any developments against economic, social, and environmental effects, in order to assess the sustainability of any developments within the locality.</p>
The Air Quality Strategy for England, DEFRA (2023)	<p>This document sets out the actions that DEFRA expects local authorities to take in support of the government’s long-term air quality goals, including new PM2.5 targets.</p> <p>It provides a framework to enable local authorities to make the best use of their powers and make improvements for their communities.</p>	The Strategy places a new requirement on local authorities without air quality management plans to produce an air quality strategy setting out the action that they will take to improve air quality in their area.
Safeguarding Our Soils: A Strategy for England (2009)	<p>By 2030, the strategy aims to have all of England’s soils to be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully. This will improve the quality of England’s soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agricultural soils will be better managed and threats to them will be addressed. • soils will play a greater role in the fight against climate change and in helping us to manage its impacts. 	<p>Soil quality has a key role in water quality, climate change issues and the historic legacy and health of the environment. The Plan should attempt to retain and protect soil quality within the borough through construction techniques. Through aligning with the strategy, development in the Borough can occur responsibly without causing soil degradation.</p>

National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> soils in urban areas will be valued during development, and construction practices will ensure vital soil functions can be maintained. pollution of our soils is prevented, and our historic legacy of contaminated land is being dealt with. 	
<p>Natural Environment White Paper: The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature (2011) and subsequent implementation updates</p>	<p>This document strives to safeguard the environment through the promotion of a number of aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilitating greater local action to protect and improve nature. creating a green economy, in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other, and markets, business and Government better reflect the value of nature. strengthening the connections between people and nature to the benefit of both; and showing leadership in the European Union and internationally, to protect and enhance natural assets globally. 	<p>The Plan would benefit from incorporating the values of this document when planning and constructing new developments. The protection of natural assets and the advancement of a green economy within the Borough would assist in improving the economic, social, and environmental situation in the area. The Plan should adopt these aims in policy for future development plans.</p>
<p>Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2023)</p>	<p>This document sets out the government’s planning policy for traveller sites, “To ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.”</p> <p>The aims for this policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning. to ensure that local planning authorities, working collaboratively, develop fair and 	<p>This government Policy must be considered in the preparation of development plans.</p> <p>The Plan would need to include information on the requirements of land and provision for Gypsy and Traveller communities within the Borough. Despite this, the Plan would also need to deter unauthorised sites arising, particularly on Greenbelt land. By aligning with this policy, the Gypsy and Traveller community can be accommodated and integrated</p>

National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	<p>effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to encourage local planning authorities to plan for sites over a reasonable timescale. • that plan-making and decision-taking should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development. • to promote more private traveller site provision while recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites. • that plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective. • for local planning authorities to ensure that their Local Plan includes fair, realistic, and inclusive policies. • to increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply. • to reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and planning decisions. • to enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare, and employment infrastructure. • for local planning authorities to have due regard to the protection of local amenity and local environment 	<p>whilst protecting the natural environment and local amenity within the district.</p>

3.3 Review of Sub-National Plans and Programmes

Sub-National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
Essex Gypsy and Traveller Showpeople Accommodation Assessment, ORS (to be updated by the Castle Point Borough Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment 2024)	This assessment aims to provide more robust evidence on Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need at district level in terms of residential, transit and brick and mortar sites. It quantifies current and future accommodation requirements up to 2021.	Number of additional pitches required should be taken into consideration when devising housing planning policies. The Plan should reflect the requirement of provisions for Gypsy and Traveller communities within the borough alongside housing developments.
Essex Gypsy and Traveller Showpeople Accommodation Assessment 2016 - 2033, ORS (update 2018)	This update document refreshed the original assessment described above to provide more up to date evidence for the production of the Gypsy and Traveller Showpeople policy in the Plan.	Number of additional pitches required should be taken into consideration when devising housing planning policies. The Plan should reflect the requirement of provisions for Gypsy and Traveller communities within the Borough alongside housing developments.
South Essex Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment Update 2016 – 2038, ORS, (2019)	This document sets out the updated GTAA outcomes, projecting new household formation forward from 2033-38.	Number of additional pitches required should be taken into consideration when devising housing planning policies. The Plan should reflect the requirement of provisions for Gypsy and Traveller communities within the Borough alongside housing developments.
Castle Point Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (underway / to be completed March 2024)	This document will set out the updated GTAA outcomes for Castle Point, projecting new household formation forward during the new Plan period.	Number of additional pitches required should be taken into consideration when devising housing planning policies. The Plan should reflect the requirement of provisions for Gypsy and Traveller communities within the Borough alongside housing developments.

Sub-National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
Essex Local Transport Plan 2011 (LTP3)	<p>Comprises two distinct parts – a long-term Essex Transport Strategy and a short-term Implementation Plan. The Strategy’s outcomes/goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide connectivity for Essex communities and international gateways to support sustainable economic growth and regeneration. • Reduce carbon dioxide emissions and improve air quality through lifestyle changes, innovation, and technology. • Improve safety on the transport network and enhance and promote a safe travelling environment. • Secure and maintain all transport assets to an appropriate standard and ensure that the network is available for use. • Provide sustainable access and travel choice for Essex residents to help create sustainable communities. 	<p>The policies and aims within both the Local Transport Plan and those within the Plan should be complimentary of each other. Aligning the aims and objectives will result in higher levels of cohesion across the county. There will be benefits from collaboration with neighbouring District Councils as well as Essex County Council on these aims and objectives in the form of a more holistic approach to transport planning.</p>
South Essex Transport Study, Jacobs, 2024 (LTP4)	<p>(Underway to be completed in 2024). The purpose of this Study is to establish priority transport interventions within South Essex and within the Castle Point Borough to help inform the new Plan with regard to supporting development options.</p>	<p>The outcomes of this Study will help to inform the Castle Point Plan, as well as to inform infrastructure planning and the securing of developer contributions and other sources of funding for transport infrastructure.</p>
Essex Design Guide – Ecology and Biodiversity (2023)	<p>Provides for planning for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for Biodiversity • Protection of Existing Habitats and Species • New Opportunities • Buildings and Biodiversity 	<p>Informs the Castle Point Plan policies including what is expected from new development with regard to ecology and biodiversity, and how they can be incorporated with good design.</p>
Heritage at Risk, East of England Register 2022, Historic England	<p>Yearly health-check of historic places, and those most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development.</p>	<p>To inform the Castle Point Plan policies and with regard to proposed development.</p>

Sub-National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
Essex Thames Gateway Historic Environment Characterisation, ECC, 2007	Provides a characterisation at a strategic level to serve as a tool for the management and enhancement of the historic environment. Reveals the sensitivity, diversity and value of the historic environment resource within the area,	To inform the Castle Point Plan policies and with regard to proposed development.
School Organisation 10-year Plan for Essex school places 2024 – 2033 (ECC)	<p>The purpose of the 10-year Plan is to set out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The demand for mainstream school places in the next 10 years (from academic year 2024/25 to academic year 2033/34) for each for each of the pupil place planning areas. • Solutions already in the pipeline that will meet the forecast demand for school places. • Potential options to address medium to long term forecast demand for school places. • The context in which the Essex School organization Service operates to ensure there are sufficient school places. <p>In the County’s “School Organisation 10-year Plan for Essex school places 2024 – 2033” schools have been placed into forecast planning groups. These are groups of schools (primary and secondary) that serve the children residing in particular geographical areas of the district.</p> <p>There are no deficits of school places reported in the 10-year Plan for the Castle Point Borough, and there are no expansion projects currently in the pipeline.</p>	Provision of education should be considered in relation to future population growth and development within the district in the Plan. A localised focus here allows the specific age structure and required school places in the borough to be calculated more accurately compared with being part of a wider county context.
ECC Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007-2032	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essex Authorities will work hard to reduce the amount of waste produced in the first place and re-use more of the waste that is produced. • Essex will achieve high levels of recycling, with an aspiration to 	Planning policy and allocations within the Plan should have regard to the aims set out in this strategy. Waste management should be included in the Plan to

Sub-National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	<p>achieve collectively 60% recycling of household waste by 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essex favours composting technologies such as anaerobic digestion (AD), for source segregated organic wastes. AD is a form of biotreatment and produces a gas which can be used to generate 100% renewable electricity. • Whilst we can work on reducing the amount of waste produced and recycling as much of it as possible, there will always be some waste that still needs to be disposed of. For this we propose to introduce new treatment plants using Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT). MBT processes any 'black bag' waste and recovers further material for recycling. Part of the remaining material can either be manufactured into a fuel for energy production or can be sent to landfill. 	<p>identify areas where significant improvements can be achieved, specific to the borough, to assist in the realisation of the aims set out in the Essex County Council Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.</p>
ECC Draft Waste Strategy for Essex 2024 - 2054	<p>The Draft Strategy sets out the vision and objectives of the Essex Waste Partnership. It provides a framework detailing how waste from homes and businesses will be managed for the next 30 years to protect the environment and save resources. It focuses on the need to reduce waste. It also outlines the need to reuse, recycle and recover everything we can from resources to ensure maximizing value and minimizing impacts on the environment.</p>	<p>Planning policy and allocations within the Plan should have regard to the aims set out in this draft strategy. Waste management should be included in the Plan to identify areas where significant improvements can be achieved, specific to the Borough, to assist in the realisation of the aims set out in the Essex Waste Partnership Waste Management Strategy.</p>
Water Strategy for Essex, 2024, ECC	<p>Outlines the current and future water issues facing Essex, and makes recommendations to save water, support land use change and increase natural infrastructure as well as developing new water supplies.</p>	<p>To inform the Castle Point Plan policies and with regard to proposed development to ensure and protect water quality and mitigate drought and floods.</p>

Sub-National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
Essex Wildlife Trust Living Landscape plans	<p>Essex Wildlife Trust has mapped 89 Living Landscape areas across Essex covering 7,250 acres of land.</p> <p>The Essex Living Landscape map aims to reconnect habitats and local people in the county, to restore habitats so that wildlife can flourish; restore the involvement of local people with their countryside so they can work for it, take pride in it and gain a better quality of life. In addition, the scheme hopes to reconnect habitats across the county, removing restrictions of travel for wildlife and increasing their chances of survival.</p>	<p>The Plan has sufficient scope to link habitats and people through policy and development allocations. This resource raises awareness of wildlife issues that can inform the Plan and the SA/SEA and can be easily factored into any prospective developments.</p>
Essex Wildlife Trust Living Landscapes A vision for the Future of Essex	<p>Sets out what Living Landscapes are and presents a Living Landscapes Vision with regard to the management, conservation and enhancement.</p>	<p>To inform Castle Point Plan policies and with regard to proposed development.</p>
Essex Design Guide – Health and Wellbeing (live document)	<p>The health and wellbeing theme was established to recognise how the positive characteristics and qualities of an environment can help people to achieve and experience better quality lifestyles to support preventing poor health and encourage inclusivity and accessibility whilst reducing health inequalities. The relevant content also references the future of healthcare provision within new communities.</p> <p>The guide encourages all developments to employ the principles of Building Regulations Part M4 Category 2 (Accessible and Adaptable Dwellings) so as to promote independent living. The provision of access to open spaces, natural environments and informal and formal recreation opportunities contributes significantly to the prevention of ill health. Transport corridors should be well-established to encourage cycling and walking as safer, more active alternatives to the car for local journeys.</p>	<p>The Essex wide principles within this Design Guide theme will help to inform the Plan and the SA/SEA underpinning all new development within the Borough.</p>
Essex Design Guide – Health Impact Assessments (live document)	<p>This Essex Design Guide theme further supports the Health and Wellbeing theme within the Essex Design Guide. It includes the wider Essex Healthier Places guidance which gives more in-depth information on what needs to be</p>	<p>The Essex wide principles within this Design Guide theme will help to inform the Plan and the SA/SEA underpinning all new</p>

Sub-National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	considered when looking at health, wellbeing, and the environment.	development within the Borough.
<p>Essex Healthy Places – Advice Notes for Planners, Developers and Designers (EPOA)</p>	<p>The Essex Healthier Places Guidance has been divided into specific sections relating to health and wellbeing through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The design of homes and spaces including the promotion and application of Sport England Active Design Principles. ▪ Supporting the development of new communities and neighbourhoods and connecting to existing communities. ▪ Promoting access to education, skills, training, and employment opportunities. ▪ Providing appropriate access to NHS healthcare services and opportunities for self-care. ▪ Increasing access to interesting and stimulating open spaces and natural environments to encourage people to be physically active. ▪ Ensuring developments embody the principles of lifetime neighbourhoods and promote independent living. ▪ Promoting better access to healthy and locally sourced food. ▪ Encouraging active travel through the promotion of cycling and walking and measures to reduce reliance on motorised transport. ▪ Creating a safe and accessible built environment with well-designed public spaces that encourage community participation and designing out crime measures. ▪ Addressing environmental sustainability including future- 	<p>The Essex wide principles within this Design Guide theme will help to inform the Plan and the SA/SEA underpinning all new development within the Borough.</p>

Sub-National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	<p>proofing measures and the use of technology/digital</p> <p>The guidance also provides advice on environmental impact assessments and health as well as the main contacts across the health and wellbeing system.</p>	
Essex Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, ECC, 2022	Provides an overview of the health and wellbeing needs across Essex. It summaries key insights gained from research and health needs assessment, in order to improve health and wellbeing, support evidence informed decision making, prioritisation and action to reduce health inequalities effectively.	Data will contribute to informing the Plan and the SA/SEA underpinning all new development within the Borough.
Essex Rural Strategy: 2020 Vision for Rural Essex (under review to be launched 2024) Essex Rural Partnership	<p>This Strategy seeks to create a vibrant future for rural Essex, based upon six strategic aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active and caring communities • Improved access to services • Greater availability of affordable housing • A thriving economy • A rich and varied environment <p>A responsive planning and policy framework</p>	Policies and allocations held within the Plan should have regard to any new strategic aims contained within any future new strategy. As a result, the character of rural Castle Point can be preserved.
ECC Parking Standards: Design and Good Practice (2009) / Essex Design Guide (live document) (to be updated Spring 2024)	<p>Establishes guidance on parking provision for new development and provides parking standards. The purpose of this document is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the Local Planning Authorities in determining appropriate standards for their areas. • Advise members of the public in a readily comprehensible manner. • Assist intending developers in preparing plans for the development of land. 	New developments resulting from the Plan will consider parking provisions and standards in order to appropriately serve the development with vehicle accessibility.

Sub-National Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and Objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedite the determination of planning applications. 	
The Sustainable Drainage Systems Design Guide for Essex 2020	This guidance sets out what is expected from new developments in how they accommodate SuDS, and the standards expected of any new SuDS scheme to be suitable for approval and adoption and advice on how SuDS will be maintained and how they should be ensured to be maintainable.	Utilised by the Plan to ensure a transparent and consistent level of service when ECC is responding to planning enquires.
Essex County Council Interactive Flood Risk Map	<p>The interactive map is a tool to assist with identifying areas that are at risk of flooding and identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Flood Assets • Risk of Flooding from Surface Water Extent • Flood investigations • Critical Drainage Areas • Capital Programme Locations 	Utilised by the Plan to ensure a transparent and consistent level of service when ECC is responding to planning enquires.
Essex Climate Action Commission Plan, Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral, 2021, ECC	<p>Sets out recommendations to 2050 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use & Green Infrastructure • Energy • Built Environment • Transport • Waste 	To help inform the Castle Point Plan policies and with regard to proposed development in the mitigation against climate change.

3.4 Review of Local Plans, Programmes and Evidence Base

Local Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
<p>Castle Point Local Plan 2014 (withdrawn)</p> <p>Castle Point Local Plan 2016 (withdrawn)</p>	The previous Plan (withdrawn) sets out a number of strategic and non-strategic (development management) policies and also site allocations required to delivery housing needs over the Plan period.	An understanding of previous Plan evidence is important to establish and identify any key issues within the Plan area from a sustainability point of view. Previous policy approaches and allocations are also important to understand in order to generate reasonable alternatives for exploration in the SA.

Local Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
Castle Point Local Plan 2018 (withdrawn)		
Essex and Southend-on-Sea Waste Local Plan (2017) (and SA)	The Waste Local Plan sets strategic policy and identifies sites / operations for the management of waste in Essex and Southend.	The WLP forms part of Castle Point's suite of development plan documents. Reference to its aims and objectives should be made within the Plan, as well as general adherence, and can be used within the SA to identify any conflicts or cumulative impacts.
<p>Essex Minerals Local Plan 2014 / Essex Minerals Local Plan Review 2025 – 2040</p> <p>Essex Design Guide – Minerals and Waste Policy S8 – Safeguarding Mineral Resources (live document)</p>	<p>The MLP includes policies that protect operating mineral sites and facilities, newly allocated mineral extraction sites and potentially workable but unallocated mineral deposits from sterilisation as a result of other development proposals.</p> <p>The purpose of this guidance is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the Mineral Planning Authority (MPA) and LPA in implementing the policies of the adopted Mineral Local Plan (MLP) and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which concern mineral safeguarding. This is particularly relevant for LPAs when assessing future potential for development as part of the Local Plan making process. • To create a shared understanding of the issues and information available to avoid a duplication of tasks between authorities. • To ensure that a direct link is maintained between a Neighbourhood Plan and the NPPF, incorporating both the relevant Local Plan and the Minerals Local Plan, in recognition that they are all form part of the Development Plan. 	The Plan must include policy on mineral preservation in order to align with National Planning Policy Framework. The Essex Minerals Local Plan provides information regarding issues and duties to inform the Plan minerals policies.
Strategic Housing Land Availability	The assessment identifies a pool of sites within Castle Point that are suitable,	These documents will be key in identifying sites for

Local Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
Assessment (2018), to be updated (Urban Land Capacity Assessment) in 2024, and Brownfield Land Register (2022)	available, and achievable, and gives information on what the likely timescales for delivery may be, and the potential capacity of each site. It does not determine whether a site should be allocated for development; rather, it informs the decision-making process for preparing a new Plan.	assessment as 'reasonable alternatives' within the SA and identifying the urban capacity of the borough. From the Urban Capacity Assessment, the Borough Council will allocate suitable, available, and deliverable / developable sites for housing and employment within the Plan.
Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) (2018) and SPD (2020)	The purpose of this Strategy and SPD is to ensure that recreational pressures are avoided on Habitats Sites in and around the Essex coast including within the Castle Point Borough.	The RAMS work has identified impacts for consideration in the SA and HRA and also will help inform necessary policy approaches within the Plan regarding the impacts on Habitats Sites.
Essex Design Guide (live document)	The Essex Design Guide is an on-line tool that assists developers in better place-making across Essex through effective urban built design solutions that respond to good practice and local characteristics.	Should this be effectively adopted as a guide to inform the design of development in Castle Point (through policy in the Plan), then the document will inform the Plan and the SA.
Greenbelt Review Part 1 (2018)	The Review assesses the Green Belt across the Borough against the purposes of the Green Belt as set out in the NPPF. It identifies and assesses the suitability of parcels of Greenbelt land that may or may not be suitable to release for development purposes / needs. It adopts an established best practice approach to Green Belt reviews.	The GBR and the SA are intrinsically linked in terms of their assessment of suitability and sustainability. The GBR will inform the SA regarding the assessment of development options within the Greenbelt.
South Essex Green and Blue Infrastructure Study, 2020, ASELA	Provides a vision for landscape infrastructure across South Essex and outlines a coordinated approach to be supported by the Joint Strategic Plan and Local Plans.	To help inform Castle Point Plan policies for the management and delivery of green and blue infrastructure with regard to development.
Playing Pitch Strategy (2018) Sport and Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment (2018)	This report was produced to identify current levels and provision of play pitches across the Castle Point Borough. It assesses issues and future recommended actions for each pitch and sport type.	These reports inform the SA on key issues regarding health and wellbeing within the Borough and assist in making quantitative

Local Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
		judgements of relevant policy options.
South Essex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Part 1) (2018) - update for Castle Point underway to be completed summer 2024.	The aim of the South Essex Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is to refine the information on flood risk; identify the requirements for Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs); inform the preparation of flood risk policy and guidance; determine the acceptability of flood risk in relation to emergency planning capability; and consider opportunities to reduce flood risk to existing communities and developments through better management of surface water, provision for conveyance and storage for flood water. This document was created for the South Essex authorities of Basildon Borough, Castle Point Borough, Rochford District and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's.	The SFRA is a key document in identifying flood risk issues surrounding allocated and alternative sites within the Plan and SA. A recently commissioned update for Castle Point will ensure that changes to climate change assumptions and emerging best practice will be factored into the assessment providing a better understanding of current and future flood risk.
Castle Point Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (Part 2) underway to be completed Autumn 2024	This will be based on the spatial strategy for Castle Point within the new Castle Point Plan.	The SFRA will be used to inform the Castle Point Plan and the risks arising from strategic allocations. It will also be used to inform planning for flood risk infrastructure in Castle Point.
Castle Point (South Essex) Transport Study, Jacobs, 2024 (LTP4) (underway to be completed by June 2024)	This assessment will identify constraints and the necessary improvements needed to accommodate growth in the Borough.	This assessment will be used to identify any transport impacts within the SA.
Whole Plan Viability Assessment (to be updated Autumn 2024)	This assessment will identify whether schemes put forward by developers and the Council are financially viable in regard to infrastructure requirements and overcoming any other key constraints.	This assessment will be used to identify reasonable alternatives within the SA.
South Essex Economic Development Needs Assessment (November 2017)	The South Essex Economic Development Needs Assessment (EDNA) complements Castle Point's existing Employment and Retail Needs Assessment 2012. It focuses on economic development needs across Basildon Borough, Castle Point Borough, Rochford District, Thurrock	This assessment informs the SA on relevant economic needs issues and assists in the assessment of options and identification of alternatives within the SA.

Local Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	Borough, and Southend- on-Sea Borough Councils.	
<p>Essex Sector Development Strategy May 2022</p> <p>The Essex Sector Development Report: 2023</p>	The Strategy supports Essex County Council, public sector partners, and businesses to effectively plan together for the future economy of the county	This Strategy and Report will help to inform the SA on relevant economic issues at the Castle Point level
Economic Development Strategy (underway / to be completed April 2024)	<p>The Strategy will address economic challenges in the Borough inclusive (but not exhaustive) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the Borough • Supporting local business • Land and premises • A greener more productive economy • An inclusive economy • Vibrant town centres 	This Strategy will help inform the SA on relevant economic needs issues and assists in the assessment of options and identification of alternatives within the emerging new Castle Point Plan.
Castle Point Economic Development Site Review (to be completed May 2024)	<p>To assess the economic development potential of a range of sites across the Borough. To better understand a range of factors which the Castle Point Plan can address with regard to economic growth. Objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating a range of sites across Castle Point, including existing Business Parks • Assessing site potential in terms of suitability for workspace creation, which sectors they may attract. The potential size that the market is seeking, and whether mixed use schemes could provide cross subsidy to make delivery more financially viable. • Reviewing site ability to be environmentally friendly (e.g., via public transport or design) • Assessing potential site financial viability in terms of additional infrastructure costs/constraints • Advising on design requirements to help forge a new economic profile for Castle Point 	To help inform the Castle Point Plan with regard to economic growth.
South Essex Retail Study Volume 1 (May 2017)	This Study provides a common evidence base to assist cooperation between the South Essex authorities on cross-	SA on relevant retail needs issues and assists in the assessment of options and

Local Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
	<p>boundary retail and leisure planning matters. The five authorities include Basildon Borough, Castle Point Borough, Rochford District, Southend-on-Sea Borough and Thurrock Borough Councils.</p> <p>Issues affecting the retail sector are identified by the study as: the polarisation trend, restructuring of the convenience (food) sector, growth of the commercial leisure centre and the effects of digital technology.</p>	<p>identification of alternatives within the SA.</p>
<p>South Essex SHMA Addendum (May 2017)</p> <p>South Essex Strategic Housing Market Assessment (May 2016)</p>	<p>This addendum follows on from the 2016 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) in light of the 2014 sub-national population projections (SNPP) and South Essex Economic Development Needs Assessment (EDNA). It considers the implications of this newly available evidence on the OAN concluded in the 2016 SHMA. It does not represent a comprehensive update of all elements of the SHMA and is intended to be read alongside the earlier document.</p> <p>This report studies the potential housing need in Castle Point from 2014-2037, it is based on varying methodologies to predict population growth from natural change, migration, the London effect, historical trends, and market signals. Employment growth is touched upon, but a more detailed assessment is found within the South Essex Economic Development Needs Assessment (EDNA). The local authorities of Basildon Borough, Castle Point Borough, Rochford District, Southend-on-Sea Borough, and Thurrock Borough Councils are known as Thames Gateway South Essex (TGSE) and are defined within this document as a single housing market area (HMA). The majority of residents live and work within the TGSE and are likely to move between these authorities compared to other areas.</p>	<p>These assessments inform the SA on relevant housing needs issues and assists in the assessment of options and identification of alternatives within the SA regarding quantum.</p>

Local Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
Castle Point Local Housing Needs Assessment (2023)	This document considers the needs of the Borough for the period 2023-2043 to identify the size, type and tenure of homes that would be needed in the future, and the housing needs of different groups, including affordable housing.	This assessment informs the SA on relevant housing needs issues and assists in the assessment of options and identification of alternatives within the SA regarding quantum.
Sustainability Appraisal of Sites in the Green Belt (2011) Sustainability Appraisal of Sites Review (2013) & Second Review (2014)	The SA of sites in the Greenbelt for previous Local Plans identifies any sustainability issues regarding sites and seeks to balance the weight of constraints and benefits / need.	Past SA work is useful in the current SA to identify any relevant issues and to help identify or discount any options / alternatives that may or may not be considered reasonable.
Castle Point Urban Characterisation Report (2013) Castle Point Local List of Non-Designated Historic Assets Review (2013) Castle Point Appendix Five: Designated Historic Assets (2022) A Review of Castle Point Heritage Assets is underway to be completed 2024	This Report identifies the key characteristics and threats to the existing built form in the Borough and recommended relevant protection objectives.	These assessments inform the SA on relevant urban and historic environment characterisation issues and assists in the assessment of options and identification of alternatives within the SA.
Air quality Annual Status Report (2016) & The UK Air Quality Action Plan for Nitrogen Dioxide (July 2017)	The Air Quality Annual Status Report 2016 focuses on levels of air pollution specifically in Castle Point. It is Castle Point's statutory duty to review and assess air quality in its area and determine whether or not air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. The main source of air pollution in the Borough is from traffic emissions particularly along the A127, A13 and	These assessments inform the SA on any relevant urban air quality issues and assists in the assessment of options and identification of alternatives within the SA.

Local Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
<p>Essex Air Quality Live Map (for Castle Point)</p> <p>Castle Point Air Quality Annual Status Report (2023)</p>	<p>A130 major routes, along London Road and Canvey Way and at the key junctions of A127 Rayleigh Weir and A13 / A130 Sadlers Farm Junction.</p> <p>Generally, air pollution is considered to be low in Castle Point and currently (March 2024) there are no reported instances where air quality objectives were exceeded at relevant exposure points.</p> <p>The Annual Status Report is designed to provide the public with information relating to local air quality in the Borough, to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to review and assess air quality within its area, and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved.</p>	
<p>Essex Thames Gateway Historic Landscape Characterisation (2007)</p>	<p>This Report identifies the key characteristics and threats to existing landscapes in the Borough and recommended relevant protection objectives.</p>	<p>Landscape is key and emotive factor or theme of sustainability and as such this report informs the SA and allows the integration of relevant specialist input into the appraisal process.</p>
<p>Essex Design Guide – South Essex Surface Water Management Plan (2022)</p>	<p>The South Essex SWMP spans the administrative areas of Basildon, Castle Point and Rochford District Councils. The study area is ranked highest within the county in terms of properties at risk of surface water flooding and is also recognized nationally as a Flood Risk Area (FRA) by the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Canvey Island is located within the study area and is in an FRA in its own right. This is due to the nature of flood risk, arising from multiple flooding sources and complex asset maintenance requirements.</p> <p>The SWMP outlines the preferred surface water management strategy and establishes a more detailed long-term action plan to influence, planning, investments, maintenance, and engagement.</p>	<p>The aims and objectives of this Plan should be integrated into the Castle Point Plan where necessary and adhered to in the assessment and allocation of sites. This Plan informs the SA of relevant issues and possible mitigation measures.</p>

Local Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
<p>Canvey Island IUD Model, 2015 (to be updated, and completed Summer 2024)</p> <p>Canvey Island 6 Point Plan (2015)</p>	<p>This model and 6-point Plan regarding flood risk in Canvey Island and future measures to mitigate and avoid future incidents of flood risk</p>	<p>The aims and objectives of this Plan should be integrated into the Plan where necessary and adhered to in the assessment and allocation of sites. This Plan informs the SA of relevant issues and possible mitigation measures.</p>
<p>Castle Point Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Version for consultation 2024</p> <p>Castle Point Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report 2023</p>	<p>The BNG SPD has been prepared to help transition to mandatory BNG. Its aim is to provide guidance on specific sites or issues.</p> <p>The Screening Report has been prepared to assess whether or not the BNG SPD requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive.</p>	<p>The aims and objectives of the SPD are aimed at complimenting policies within the existing Local Plan and for the new Castle Point Plan.</p>
<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping for Castle Point Plan (completion due Summer 2024)</p> <p>Habitats Regulations Assessment for Castle Point Plan (completions due Autumn 2024)</p>	<p>To identify the designated and candidate habitat sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection areas) that could be affected by the Castle Point Plan and that should therefore be considered through the HRA process. It provides baseline information that can inform the Sustainability Appraisal (SA), helping to ensure alignment and consistency between the HRA and SA processes.</p> <p>Will assess the level of impacts that could be caused to habitat sites as a result of development proposals.</p>	<p>To help inform the Castle Point Plan making process and evidence base with regard to housing and economic growth.</p>
<p>Castle Point Local Wildlife Site Review (to be completed Spring 2024)</p>	<p>To inform the Castle Point Plan, and aid the Council's approach to Biodiversity Net Gain and infrastructure planning. To inform recommendations for landowners to enable them to access the BNG 'market'.</p>	<p>To compliment policies within the existing Local Plan and for the new Castle Point Plan.</p>

Local Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
Open Space Assessment and Review (to be completed Spring 2024)	To inform the current situation in relation to accessibility, quantity and quality of open spaces in the Borough. To identify opportunities for these open spaces to contribute towards high quality green infrastructure in the Borough.	To inform the Castle Point Plan in green infrastructure planning and plan making. To also secure developer contributions and other sources of funding for open space works.
Essex Green Infrastructure Strategy, ECC, 2020	To take a positive approach to enhance, protect and create an inclusive and integrated network of high-quality green infrastructure in Greater Essex, to create a countrywide understanding of green infrastructure.	To guide and shape planning and other services through setting principles to inform local plan making to enable a coherent approach and partner collaboration in the delivery and long-term management of multi-functional assets, which will provide environmental, social and economic benefits for Greater Essex.
South Essex Green and Blue Infrastructure Study, ASELA, 2020	To provide a place-specific vision for landscape infrastructure across South Essex, and to outline a coordinated approach to be supported by the Joint Strategic Plan for South Essex and Local Plans in the South Essex area.	To compliment policies within the existing Local Plan and for informing / assisting with new policies within the new Castle Point Plan.
Local Walking and Cycling Improvement Plan Stage 1 and Stage 2 Analysis, 2023	To identify opportunities for enhancements to the walking and cycling infrastructure within the borough.	To understand opportunities for walking and cycling improvements in Castle Point.
Castle Point Transport Evidence Refresh Interim Report, Mott Macdonald, 2018	To refresh the transport evidence base for the Castle Point Plan based on the quantitative findings of this refresh, and sets out a summary of the findings.	To help inform the Castle Point Plan policies for transport and development proposals.
Developer Contributions Guidance SPDs, 2023	To provide advice to developers on when and how the Council will expect to use Section 106 Agreements alongside the CIL to secure an acceptable development that is sustainable and contributes towards a high-quality environment supported by the services, facilities and infrastructure required.	To compliment policies within the existing Local Plan and for informing / assisting with new policies within the new Castle Point Plan.
CIL Charging Schedule, May 2023	The Schedule sets out the types of development liable for CIL, and the amount that will be charged.	To compliment policies within the existing Local Plan and for informing / assisting with new policies within the new Castle Point Plan.
Habitat Regulations Assessment for	To provide an Assessment as to whether an emerging local plan is likely to have a significant effect on the	To assist with informing policies within the plan making process.

Local Plans and Programmes	Purpose / Main Aims and objectives	Relevance to the Castle Point Plan / SA
<p>previous plan (withdrawn)</p> <p>Habitat Regulations Assessment Scoping for Castle Point Plan (due Summer 2024)</p> <p>Habitat Regulations Assessment for Castle Point Plan (due Autumn 2024)</p>	<p>achievement of the conservation objectives of the European and International conservation sites within and around the local plan area. To identify if there are any outstanding issues that need further investigation.</p> <p>To set out a proposed scope of the Habitats regulations Assessment (HRA) of the emerging Castle Point Plan. To identify designated habitat sites that could be affected by the emerging Castle Point Plan, and that should therefore be considered through the HRA process.</p> <p>To determine whether the emerging Castle Point Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the achievement of the conservation objectives of the European and International conservation sites within and around the Castle Point Plan area.</p>	<p>To assist with the plan making process.</p> <p>The HRA is a process which feeds into the Castle Point Plan making process.</p>
<p>Castle Point Town Centre Shopping Frontages Assessment, 2019</p>	<p>To survey primary shopping frontages and local shopping parades for measuring of Use Class purposes.</p>	<p>To help inform policies within the Castle Point Plan.</p>
<p>Castle Point Infrastructure Delivery Plan (to be completed Autumn 2024)</p>	<p>A plan that will set out the infrastructure needs of the Borough, both in terms of a baseline position and in respect of the growth set out in the Castle Point Plan. It will identify the estimated costs of the infrastructure needed and mechanisms by which funding and delivery may be secured,</p>	<p>To help inform policies within the Castle Point Plan relating to economic and housing growth in the Borough.</p>