

Basildon District

Annual Monitoring Report

December 2005

Planning Services

Basildon District Council



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Contact details:

For further details regarding the document – contact the Monitoring Officer using the address below or use the e-mail address local.plan@basildon.gov.uk with 'FAO: Monitoring Officer' within the subject field.

Forward Plans, Planning Services, Basildon District Council, St. Martins Square, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1DL

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Introduction

What is the AMR?

- 1.1 Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires every Local Planning Authority to make an annual report to the Secretary of State containing information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the extent to which the policies set out in Local Development Documents (LDDs) are being achieved. Essentially the AMR is used to formulate policies and targets that address strengths and weaknesses.
- 1.2 Further details of this requirement are set out in Regulation 48 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. This guide refers to monitoring LDF's as shorthand for the monitoring of the implementation of the LDS, the resulting LDDs and any local development orders and simplified planning zone schemes that will also form part of that framework.
- 1.3 The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is also a digest of information and policies that relate to Basildon District, mostly in relation to Planning and Development. It is required to show what has happened in the past, what is happening now, and how we can expect trends to continue in the future.
- 1.4 This AMR studies the period from the 1st April 2004 to the 31st March 2005.
- 1.5 Monitoring allows the Council to assess the following issues:
 - Progress towards achieving the timetable set out in the LDS for the preparation of LDDs
 - The extent to which planning policies in LDDs are achieving their objectives and targets
 - Whether the policies have unintended consequences
 - Whether the assumptions and objectives behind policies still relevant
 - The degree to which LDDs are effective in achieving sustainable development
- 1.6 A critical aspect of the work of the AMR is that the Local Development Framework (LDF) can be amended in the light of its results.
- 1.7 Additional guidance has been used in the creation of this document: LDF Monitoring – A Good Practice Guide (ODPM), Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) – FAQs and Seminar Feedback on Emerging Best Practice 2004/ 2005 (ODPM), and Regional AMR – Data Collection Forms and Explanatory Notes (EERA – East of England Regional Assembly).
- 1.8 Basildon District Council has also worked in partnership with a countywide Monitoring body – The Essex Monitoring Group (EMG). The service level agreement (SLA) between Essex County Council (ECC) and BDC (Basildon District Council) has been instrumental in ensuring that that local monitoring has met acceptable standards.

The reason for Annual Monitoring

- 1.9 The new system of plan making is a continuous process, with the Council regularly preparing, adopting and reviewing LDDs, to take account of changing national and local circumstances. Keeping plans up to date is to be assessed by the preparation of the AMR, the principal objectives of which are:
 - Provide a selection of contextual information on the authority's area as an aid to meeting planning targets;

- Identifying the extent to which the Council meets the milestones and targets set out in the LDS, and in the event of any targets not being achieved, the reasons;
- Assessing whether the aims and objectives set out in the LDDs is being achieved;
- Determining whether any LDDs need to be reviewed as a result of changes in national, regional or local policies;
- Determining whether any additional LDDs need to be prepared and why;
- Preparing a trajectory of forecasting future housing supply against strategic housing requirements;
- Work to providing comparable information on a pre-defined selection of 'Core Indicators'. These core indicators monitor critical issues related to planning activities – including Development Control and Policy matters.

- 1.10 A number of local indicators can be defined by the assessing authority, and this year (2005) include issues such as Gypsy/ Traveller sites, Best Value Performance Indicators, and Equalities Assessment. The groundwork has also been laid to ensure that Planning Services meets the local strategic requirements of consultation and engagement.
- 1.11 This AMR studies the period from the 1st April 2004 to the 31st March 2005. Future years would continue this (the 2006 AMR would study the 1st April 2005 to the 31st March 2006).
- 1.12 The first formal AMR need not be produced before December 2006; this is a prototype document to enable the Council to refine the AMR in light of comments from stakeholders and consultees.
- 1.13 Regular monitoring of the effectiveness of LDDs will enable the Council to decide which policies are no longer appropriate, and therefore need revising or deletion, and, also, whether fresh policies intended to address new circumstances are required. Following such an assessment, the LDDs can be revised accordingly.
- 1.14 Basildon District Council's planning policy has changed significantly since March 2005. A Local Plan Inquiry on the Replacement Local Plan is anticipated to be scheduled for 2006. As such, policy assessment has been difficult to produce this year, but the contextual and core indicators have been completed, which will assist with future policy development. There are inevitably gaps in evidencing certain indicators, but measures have been identified to enable the Council to produce a comprehensive AMR for 2006.
- 1.15 A number of issues relating to core indicator provision have been raised, in particular the need to provide more spatial analysis and to maintain the monitoring SLA with ECC.

Contextual Characteristics of the Basildon District

Introduction

2.1 The Basildon District is in south Essex, 10 miles east of London. Covering some 42.5 square miles, the District includes the towns of Basildon, Billericay and Wickford. The District or Borough Councils of Chelmsford, Rochford, Castle Point, Thurrock, and Brentwood surround Basildon District. The District has excellent road and rail links to London, the rest of the county and South East England. The District lies in close proximity to the M25, and Channel ports and tunnel are within easy reach. Both Stansted Airport and Gatwick Airport are within two hours drive. Basildon is the largest local authority by population in the Thames Gateway South Essex (TGSE) sub region, a priority area for regeneration, and is recognised as its business and economic hub. The map below illustrates the location of the Basildon District in relation to the other Essex District/Borough Councils.

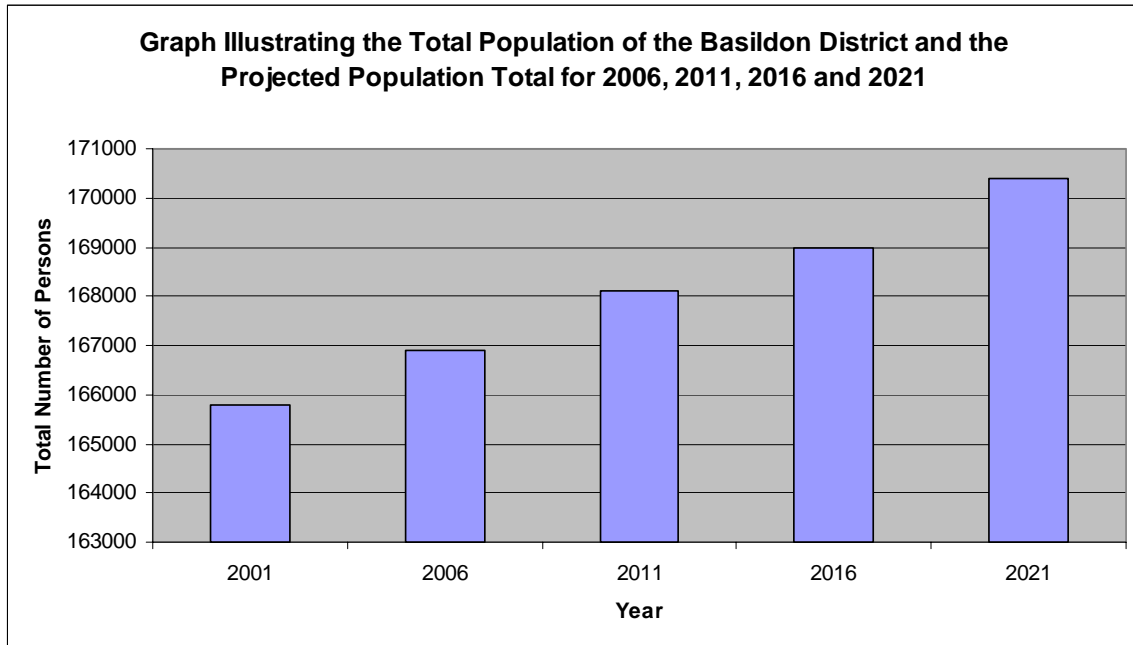
Map 1: Essex County and relative spatial position of Basildon District

2.2 Basildon is a first generation New Town and is the largest centre for business employment in Essex. Basildon's vibrant regional shopping centre has more than 300 stores and shops, which attract people from a potential catchment population in excess of one million within half an hour's drive. In contrast, Billericay is a combination of historic and modern, and has a thriving industrial estate and modern shopping facilities and services. Wickford has undergone major development in recent years with a modern industrial estate being created and new homes provided.

Population and Demographics

- 2.3 Most of the population of the District lives in the three main towns. The total resident population of the Basildon District in 2001 was 165,668 persons; with 48% of the population male and 52% female.

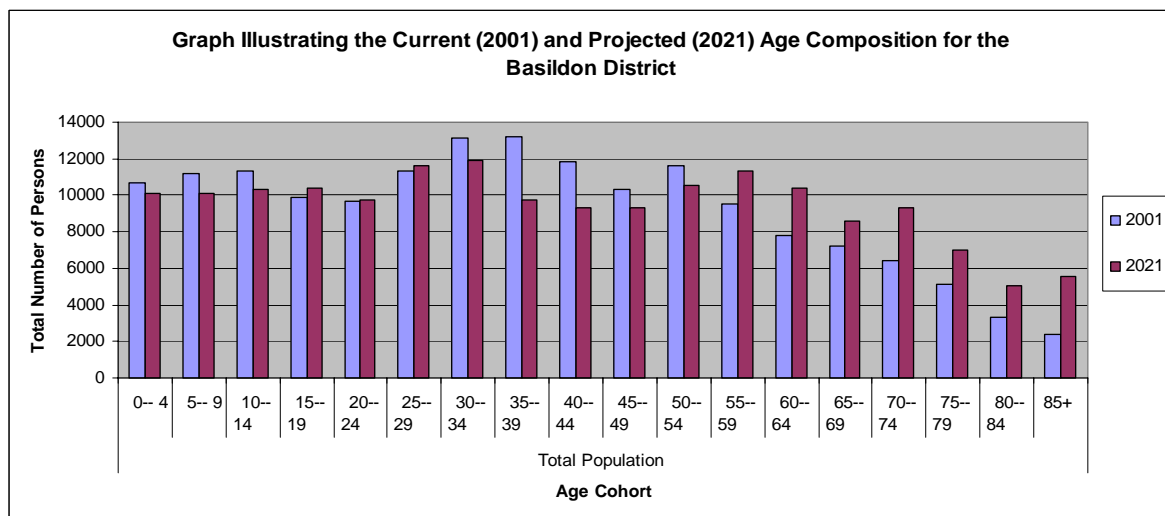
Graph 1: Projected Population for Basildon District



Source: RPG 14

- 2.4 The graph above (Graph 1) shows that the population within the Basildon District is expected to increase each year from a total of 165, 800 persons in 2001 to 170, 400 persons in 2021. The total population increase from the 2001 base year figure to 2021 is projected to be 2.8%. The 2001 and expected 2021 age structure for the Basildon District is illustrated in Graph 2.

Graph 2 – population age composition for 2001 and projected to 2021



Source: RSS 14

- 2.5 The population age structure for the Basildon District illustrated in graph two indicates that the District is expected to experience an increasingly ageing population, demonstrated by the substantial growth in the proportion of persons over 55 years in

2021. The number of persons aged over 85 is expected to rise significantly indicating that the population of the Basildon District will have a greater life expectancy.

2.6 From 2001-2021 there is likely to be a decline in the number of people aged 30-54. Within this age band, persons aged 35-39 are anticipated to experience the greatest rate of decrease. The number of young children and teenagers should remain fairly stable throughout the period.

2.7 Table 1 shows the number of persons per hectare and the average household size within the District, Essex and England and Wales. In comparison to the whole of Essex, the District has four times greater the quantity of persons per hectare. Similarly Basildon District has 4.4 times greater the quantity of people per hectare than the England and Wales average.

Table 1 - Comparative density population and housing sizes

Density	Basildon District	Essex County	England and Wales
Number of people per hectare	15.1	3.8	3.4
Average household size	2.38	2.38	2.36

Source: 2001 Census, ONS

2.8 The religious composition of the District is similar to the East of England and England and Wales. Over 70% of the residents are Christian. The number of residents that state they have no religious preference represents the second most popular group for all the comparators. The number of people within Basildon District that class themselves as Muslim is 2.5 times less than the East of England average, and 5 times less than the percentage number of persons in England and Wales.

Table 2 - Demonstrating Percentage Number of Persons in each Religious Group

Religion:	Basildon	East of England	England and Wales
Christian	73.3	72.1	71.8
Buddhist	0.2	0.2	0.3
Hindu	0.5	0.6	1.1
Jewish	0.2	0.6	0.5
Muslim	0.6	1.5	3
Sikh	0.1	0.3	0.6
Other religions	0.3	0.3	0.3
No religion	17.4	16.7	14.8
Religion not stated	7.5	7.8	7.7

Source: 2001 Census, ONS

- 2.9 Proportions of 'White' and 'White British' are higher than in either the East of England/ or England and Wales. All other ethnic groups operate at a smaller threshold.

Table 3 - Comparative study of the Percentage Ethnic Group Composition for the Basildon District in 2001

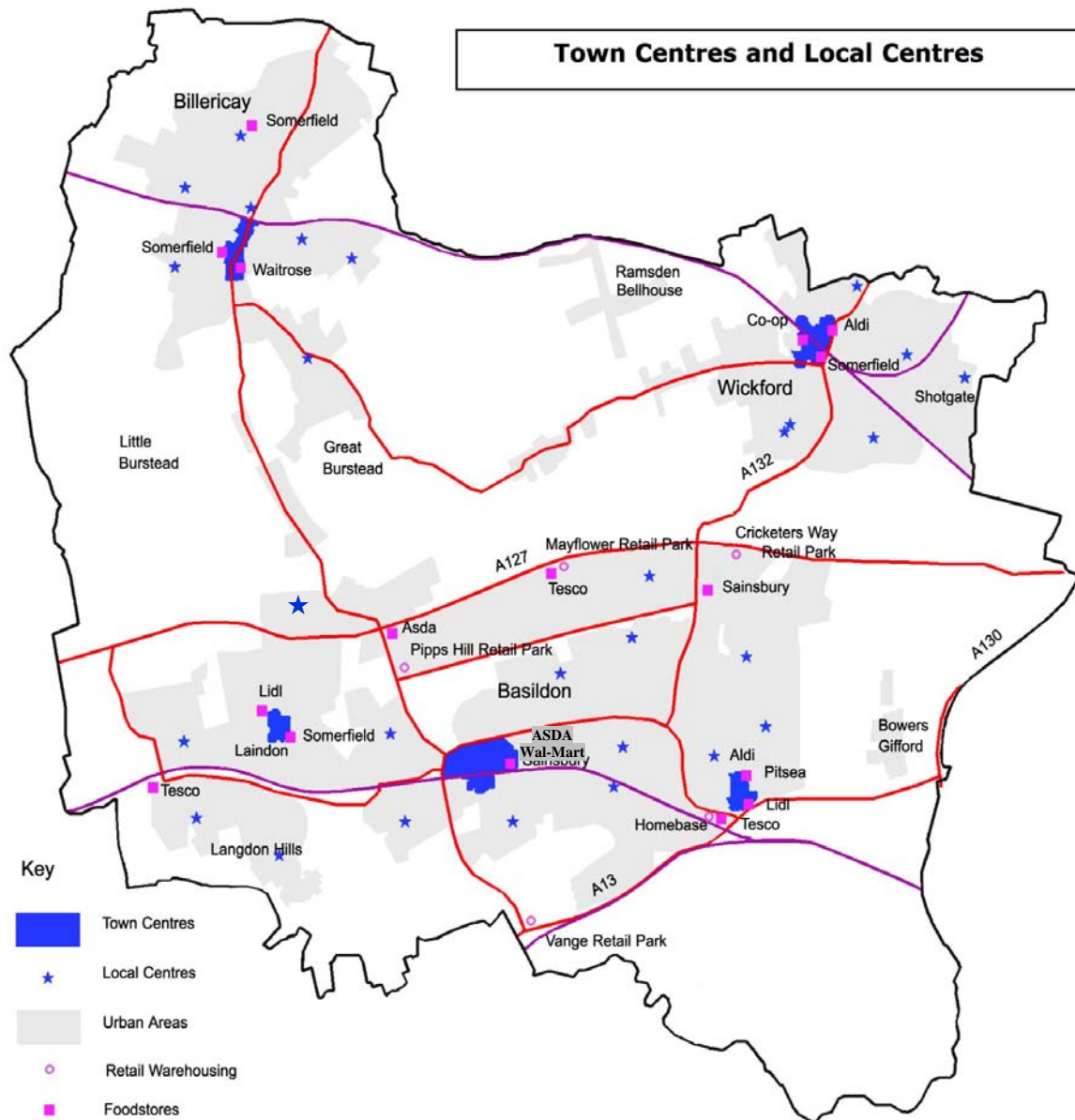
Ethnic Group (Census 2001 definition)	Basildon	East of England	England and Wales
Ethnic Group - Percentages; White	96.9	95.1	91.3
Ethnic Group - Percentages; White; British	94.6	91.5	87.5
Ethnic Group - Percentages; White; Irish	1.0	1.1	1.2
Ethnic Group - Percentages; White; Other White	1.3	2.5	2.6
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Mixed	0.9	1.1	1.3
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Mixed; White and Black Caribbean	0.4	0.4	0.5
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Mixed; White and Black African	0.1	0.1	0.2
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Mixed; White and Asian	0.3	0.3	0.4
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Mixed; Other Mixed	0.2	0.3	0.3
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Asian or Asian British	1.0	2.3	4.4
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Asian or Asian British; Indian	0.6	1.0	2.0
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Asian or Asian British; Pakistani	0.2	0.7	1.4
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Asian or Asian British; Bangladeshi	0.1	0.3	0.5
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Asian or Asian British; Other Asian	0.2	0.3	0.5
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Black or Black British	0.7	0.9	2.2
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Black or Black British; Caribbean	0.3	0.5	1.1
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Black or Black British; African	0.3	0.3	0.9
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Black or Black British; Other Black	0.1	0.1	0.2
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	0.5	0.7	0.9
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Chinese or Other Ethnic Group; Chinese	0.3	0.4	0.4
Ethnic Group - Percentages; Chinese or Other Ethnic Group; Other Ethnic Group	0.2	0.3	0.4

Source: 2001 Census, ONS

- 2.10 The impact of this population information is clear: even with 'reduced' ethnically diverse populations, service provision to these groups has to be assessed and monitored to ensure that all sectors of society are aware of Planning duties, their responsibilities to them, and utilise the service when developing the District. This has been picked up as a local indicator in a later chapter.

Retail, Business, and Local Economy

Map 2 – Town Centres and Local Centres within the Basildon District



Source: Basildon District Council, Retail Monitoring Report, 2005

- 2.11 The Retail and Business sectors in Basildon District follow the general development of the five town centres. Basildon is the principal town centre, however there are several other town centres including Billericay, Wickford, Laidon and Pitsea. The Basildon urban area contains 15 local centres most of which are located to the east of Basildon town centre. Billericay also has a high concentration of local centres, seven in total. Wickford has a fair balance north and south of local centres. Laidon and Pitsea contain three local centres respectively.
- 2.12 Basildon has an above average number of retail premises (1,113), and also a higher than the Essex District average number of offices with 727. Basildon has more factories (971) and warehouses (643) than any other Essex District, and has a greater than Essex average retail sites and offices. Basildon District has the greatest rateable value for factories in Essex. With regard to factories, the District has 840 thousand square metres floorspace, some 2.3 times greater than the Essex District average.

2.13 The average percentage commercial and industrial property vacancy rate for the Essex Districts is 7.4%; the vacancy rate for the district of Basildon is 7% (ODPM average rates 2000-2004). A lower than average vacant property rate indicates that the District of Basildon has a buoyant and stable commercial and industrial employment sector, the adjacent Districts of Chelmsford, Thurrock and Rochford have even lower percentages of vacant commercial and industrial properties.

2.14 BDC produces a Retail Monitoring Report, which highlights the vacant shop units and the total number of shop units within each of the town centres throughout the District. Table 4 illustrates the total number of vacant shop units within the various town centres in the District

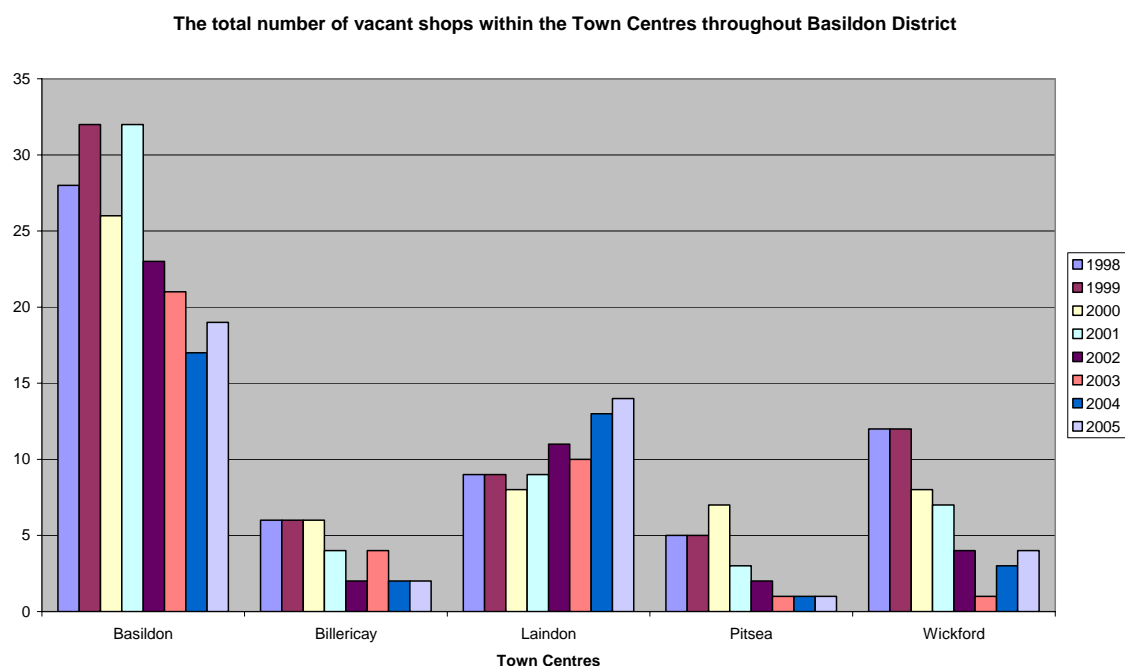
Table 4 – Number of Vacant shop units by town centre by year

Town Centre	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Basildon	28	32	26	32	22	21	17	19
Billericay	6	6	6	4	3	6	2	2
Wickford	12	12	8	7	4	1	3	0
Pitsea	5	5	7	3	2	3	1	0
Laindon	9	9	8	9	11	11	13	14

Source: Basildon District Retail Monitoring Report December 2004

2.15 To interpret whether the number of vacant shop units in the respective town centres is a sign of an underlying economic problem, it is essential to analyse the percentage change in the number of vacant shop units as a percentage of the total number of shop units in the respective town centres.

Graph 3 Retail Vacancies within the Basildon District



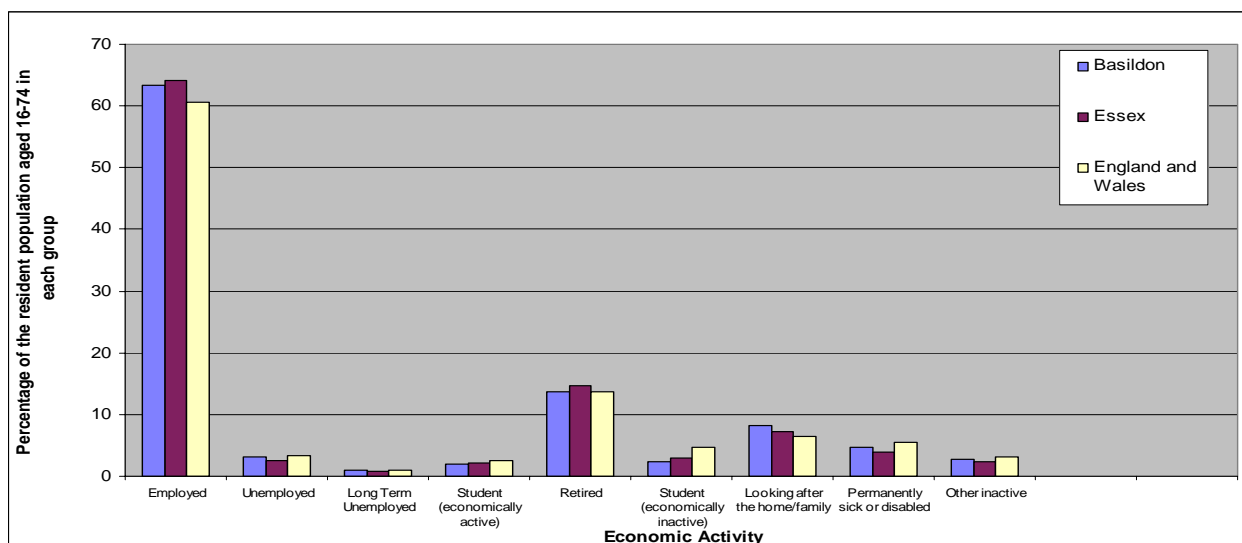
Source: Adapted from Retail Monitoring Report December 2004 Essex Sustainability Assessment of BDC 2005.

2.16 Graph 3 clearly illustrates that the percentage total of vacant shop units in Laindon is considerably higher than other town centres within the Basildon District, and increasing consistently since 2000. However the percentage total of vacant shop units in the other town centres is much lower, and has been declining since 2000. The continual reduction

in vacant shop units within Basildon, Wickford, Billericay and Pitsea suggests that these town centres are vibrant and are successfully attracting inward investment.

- 2.17 Basildon District is the commercial and business hub of South Essex, accounting for almost a quarter of the manufacturing output for Essex.
- 2.18 In terms of its economic structure, the District continues to differ from the national average as a result of its historic development as a new town, and the initial impetus derived from Ford Motor Company movement to the area in the 1960's. The District continues to have a strong manufacturing base that now accounts for 13.9% of all employees.
- 2.19 Wholesale and retail trade and the repair of motor vehicles has become the largest employment sector, accounting for 17.8% of employees, which is above the Essex average of 16.9%.
- 2.20 The major companies within the Basildon District include:
- Ford Dunton Technical Centre
 - York International.
 - Visteon - automotive components
 - Michelin Tyres
 - Glenny Surveyors
 - PMS
 - IFDS - data processing company
 - MK Electric
 - CNH Tractors
 - Gilbarco
 - Hawtal Whiting - engineering company
 - Telewest Communications
 - Selex
 - MIRA - Automotive Testing Facility
 - FDR - First Data Resource
 - Commercial Union UK
- 2.21 Basildon is home to approximately 3,800 businesses employing 68,369 people. 30% of the District's workforce commutes to London.
- 2.22 Unemployment generally stands at 3.1%, a figure lower than the national average, but higher than the Essex average (2.5%).
- 2.23 Unemployment varies significantly across the District, with higher than average unemployment rates in Vange (4.6%) and St. Martin's (4.6%), whilst the lowest are in Billericay West (2.0%) and Burstead (2.0%). Basildon District experiences a higher rate of employment deprivation than the Essex average.

Graph 4 Illustrating Percentage Economic Activity of the Residents Population of Basildon District Council, Essex, and England and Wales



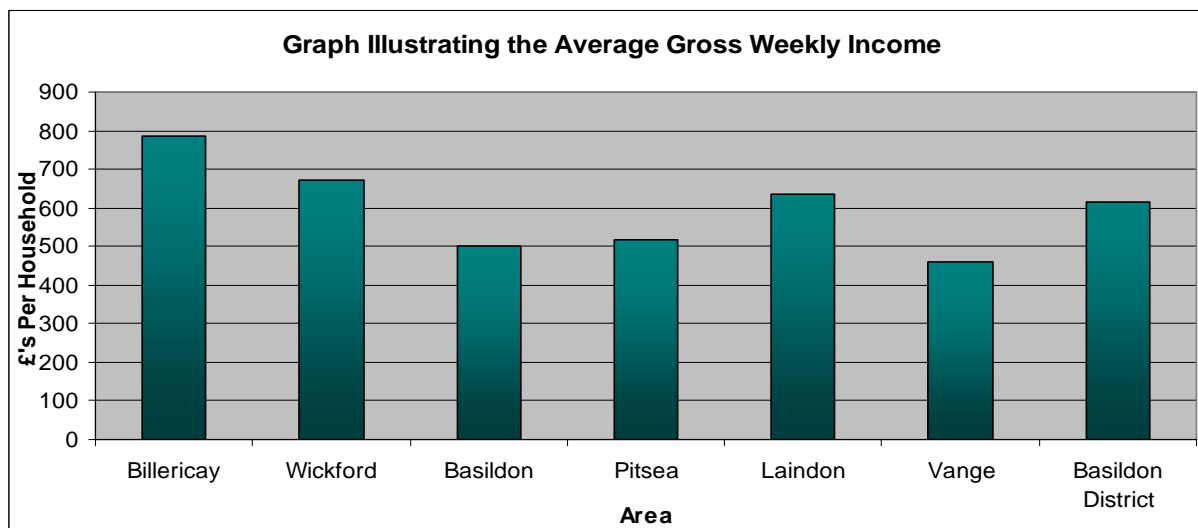
Source: 2001 Census, ONS

2.24 The 2001 Census aimed to determine the level of economic activity evident throughout England and Wales. In the District 63.4% of the residents aged 16-74 years are economically active, this compares favourably with the totals for Essex and England and Wales. The percentage total of the District's population looking after the home/family is greater than the Essex and England and Wales equivalent totals.

Housing Issues

2.25 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (IMD2004) indicates that the District has a high incidence of income deprivation. The graph below illustrates the average gross weekly income per household for 2003 within particular areas of the District, with the Basildon District average. This graph demonstrates that income disparity between different geographical areas is evident. Billericay has an average gross weekly income per household of £788, £173 greater than the Basildon District average, as compared to Vange which has an average gross weekly income is £462, £153 less than the Basildon District average.

Graph 5 – Average Gross Weekly Income in the Basildon District



Source Basildon's Housing Strategy 2004-2007

2.26 Since June 2002, house prices have risen (overall) by 355.01% (Land Registry – see link below). Between April 2004 and March 2005 – Prices rose by 4.37%.

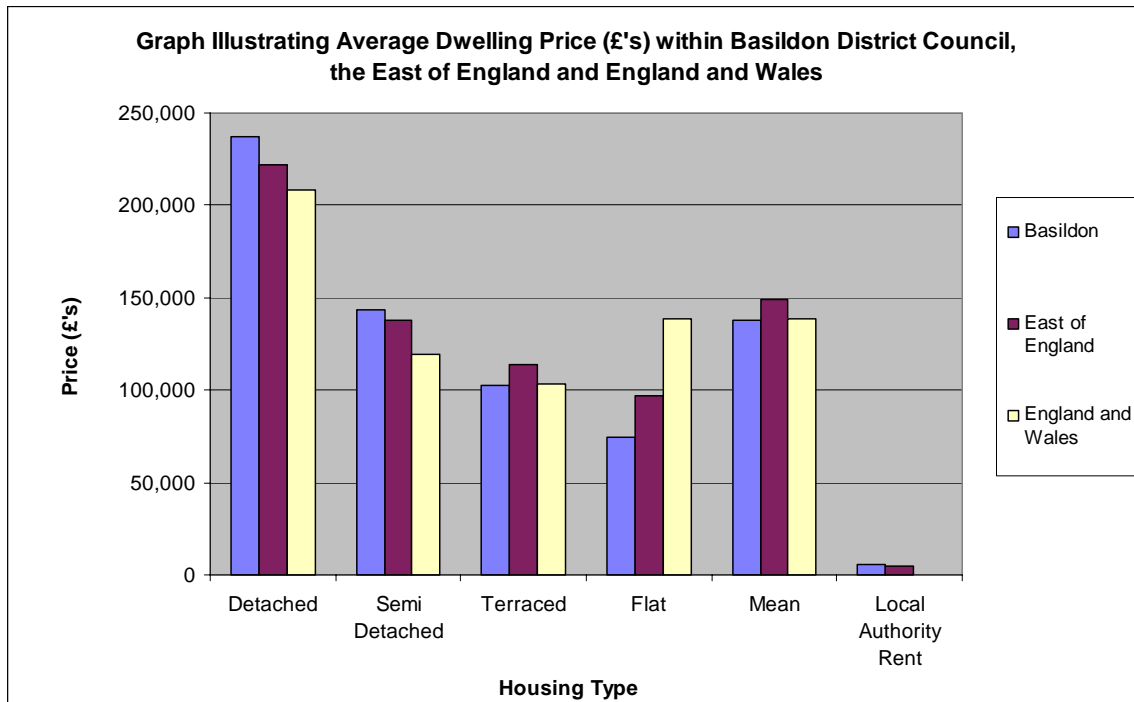
http://www.landreg.gov.uk/propertyprice/interactive/ppr_compare.asp

2.27 There are 72,181 homes in the District, 12,120 owned by the Council and 4,793 by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs). Basildon District Council holds the largest stock of dwellings of any Housing Authority in the South East (outside of London).

2.28 Basildon District Council's stock trebled following a ballot of tenants to transfer stock from the former Commission for New Towns in 1994. In 2002/03, Basildon District Council invested over £11m in improving its dwellings. In 2002/03, 208 homes, across all the social housing in the District were sold under the Right to Buy scheme. By 2011, the number of dwellings in the District is expected to grow by 7.3% to 77,180.

2.29 Income variation will affect the ability of households to access the housing market. To determine whether an affordability gap is apparent in Basildon it is important to analyse house prices within the District. Graph 6 illustrates the average dwelling price in Basildon District, with the East of England and England and Wales averages.

Graph 6 – Average Dwelling Price, comparison study



Source: National Statistics Online

- 2.30 Graph 6 demonstrates that the residents of Basildon would have to pay more for a detached or semi detached dwelling than those found (on average) in England and Wales.
- 2.31 The Government has announced, through its Sustainable Communities Plan, that within the Thames Gateway, there are plans to develop a further 120,000 new homes by the year 2016.

Deprivation within Basildon District

- 2.32 The District has areas of contrasting prosperity and deprivation. Six wards are in the top 20% most deprived in England for low income, and five for child poverty. In view of this, a Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder scheme at Northlands Park has been set up, the only one in the region.
- 2.33 In 2000, 13.6% of residents lived in wards amongst the most deprived 10% in England, whilst 14.4% lived in wards amongst the least deprived 10%. Deprivation, measured by the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), is based on the idea that there are clear dimensions of deprivation that are recognisable and may be measured. Deprivation is measured in terms of the domain. The IMD 2004 comprises of seven domains, covering:
- Income deprivation;
 - Employment deprivation;
 - Health deprivation & disability;
 - Education, skills and training deprivation;
 - Barriers to housing and services;
 - Crime;
 - Living environment deprivation.
- 2.34 Important for interpreting the overall level of deprivation experienced are six measures that study Local Authorities (for example: the entire District).
- Average Score – overall deprivation measure;
 - Average Rank - overall deprivation measure, dampens the impact of extreme scores;
 - Extent Score - proportion of people living in serious deprived small areas.

- Local Concentration Score - represents the severity of deprivation in 'hotspots' (average IMD rank of worst-off areas with 10% of people)
- Income Rank - Represents the number of income deprived people
- Employment Rank - Represents the number of employment deprived people.

Table 5 – Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 – All Essex Authorities (nationally ranked against 354 authorities)

Rank in Essex Area	Average Score	Average Rank	Extent Rank	Local Concentration	Income Rank	Employment Rank
1	Tendring 103	Tendring 98	Basildon 106	Southend 97	Southend 79	Southend 89
2	Southend 114	Harlow 101	Southend 111	Tendring 111	Basildon 83	Tendring 109
3	Harlow 120	Thurrock 122	Tendring 127	Thurrock 113	Tendring 103	Basildon 110
4	Thurrock 122	Southend 130	Thurrock 130	Basildon 116	Thurrock 104	Thurrock 127
5	Basildon 132	Basildon 142	Harlow 180	Colchester 189	Colchester 139	Colchester 139
6	Colchester 217	Colchester 221	Colchester 193	Harlow 207	Braintree 161	Braintree 189
7	Epping Forest 234	Braintree 228	Epping Forest 246	Epping forest 243	Epping Forest 183	Chelmsford 201
8	Braintree 237	Epping Forest 232	Braintree 263	Braintree 247	Chelmsford 185	Epping Forest 213
9	Castle Point 245	Castle Point 243	Rochford 271	Castle Point 258	Harlow 193	Harlow 239
10	Maldon 280	Maldon 280	Castle Point 273	Chelmsford 286	Castle Point 237	Castle Point 245
11	Brentwood 312	Brentwood 312	Chelmsford 274	Rochford 299	Rochford 299	Rochford 302
12	Rochford 316	Rochford 319	Brentwood 295	Maldon 301	Maldon 316	Maldon 321
13	Chelmsford 320	Chelmsford 321	Maldon 298	Brentwood 307	Brentwood 321	Brentwood 323
14	Uttlesford 341	Uttlesford 342	Uttlesford 298	Uttlesford 352	Uttlesford 344	Uttlesford 346

From Basildon Trends 2004

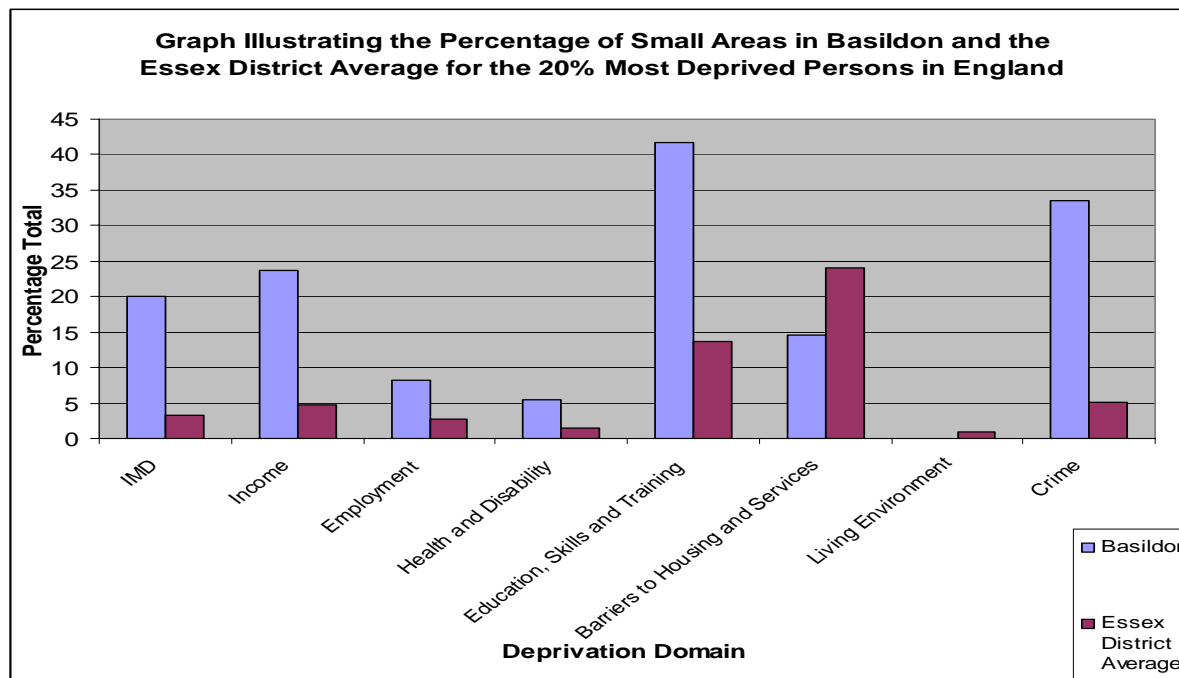
Good to Average Affluence	
Green	Area in best 76%+ (affluent)
Yellow	Area between 51-75% (better than average)

Average to High Deprivation	
Orange	Areas between 26-50% (worse than average)
Red	Areas in the worst 25% of the Country (very deprived)

- 2.35 Colours on table 5 indicate relative position to national scores: red worst quartile (scores between 1-25%), orange lower median quartile (26-50%), yellow to upper median quartile (51-75%), and green as best quartile (76-100%). A higher score indicates more affluence and less deprivation.
- 2.36 Basildon District comprises one of the most deprived Districts in Essex, in terms of average deprivation across the whole District, measured by the Average Score and Average Rank. Districts that have a higher Average Score than Basildon are Tendring, Southend, Harlow and Thurrock.
- 2.37 The Extent Score indicates the number of people living in seriously deprived small areas. In comparison with the Essex Districts, Basildon has the highest Extent Score, falling within the 29% most deprived nationally. Furthermore, Basildon performs poorly in terms of the Local Concentration Score.
- 2.38 Basildon New Town contains a large concentration of small area deprivation. The County of Essex contains a total of 40 Lower Level Super Output Areas in the most deprived 20% in England. Basildon District contains 22 of these.
- 2.39 The IMD assessment, as applied to Basildon District, is complex and detailed. Further information is available in Basildon Trends 2004. Detailed maps of all the wards in the District, and the IMD details for each sub ward area are provided. It is available on the Council's website at:

2.40 To provide an overview of the IMD status of Basildon District graph seven has been formulated, highlighting the percentage score for the small areas that are seriously deprived in the District and the average for the Essex Districts.

Graph 7 Percentage of small areas that are in the worst 20% in England



Source, National Statistics Online, 2004 Indices of Multiple Deprivation

- 2.41 The income domain aims to capture the proportion of the population experiencing income deprivation (ODPM 2004). Within Essex, Basildon District is the only District where serious income deprivation is more widespread than nationally (24% of areas). (ECC 2004)
- 2.42 Basildon contains 42% of areas with serious education, skills and training deprivation. Education deprivation for children and young people, and the lack of skills and training, are evident among the working age adult population (ODPM, 2004).
- 2.43 Graph seven also demonstrates that Basildon District has a high incidence of crime and disorder deprivation, with 34% of the areas experiencing serious crime deprivation. This level of deprivation is 6.6 times greater than the Essex District average, indicating that crime is an important issue to be addressed.
- 2.44 The crime domain measures the incidence of recorded crime for four major crime themes, representing the occurrence of personal and material victimisation (ODPM2004). Basildon District has a significantly higher rating than the Essex District Average
- 2.45 The health deprivation and disability domain identifies areas with relatively high rates of people who die prematurely or whose quality of life is impaired by poor health or who are disabled (ODPM, 2004). 5.5% of Basildon District experiences serious health deprivation.
- 2.46 The employment deprivation domain is measured in terms of involuntary exclusion of the working age population from the world of work (ODPM, 2004). Basildon Town contains 8.2% of the small area resident population experiencing serious employment deprivation.

- 2.47 With regard to the living environment domain, Basildon District does not contain any areas that are seriously deprived.
- 2.48 These deprivation issues will have significant impacts on Planning Policies within the District, and the delivery of improvements should be investigated in partnership with regenerative activities.

Education

- 2.49 There is a relative lack of resident skilled labour in the District. 32.2% of the population has no qualifications, and educational standards fall below the national and Essex averages. In 2002/03, 41% of GCSE pupils achieved grades A to C, compared with the county average of 53.3%.
- 2.50 In addition, only 11.5% of residents are educated to degree level, compared with the county average of 15.5%. There are also (on average) more people in Basildon who do not have any qualifications than Essex or the average of England and Wales.

Crime and Disorder

- 2.51 The Council's Community Safety Partnership has been in place for 13 years, and is probably one of the most effective and dynamic partnerships in the Eastern region.

Table 6 Crime Statistics per 1,000 of the Population within Basildon and the English Average

Type of Crime	Basildon District Council	English Average
Sexual Offences	1	0.9
Violence against the person	18	16.5
Robbery Offences	1	1.4
Burglary dwelling offences	6	6.4
Theft of a motor vehicle offences	8	4.5
Theft from a motor vehicle offences	13	10

Source: Up My Street Website

- 2.52 The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD2004) demonstrate that Basildon District has a high incidence of crime. The table above illustrates the number of offences per 1000 population for England and Wales, the East of England, Essex and Basildon District.
- 2.53 Basildon District has a high incidence of violence against the person, theft of a motor vehicle, and theft from a vehicle. The District has a lower incidence of robbery and burglary dwelling offences than the English average.
- 2.54 Criminal damage is currently the most recorded offence in the District, whilst house burglary rose by 49% between 2001/02 and 2002/03.

Natural Environment and Biodiversity

- 2.55 62% of the District comprises Green Belt containing scattered developments and large areas of open farmland. There are 46 County Wildlife sites (CoWs), covering 917.1ha, 28 formal parks, five Country Parks, and four designated local nature reserves.
- 2.56 The District has a remarkable variety of habitats, including woodland, meadows, fresh water, and the vulnerable Thameside Grazing Marsh (a habitat unique in Europe and of international importance). The District is home to a variety of rare plants and animals,

including the nationally scarce emerald damselfly and the shrill carder bee, both found in the Wat Tyler Country Park.

- 2.57 There are six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within the District, covering 638.1ha
- 2.58 Basildon District Council has their Biodiversity Action that has specific aims and targets. These will be included in future AMR as local core indicators.
- 2.59 The Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies 25 species and 10 habitats of countywide strategic importance in Basildon District:
- <http://www.essexbiodiversity.org.uk/action-plan.htm>
- 2.60 Listed below are the species/habitats that are of strategic importance that are found in the District as defined in the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP):
- Brown Hare, Dormouse, Water vole, Pipistrelle Bats, Grey Partridge, Skylark, Song Thrush, Great Crested Newt, Shrill Carder Bee, Native Black Poplar, Ancient and or species rich hedgerows and green lanes, Ancient Woodland, Cereal Field margins, Reed beds.
- 2.61 The District has the following flagship species as defined in the Essex BAP:
- Devil's bit scabious, Green winged orchid, Dormouse, Scarce emerald damsel fly, Barn Owl
- 2.62 The Essex Biodiversity Action Plan-identifies the following habitats in relation to Basildon District:
- 2.63 Arable Field Margins – The District has a central belt of arable farmland of limited wildlife value running east to west, to the north of the A127
- 2.64 Boundary and linear features - This habitat is particularly limited, with only 2.5km of 422km of hedgerow being classified as ancient/species rich hedgerow. This is probably an under-representation, with many potential hedgerow features being found in the plotland landscapes of Basildon. Basildon does have a good collection of roadside verges, some with a flora and fauna typical of lowland meadows; managed in a sympathetic manner.
- 2.65 Brownfield: There are a number of brownfield sites scattered around the periphery of Basildon, and some of these sites are known to support very important invertebrate assemblages. Populations of species that are rare or scarce in Britain, and which are UK and Essex BAP species, and whose survival is nationally threatened, are recorded in Basildon.
- 2.66 Coastal grazing marsh: The marshes (295 Ha) are found to the south of the District in one contiguous unit, with the Fenchurch Street Railway Line as its Northern boundary. These types of marshes are in a serious decline, with an 80% decline of this habitat in Essex as a whole since the 1930s.
- 2.67 Grassland: There are concentrations of older meadows around Billericay and Langdon Hills, which cover in total 334.2 ha of the District. As a result of modern farming practices unimproved, species rich grasslands are now extremely rare, with 99% of all sites existing in Essex in 1949, now lost.
- 2.68 Broadleaved Woodland: The Ancient Woodland cover in Basildon is particularly sparse. The woodland cover is slightly less than half the national average of 9-10%. There are concentrations of woodland cover in both the northwest and southwest of the District, around Billericay and Langdon Hills respectively. These woodlands have suffered to some extent due to neglect (Biodiversity Action Plan 2005-2009, BDC).

- 2.69 Ponds and Lakes: There are over 500 field ponds recorded in the District, varying greatly in size. This habitat supports an enormous variety of plants and animals such as great crested newts, water rail and water vole. Many of these species are restricted to this habitat type. Lowering of the water table through abstraction of surface and ground water, drainage works and flood management have led to habitat degradation.
- 2.70 Reed Beds: This is a recognised national and Essex BAP habitat. Wat Tyler Country Park and Pitsea Hall Fleet have the largest reed bed in South Essex (15.5ha). The main threats to this resource in Basildon are drought, succession and pollution.
- 2.71 Rivers and Streams: The catchments of Basildon District feed mainly into the Crouch and its tributaries. The river runs through the centre of Wickford, with its tributary streams stretching as far as Billericay, Little Burstead and North Benfleet. These rivers and streams are important landscape features, as well as being valuable for wildlife. The main threat is pollution through run-off from fertilizers and pesticides from farming practices, and oils and detergents from industrial developments.
- 2.72 Urban: The majority of the District's population live in settlements of more than 10,000 people, (Basildon, Wickford and Billericay). These urban areas are important for wildlife; the District is fortunate to have a large number of open-spaces. These contain relict woodland and grassland features that with sympathetic management can be highly beneficial to wildlife. These represent a considerable resource in terms of gardens, open-spaces and Brownfield sites.
- 2.73 Successful places are those where people are attracted to live, work, visit and invest and have thriving green places. Research undertaken has demonstrated a link between high quality green spaces and increased house prices; additional benefits are evident with regard to improving the image of an area and attracting investment. Green spaces are also essential for the promotion of biodiversity, and increasing the health and fitness of the local population. Good public space design is also essential for tackling social issues (CABE, 2005).
- 2.74 At present BDC is in the process of carrying out an open space survey, in accordance with PPG17 (Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation).
- 2.75 The impact on planning policy of this issue means that development that encroaches onto open space within the urban areas of Basildon should be avoided.

Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings

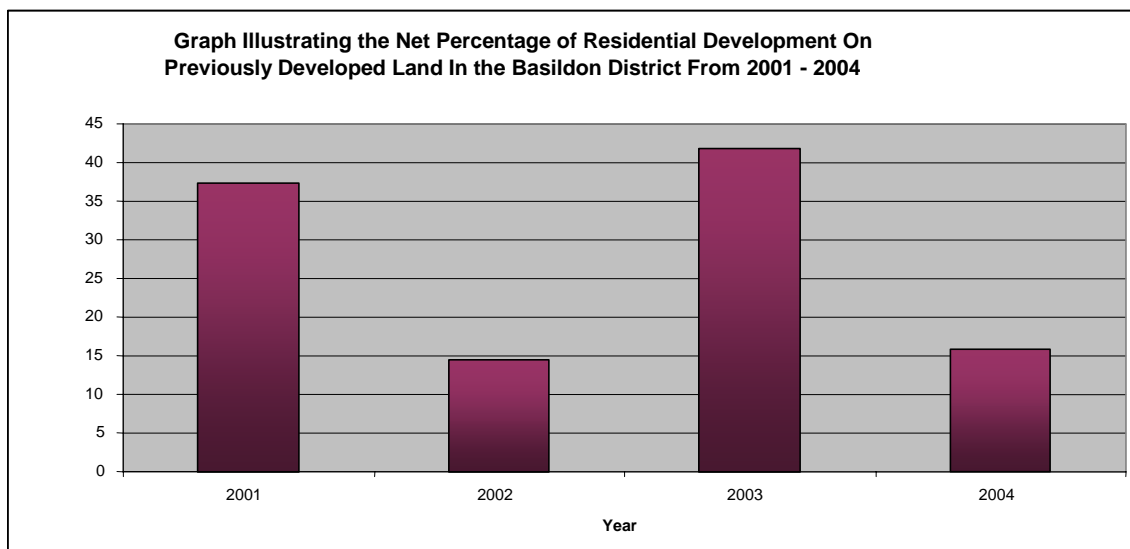
- 2.76 There are four designated Conservation Areas in the District; and the objective of a Conservation Area is to preserve the character of an area, distinctive by reason of age or architectural value.
- 2.77 Billericay High Street is the largest Conservation Area in the District. It is comprised of the High Street and the surrounding area. Within the area are 36 Listed Buildings, street furniture, and protected trees.
- 2.78 Little Burstead is a small village located towards the western edge of the District. The village contains five Listed Buildings and listed street furniture.
- 2.79 Great Burstead has a small Conservation Area encompassing the weather-boarded buildings and cottages surrounding the Church of Mary Magdalene.
- 2.80 Noak Bridge is located at the northwestern edge of Basildon, north of the A127, and is the most recently designated Conservation Area in the District. Noak Bridge (the development of which started in the early 1980's) is one of the last housing area to be developed in Basildon New Town.

- 2.81 These four areas are subject to a selection of national performance indicators, and will have management profiles written for the AMR 2006.
- 2.82 Built historical environment: Listed Buildings - whilst Essex currently has a total of 14239 Listed Buildings, Basildon District contains only 124 (0.9%) [as of 16th August 2005]. The High Street in Billericay (and adjoining streets), has 35, the greatest concentration of Listed Buildings within Basildon District. The dominant building form in Billericay Town Centre is timber-framed structures. Basildon District has only two Grade I Listed Buildings:
- Church of St Mary Magdalene, Church Street, Great Burstead
 - Church of St Nicholas, Church Hill, Laindon.
- 2.83 There are examples of post war Listed Buildings, both from the 1960's:
- Brook House, Basildon Town Centre
 - Barstable Comprehensive School, Basildon
- 2.84 The Building at Risk Register for the UK (BAR) is available here:
<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1424>

Land Utilisation

- 2.85 Planning Policy Guidance note 3 (PPG3 Housing) outlines the Government's aims to promote regeneration and minimise the amount of green field land being lost to development. PPG3 sets out a national target that by 2008, 60% of additional housing should be provided on previously developed land and through conversions of existing buildings (ODPM, 2000).
- 2.86 A SLA between Essex County Council and Basildon District Council exists, whereby the County Council undertakes partnered residential and non-residential land monitoring.
- 2.87 Graph eight illustrates that Basildon District is currently falling short of expected target, and this is probably a result of the post war, planned nature of most of most of the Districts settlements. The percentage of net residential completions demonstrates evidence of peaks and troughs in alternate years. Analysis of the data shows that this variation explained by the redevelopment of large 1960's/ 70s housing estates entailing substantial demolition of existing properties.
- 2.88 It should be noted, however, that this is a locally determined interpretation of PDL. At a national level all development (not net) is calculated. Whilst this is covered in a later section, Basildon District's Performance is just under the expected targets (BVPI 106 – a local core indicator, see the appropriate chapter).

Graph 8 Residential developments on Previously Developed Land (net)



Source, Essex County Council Monitoring Statistics, 2004

Flooding and River Quality

2.89 The Environment Agency operates as an external consultee on many planning applications, and one of their duties is to define and assess flood risk.

2.90 Flood Risk Zone 3 is defined by PPG25 as High Risk.

- a) Small probability that the land will flood.
- b) Developed areas may be suitable for residential, commercial and industrial development provided the appropriate minimum standard of flood defence could be maintained for the lifetime of the development.
- c) Undeveloped and sparsely developed areas. These areas are generally not suitable for residential, commercial and industrial development unless a particular location is essential e.g. for water based recreation uses.
- d) Functional Flood plains
These areas may be suitable for some recreation, sport, amenity and conservation uses (provided adequate warning and evacuation procedures are in place).

2.91 Flood Risk Zone 2

- a) Remote chance that the land will flood.
- b) Risk level is suitable for most development.

2.92 Flood Risk Zone 1

- a) Negligible chance that the land will flood.
- b) Flood risk of a very minor nature, almost all development can take place.

2.93 Flood Risk Zone identifications are not warnings, but guidance of what can or cannot be built within identified areas. This is an intrinsic element of Development Control practice at BDC, who utilise these letters to perform SFRAs

2.98 The methodology used by the Environment Agency to assess the quality of rivers is to look at nutrients, chemistry and biology. For chemistry and biology the scale for measurement is from (A) demonstrating good quality, to (F) which signifies bad quality. Within Wickford area the Crouch River has a D quality, which improves through the Crouch ward to Grade C due to increased water flow.

2.99 The EA provides rivers targets. The overall target of the river Crouch is 4 – which indicates poor quality water, this is due to the overall nature of the low flow river. As the river volume and speed increase downstream the quality of the water improves slightly to number 3. Table 8 illustrates the three quality targets evident within stretches of the River Crouch in the Basildon District.

Table 8 – Rivers within Basildon District – Assessment on Quality

River Name	River Stretch	Years	Target	Compliance
Crouch	Nevendon Brook	1999-2001	4	Compliant
Crouch	Headwaters	1999-2001	3	Compliant
Crouch	Outwood Common Brook	1999-2001	4	Compliant

Source: Environment Agency website, Essex Sustainability Indicator 2-River Quality

2.100 More details on the River Crouch are available here:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/hiflowsuk/stations/37031/>

Table 9 River Quality – Chemistry details by River

River Name	River Stretch	Years	Grade
Crouch	Nevendon Brook	2000-2002	C-fairly good. Natural ecosystems or those corresponding to good cyprinid fisheries.
Crouch	Headwaters	2000-2002	C
Crouch	Outwood Common Brook	2000-2002	D-fair-Impacted ecosystems

Source: Environment Agency website, Essex Sustainability Indicator 2-River Quality

Table 10 River Quality – Biology details by River

River Name	River Stretch	Years	Grade
Crouch	Nevendon Brook	2002	C- fairly good-biology worse than expected for an unpolluted river
Crouch	Headwaters	2002	C
Crouch	Outwood Common Brook	2000	D- fair-a range of pollution tolerant species present.

Source: Environment Agency website, Essex Sustainability Indicator 2-River Quality

Agricultural Land Classification

2.101 The 'best and most versatile agricultural land' is defined as Grades 1, 2 and 3a by DEFRA. This is the land that is most flexible, productive and efficient in response to inputs and which can best deliver future crops for food and non-food uses.

2.102 Basildon District has no land graded 1 or 2 - only land at grades 3 and 4 (a mixture of good moderate and poor agricultural land).

Recycling and Waste Management

2.103 In 2002/03, Basildon District achieved the fourth highest recycling rate in Essex. Waste production in the District is increasing at a rate of 2.5% per annum (Essex as a whole is also increasing). Unfortunately dumping in the District has also risen by 28% since 2000.

Air Quality

2.104 Road emissions including Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and particle matter (PM₁₀) from the A127, A13 and A129 were found to be the principal source for poor air quality in the District. Table 11 illustrates the results from the air quality monitoring station from 2000-2005.

2.105 For NO₂ the annual mean concentration (40-µg m³) was exceeded in 2001 and 2004. In 2004 the particle matter was also in exceedance of the objective level (of 40 µg m³). By 2005 it is expected that concentrations of both NO_x and particulate matter will meet targets.

2.106 Studies also take into account a daily objective, and in 2004 and 2002 particulate matter exceeded the daily mean objective (50 µg m³) by 55 incidents (2004) and 64 incidents (2002). This confirms that there are air pollution problems within the District for around 20% of the year.

Table 11 Air pollution levels by type

Pollutant	Statistic	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)	Annual mean (µg/m ³)	33.8	40.7	37.7	37.1	40.1	39.3
	Max. 1 hour mean (µg/ m ³)	157	232	190	142	155	
	Exceedances of 1-h mean objective (200 µg/ m ³)	0	4	0	0	0	
	Data capture (%)	93.9	82.4	95.7	94.0	92.7	
Particles (PM₁₀)	Annual mean (µg/ m ³)		36.3	39.3	nr	42.9	
	Max. 24 hour mean (µg/ m ³)		88.3	105.5	nr	87.1	
	Exceedances of 24-h mean objective (50 µg/m ³)		39	64	nr	55	
	Data capture (%)		76.7	91.5	nr	72.4	

Source: Basildon District Council-Local Air Quality Management Progress Report-April 2005

2.107 Emission sources - When the updating of the Screening Assessment was carried out in 2003, there were 2 part A industrial sources and 45 part B industrial sources (of which 21 were petrol stations) in Basildon District. Since 2003, two additional sources have been added, and one previous existing source has ceased operation.

2.108 The Air Quality Management Progress report (BDC) concludes that the situation should be monitored, but that there is no immediate need to introduce any Air Quality Management Areas.

Overall Issues

2.109 Contextual data that could be assessed in more depth for the AMR 2006:

- Previous population studies based on the Mid-Year Population estimates provided by NOMIS.
- Quality of Housing by small area profile – Census 2001.
- Reassessment of Retail issues.
- Density of Population.

- Rounder definitions of town centres, urban areas, and rural areas.
- Reassessment of Housing Costs and Gross weekly income by smaller areas.
- Using Town/ Urban/ Rural areas – deprivation/ statistic analysis.
- Specific Crimes within Basildon, especially those likely to have an impact on, or be impacted by, Planning issues.
- Biodiversity – further assessment.
- Inclusion of Conservation Area management schemes.
- Clarification of Land Usage, and use of nationally accepted methodology.
- More detailed information on Open Space within the District.
- Flood Maps, River areas and how they relate to development (current and planned)
- Definition of Agricultural Land (map)
- Full figured statistics of Recycling and Waste Management. Maps of waste management areas within Basildon District.
- Air quality data to be re-assessed, consideration of previous years' data to view trends.

2.110 The inclusion of the above data would improve the planning policy development at the Council by showing longer-term trends, providing more detail on issues, completing information on smaller local areas, include spatial analysis, and issues not covered by other Council documents.

2.111 Naturally, this would take the AMR to more than the current number of pages– and publication of contextual data may be restricted to electronic provision on BDC's internet page.

Local Development Scheme

2004-05 Development Plan

3.1 The valid Development Plan Documents for the year 2004-2005 comprised the following:

- Essex and Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan 2001
- Basildon District Local Plan 1998
- Essex and Southend on Sea Waste Local Plan 2001
- Essex Minerals Local Plan 1997
- Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9)

3.2 The Council has approved two documents as SPG. It is intended that both these documents remain in force as long as the policies to which they relate in the Development Plan remain operative. These SPG are material considerations in determining planning applications.

- Development Control Guidelines
Originally adopted in 1993, with alterations adopted in 1997, these guidelines are linked to policy BE12 in the BDLP and policy BE1 in the RLP. The guidelines relate to residential development, extensions to existing dwellings, shop fronts and advertisements.
- Gardiners Lane South (GLS) Development Brief.
This was adopted in 2003 and is linked to policy E1 in the BDLP and policies H3-11, E1, and R6 in the RLP. The SPG acts as a guide to inform the physical aspects of development of the GLS site and sets out, in broad terms, the requirements for the detailed planning of the site.

Saved Plans

3.3 The policies in the adopted BDLP 1998 will be saved until such time as the Plan is replaced in its entirety by the BDRLP.

3.4 Following adoption of the BDRLP, its policies will be saved for three years, unless superseded earlier by policies in future DPDs. The Core Strategy will replace those policies in the BDRLP that deal with the overarching planning issues facing the District. The Allocations DPD will replace the land allocation policies in the BDRLP, and those BDRLP policies that control development, will be replaced by a new DPD setting out Development Control Policies (this DPD is not included in the current LDS, but will be added in the next LDS revision). A fresh proposals map will be prepared reflecting the contents of DPDs to be adopted in the future.

3.5 Those policies to be replaced by the DPDs will be detailed in a future LDS review.

Local Development Scheme (LDS)

3.6 The Council, as the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for Basildon District, prepare and maintain a LDS, which is a statement of the LPA's programme for the production of Local Development documents (LDDs), and is where the public can find out what the LPA is proposing to do and when, and at what stage they can expect to be involved in the planning process. The LDS is available here:

<http://www.basildon.gov.uk/80256B7500420D16/vWeb/wpEFEN6E3DF9>

3.7 The LDS focuses on the first three years from the commencement (28 September 2004) of the Act, but also indicates future work proposed beyond that period. It also sets out timelines through to adoption for the preparation of local development documents.

LDS Implementation

3.8 During the period 1 April 2004 – 31 March 2005, a number of documents updating the District's planning policy framework were published and progressed.

3.9 Basildon District Replacement Local Plan

- First Deposit - May 2004 – (*Redeposit – July 2005*)

3.10 The following are proposed Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) to amplify and provide greater detail to several policies in the RLP:

3.11 Basildon Town Centre Development Framework

- March 2004 – Brief produced.
- September 2004 – Consultants commissioned
- November 2004 – Audit (Survey on the Plan)
- December 2004 – Best Practice Visits – Slippage to January 2005
- January 2005 – Vision – Slippage to February 2005
- March 2005 – Scenario development (options) – target date met.

A degree of slippage on the Basildon Town Centre Development Framework occurred as the result of the unforeseen need to consult with a variety of Best Practice sources. This delay was made up and the March target for scenario development was met.

Work on the Basildon Town Centre Development Framework remains ongoing.

3.12 Wickford Town Centre Development Framework:

- November 2004 – Key Strategy Consulted on
- December 2004 – Consultation event with 800 residents
- December 2004 – Consultation event with young people at local schools
- January 2005 – Draft Wickford Plan presented to representatives of 100 local businesses during one of the Council's Breakfast events.
- March 2005 – Consultation event with 600 residents

No slippage on timetables occurred during the monitoring period.

Work on the Wickford Town Centre Development Framework is ongoing.

3.13 Master Plan for the Ford Dunton site

- Work on this was timetabled to start in February 2005. A review of alternative planning formats for the document is currently underway.

Background studies

3.14 To assist and support in the preparation of the above planning documents, the following background and key studies have been prepared :

- Urban Capacity Study – published May 2004
- Housing Needs Survey April 2003
- Residential Land Availability Survey 2003-2004
- Housing Needs Survey update 2004
- Industrial Monitoring Report 2003-2004
- Retail Capacity Study 2003
- Playing Pitch Strategy 2004
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2005-2009
- Retail Monitoring Report 2005
- Community Strategy 2025 – published 2003

Future LDD Work

3.15 Under the new arrangements brought into effect by the 2004 Act, the Development Plan will change, in an incremental process in the following ways:

- Essex & Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan (2001) and RPG9 will be replaced by the East of England Plan (RSS)
- Essex Waste Plan 2001 and Essex Minerals Local Plan 1997 will be superseded by the Minerals & Waste Development Framework
- BDLP 1998 will be replaced on adoption of the Replacement Local Plan in 2006.

3.16 The Replacement Local Plan will, in turn, be superseded by the new types of planning documents, namely:

- Core Strategy
- Allocations Development Plan Document
- Proposals Map
- Development Control Policies

3.17 The timetable set out in the LDS shows work beginning on the first of the new documents (core strategy) in Feb 2006, following adoption of the RLP.

Background studies

3.18 To assist and support in the preparation of the above planning documents, including the BDRLP, the following background and key studies have been, or will be prepared over the coming monitoring year:

- Housing & Market Assessment and Needs Study (HNS update) – Spring 2005
- EPOA Survey & Assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation and related needs in Essex – Autumn 2005
- Phase 1 Habitat Survey – Spring 2005
- Open Space Survey – Winter 2006
- Thames Gateway South Essex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment – Spring 2006
- Essex Local Transport Plan-2 2006-2011 – Spring 2006
- Basildon's Housing Strategy 2004-2007 –Spring 2006
- Cultural strategy – Spring 2006
- Community Strategy 2025 – published 2003

Nationally Defined Core Indicators 2004-2005

- 4.1 All AMRs should cover a range of indicators in their studies. These indicators need to be defined to ensure there is a level of comparability between different authorities' performance, by monitoring period.
- 4.2 ODPM, in the document "LDF Monitoring" shows the data to be studied:
<http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143905>.
- 4.3 There are two levels of defined indicators – national and local. For the purposes of showing performance –three groups (national, regional, local) have been defined.

Business Development

- 4.4 The future prosperity of Basildon District depends on ensuring that there is sufficient land for business development. The LDF has a strong impact on bringing land forward for employment related development.
- 4.5 The dataset refers to business developments according to their classification into Use Class Order (UCO) B1b, B1c, B2, and B8 are all defined as Employment land by the ODPM Use Class Orders. The table below sets out the development of each type over the monitoring period, together with available land remaining.

<http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143696>

Table 12 UCO land for Business Development relating to 2004-2005

Development Type	Land Developed (m ²)	Land developed in Development Areas ¹ (m ²)	On PDL (%)
B1	2,294	2,294	37%
B2	4,293	4,293	100%
B8	9,325	8,993	60%
B1/2	7,000	7,000	0%
B1/ 8	1,195	1,195	42%
B1/2/8	30,636	29,589	91%

From ILA 2005 (ECC)

Note

- (1) Development Areas are the identified industrial and business estates in the District (see Replacement Local Plan proposals map)
- (2) Two developments in occurred in rural areas outside of the defined industrial and business estates

- 4.6 The methodology of the majority of information collected was defined in partnership with Essex County Council. The remaining information was cross-referenced against files in Basildon District Council's UNiform system.
- 4.7 The evidence source base did not take into account B1b and B1c UCO groups. There was clear separation from B1 and B1a (see Local Services Core Indicators) so double counts will not take place.
- 4.8 Several developments have not been defined as to what use they will eventually have – these have been placed in the B1/2, B1/2/8, or B1/8 sections for clarity.

- 4.9 No losses of land in Development Areas that related to non-employment uses took place.
- 4.10 There were no losses of Business land for non-employment purposes, and thus no losses due to residential development. One Change of Use from residential to employment took place, 04/00100/FULL.
- 4.11 Development areas are clearly defined in the following document:
- <http://www.basildon.gov.uk/80256B7500420D16/vWeb/wpEFEN5PSEX8>
- 4.12 Land Available by UCO in Development Areas during monitoring period 2004/2005.
- Burnt Mills Industrial Area, Basildon: 1.02 ha – B1/2/8
 - Ford's Technical Centre, Dunton: 46 ha – B1
 - Gardiners Lane South, Basildon: 19 ha – B1/2/8
 - Nevendon industrial Area, Basildon: 17.68 ha – B1/2/8
 - PIPPS Hill Industrial Area, Basildon: 0.13 ha – B1/2/8
 - Festival Business Park, Basildon: 5.67 ha – B1/2/8
 - Radford Way Industrial Area, Billericay: 0.16 ha – B1/2/8
 - Southfields Industrial Area, Basildon: 0.3 ha B1/2/8
 - Terminus Drive, Pitsea: 2.4 B1/2/8
- 4.13 The methodology of the majority of information collected was defined in partnership with Essex County Council. The remaining information was cross-referenced against files in Basildon District Council's UNiform system.
- The survey took place in association with the Residential Land Availability Survey in March 2005
 - Previous years' data to the same levels of detail should be reconstructed. This may be best achieved through contact with Regional and County bodies. This would allow us to show trends in Business Development across the District, highlighting any areas that may have been under developed.

Housing Trajectory/ Density/ PDL and affordable completions

- 4.14 The information within this part of the report is based upon the Residential Land Availability survey. The methodology of the RLA survey was defined in partnership with Essex County Council and performed by a joint working team at the end of March 2005. This section includes a number of National indicators, which have been grouped together to improve presentation.

Table 13 Housing Trajectory showing net additional dwellings for the current year

	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05
Gross dwelling completions	561	258	332	273	297
Net additional dwellings	518	213	300	153	136
Accumulated Net	518	731	1031	1,184	1,320
Acc. completions 2001> net		213	513	666	802

Sources: RLA 2005, BDC 2005.

- 4.15 The current year of monitoring data (2004/2005), on table 13, shows that in the last five years 1,320 new properties had been built. There have been 802 net completions since 2001/ 2002.

4.16 The draft East of England Plan (RSS) proposes a target that the District of 10,700 new dwelling units by 2021. 802 net dwellings have been completed during the 2001-2005 period meaning if the figures in the draft RSS were to be confirmed 9,898 completions are required between the years 2005-2021.

Table 14 Known Housing Sources 2004 -2005

IDENTIFIED SITES	Extant Planning Permission	Allocations in Local Plans¹	Other Identified Sites²
Identified net dwelling supply at end of 2004/2005 monitoring year	1,408	1,785	1,762
of which net total on Previously Developed Land	745	948	1,581
...at other larger urban areas (between 50,000 and 100,000 population in 2000)	625	1,672	1,418
...at large urban areas (between 25,000 and 50,000 population in 2000)	739	113	344
... at smaller settlements (under 3,000 population in 2000)	44	0	0
Total area (hectares) committed to be developed for housing and directly associated uses	79.9	56.5	178.8
...of which is PDL (ha)	40.9	71.4	173.9

BDC and ECC submission to EERA 2005

Notes:

- (1) Allocations in the adopted Basildon District Local Plan and draft Replacement Local Plan First Deposit
- (2) Other identified sites where the principle of development is accepted: Urban Capacity Study sites, and identified sites without planning permission

4.17 Table 14 shows the breakdown of sites within Basildon District during the year 2004-2005. This chart also shows extant planning permissions, allocated land, and other identified sites (such as those defined in the Urban Capacity Study 2004). As such, identified net dwelling numbers for the monitoring period 2004-2005 is 4,955 new housing units.

4.18 Windfall figures for this period are based on the average windfall rates for 2001-2005, with estimations of the impact of slowdown in windfall by 2016.

Table 15 Housing Trajectory: projected evidence 2005-2021

CONTRIBUTION FROM IDENTIFIED SITES	2005/2011	2011/2016	2016/2021	2005/2021 Total
Identified site net dwelling supply at end of 2004/2005 monitoring year	1,135	2,870	950	4,955
of which net total on PDL	750	1,240	566	2,556
CONTRIBUTION FROM UNIDENTIFIED SOURCES (WINDFALL)	2005/2011	2011/2016	2016/2021	2005/2021 Total
Estimated unidentified net dwelling supply at end of 2004/2005 monitoring year	350	400	325	1,075
of which net total on PDL (assume 100% if not known)	65%	80%	90%	78%

BDC and ECC submission to EERA 2005

4.19 During this monitoring period, based on housing completions 2001-2005, identified sites, estimated windfall, Basildon District has capacity for 6,832 units.

4.20 There is, of course, no guarantee that the contribution from identified sites or windfall will happen. Table 16 shows the yearly completion rate required to meet the draft RSS housing targets. These figures have been estimated in the following way:

Annual Build rate calculation	
Draft RSS allocation	10,700
Less net completions (2001-2005)	-802
	<u>9,898</u>
Divided by the number of years between 2004/5 and 2020/21 (=16)	/16
	<u>619</u>

Table 16 Estimated annual build rate required to meet RSS target (2005-2021)

Annual net build requirement	619 net builds per year
------------------------------	-------------------------

Estimate BDC 2005

4.21 Previously developed land is a key target for Local Authorities as it is a Best Value Performance indicator (BV106 - as a gross figure), and is covered as a local indicator.

Table 17 Previously Developed Land

	Dwelling Completions ²						Gross Dwellings/Area (ha) Completed			
	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4+ Bed	Not Known ¹	Net Total	Gross Total	...of which PDL	Total area occupied by completed dwellings	..of which PDL
2004/2005	35	156	77	19	-151	136	297	175	11.1	4.9

RLA2005, BDC and ECC data submitted to EERA 2005

Notes

- (1) The -151 figure used in the not known column for 2004/ 2005 indicates the loss of dwellings that had been demolished through estate renewal programmes. The number of bedrooms contained within these demolished dwellings is unknown.
- (2) Due to (1), the figures provided in the 1 - 4+ beds columns are gross figures
- (3) For the years prior to 2004-2005 data was not collected on the number of bedrooms.

Table 18 Density of housing provision – large sites 10+ dwellings

Monitoring Year 2004/2005	Gross Dwellings	Net Developable Area (ha)	Average Development Density	<30 Dwellings per hectare	30 to 50 Dwellings per hectare	>50 Dwellings per hectare
Dwellings completed on large sites	175	2.26	77.43	6.3	10.28	83.42
Sites under construction and detailed planning permissions yet to be started	1907	32.14	59.33	8.49	10.17	81.34

RLA2005, BDC 2005 – Submitted to EERA 2005.

4.22 The table above relates solely to density on large sites of 10 dwellings or more. It also relates to the actual footprint of the dwellings, not the whole site within which the dwellings are built. The above table was prepared using the data available at the time of publication. It is acknowledged however, that some of the data requires improvement in future years.

Table 19 Affordable Housing Completions

No. of Completions by Funding Source 2004-2005	Total	04/05 Net	Outstanding Gross	Outstanding Net
Wholly funded through Developer Contributions ¹	27	27	42	38
Funded through mix of Public Subsidy and Developer Contributions ²	64	Not known	Not known	Not Known
Total	91			

BDC in partnership with ECC 2005 – Submitted to EERA 2005.

Notes

- (1) 27 net Affordable Housing units were built in a variety of locations across the District in 2004-2005. 10 units were built at the Northland Junior School, Winifred Road (02/01258/FULL), six units were built to the rear of 30-38 Kathleen Ferrier Crescent (02/01568/FULL), and 11 were built to the rear of 69-85 Curling Tye (03/00436/FULL).
- (2) The 64 affordable dwellings are dwellings gained through changes of use and the purchasing of stock by BDC and other RSLs. Therefore there are no net/gross completion stats for this category.

Transport: Vehicle Parking Standards

4.23 Basildon District Council recognises the 'Vehicle Parking Standards' policy defined by the Essex Planning Officers Association (EPOA), but has not, as yet, formally adopted them. The standard is part of the RLP Redeposit 2005, and would not have influenced decisions made by Development Control officers during the monitoring period.

<http://www.basildon.gov.uk/80256B7500420D16/vWeb/wpEFEN5R9E52>

4.24 As such, assessment of the Car Parking during this period will need to be based on the guidance provided in PPG13.

<http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1144015>

TABLE 20 Implementation of PPG13 car parking standards

OUTSTANDING

Permission ref	Land Use	Description	Total Floor space (m ²)	Units	Car Parking Spaces	PPG13 parking standard
BAS/0661/03	A1	Extension to two Retail Warehouses	1,797	2	10	90
BAS/1448/04	A1	Demolition of Retail Units and Erection of Retail Units	1,900	1	15	95
BAS/1133/01	A1	Erection of Retail Shop	1,114	1	60	56
BAS/0857/04	D2	Change of Use Industry/Warehouse to Skateboard Park	1,300	1	34	59
BAS/1446/03	D2	Erection of Youth Centre	1,746	1	0	79
BAS/1061/02	D2 Leisure	Club house and pitches	24,000	1	138	

COMPLETIONS

Permission ref	Land Use	Description	Total Floor space (m ²)	Units	Car Parking Spaces	PPG13 parking standard
BAS/0745/04	A1	Change of Use of Motor Vehicle Repair to Shop (Food)	1,514	1	35	108
BAS/0807/03	B1	B1 office units	2,511	11	83	84

4.25 PPG 13 standards define the maximum parking allowed for a specific development at a specific threshold, and only the planning permission 01/01133/FULL (retail shop) breaches the PPG13 limits.

4.26 There are problems with monitoring developed sites and car parking spaces, notwithstanding impacts of new and previously developed non-residential properties. Current application forms only collect data as to what is being built, and does not take into account local parking provision already within the area. This would likely require a spatial assessment at the time of application decision and mechanisms are being followed up to ensure that this becomes standard practice in 2006.

4.27 Future consideration must also be made of on-site and local parking in relation to new and redeveloped industrial properties. For future AMR's, in order to provide a fair understanding of performance, the following should be considered.

4.28 Analysis will change in future years, after the adoption of the RLP and the EPOA vehicle parking standards.

- Go-East has assumed adoption of EPOA standards, this has not yet occurred.
- Data should be represented by permissions active/monitoring period.
- Data on past on-site vehicle parking, ensuring small expansions are correctly assessed.
- Information on how many permissions were located 'in town centres,' 'out of town centres,' etc. Whilst this is not specifically covered in guidance (PPG13 or EPOA), it will provide an additional number of vehicle-parking spaces available for a given development.

Transport: Residential Access to Local Services

4.29 BDC tries to ensure that residential development is placed within easy reach of a range of local services. For the purposes of the AMR 2005, this means the an assessment has to take place to determine the percentage of new residential development that lies within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major retail centre.

4.30 An incomplete assessment has been made for the year 2004-2005, but a partial assessment on 'major development sites' (developments with 10 houses or more) utilising a less accurate mechanism - the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (IMD 2004). This statistical study analysed an aspect of deprivation within small area profiles that covered 'Barriers to Housing and Services'. The domain studied the question of whether a specific small area profile had acceptable access to GP premises, supermarkets, primary schools, and post offices. It also studied issues pertaining to Housing Affordability.

Table 20 Sites of 10+ dwellings compared to Access to Services domain (IMD2004)

Permission	Address	Site Cap	Built 04/05	Super Output Area	IMD Access to Services Domain Score	IMD % Score
BAS/0107/02	West of Martin Close and Prower Close	23	1	Basildon 004A	19965	61%
BAS/0489/98	Between Highland Grove/Jacksons Lane	19	1	Basildon 003A	28802	89%
BAS/0973/02	Land at Rosslare, Chuchview rear of Sherwood Nevendon	11	2	Basildon 011C	3219	10%
BAS/0305/99	The Wick	56	10	Basildon 008E	11095	34%
BAS/1258/02	Northland Junior School, Winifred Road	10	10	Basildon 013D	13555	42%
BAS/0436/03	Rear 69-85 Curling Tye	11	11	Basildon 012A	23492	72%
BAS/0511/02	Pembury Hall, Clayburn Circle	21	12	Basildon 019A	20605	63%
BAS/1407/01	1st and 2nd Floors, 17 Radford Way	12	12	Basildon 003E	24628	76%
BAS/0604/01	R/O 4 and 6 High Street	13	13	Basildon 003B	24774	76%
BAS/0219/03	North of Willowfield, Steepleview	40	18	Basildon 010A	3831	12%
BAS/0834/03	Rosslare, Churchview, Nevendon Road	18	18	Basildon 011C	3219	10%
BAS/0877/02	North Cranfield Park/East of the Wick	171	62	Basildon 008D	11109	34%
BAS/0548/03	Fortune of War Arterial Road Laindon	71	71	Basildon 010C	3348	10%

Evidence BDC 2005

Note:

For interpretation – 1 on the domain score shows the 'most deprived' and 32482 show the 'least deprived'.

Highlighted

Sites highlighted in this way are located within a small area of Basildon District known to have suffered from low access to services during the IMD2004 study.

4.31 Table 20 shows that 13 large residential sites were built upon during the year 2004/ 2005. Of those large sites, four were in a local area known to have problems in access to local services.

4.32 However, an inquiry outside of the boundaries of the IMD2004 dataset has shown that the following application has involved the creation of a new local services centre:

- North of Willowfield, Steepleview (BAS/0219/03)

4.33 Therefore, three out of 13 (23%) large residential sites that had development activity in 2004/05 had poor access to local services.

4.34 Future Tasks:

- Acquire Spatial Analysis Software (UNIform Spatial) in early 2006.
- Secure access to/ create maps with appropriate details of local services/ place of employment on them.
- Adopt procedures to ensure that the information required by this indicator is studied before a decision on a major application takes place, and that appropriate records are kept.
- Assess applications by decision date.

Local Services Core Indicators 2004-2005

4.35 The life of the District is dependant on whether residential; employment, and local services work in concert with each other to create a sustainable village/ town/ or city.

4.36 The dataset on table 21 studies retail and leisure developments by their Use Class Order (UCO) – B1a, A1, A2, and D2.

Table 21 – Retail and Leisure Service developments for 2004-2005

Development Type (UCO)	Nos. of applications made prior to 2004-2005	New applications made 2004-2005	On PDL (m ²)	Gross internal floor space (m ²)	Est. Gross External Area ¹ (m ²)	Built during year (m ²)	Gains in Town Centres (m ²)	% Development in Town Centres
B1a	6	6	10,742	12,746	13,383	516	1,736	13%
A1	7	4	7,700	9,214	9,675	2,393	3,626	39%
A2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
D2	4	1	1,300	28,861	30,304	0	0	0%

From ILA 2005 (ECC)

Notes:

- (1) Gross external area was not available for the monitoring period, and these figures have been estimated as defined by the LDF Monitoring Guidance to +5% of gross internal floor space.
- (2) No A2 development took place during the 2004-2005 monitoring period.
- (3) The methodology of the majority of information collection was defined in partnership with ECC. The remaining information was cross-referenced against files on BDCs UNIform system.

Green Flag Awards

4.37 There are 301 hectares of parks and green spaces across the District (BDC website – Country Parks 2005).

4.38 The Green Flag Awards are the national standard for parks and green spaces across England and Wales. The Civic Trust, on behalf of the ODPM and the Green Flag Advisory Board, manages the award. See <http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/> for more details

4.39 Wat Tyler Country Park (50.6 ha), and Lake Meadows (16.2 ha) were submitted by BDC in 2004/05. to date, no awards have been won.

4.40 It should be recognised for future analysis that the Open Space survey will assist in the interpretation of this Core Indicator 2005-2006.

Flood Protection and Water Quality

- 4.41 The Environment Agency (EA), a key consultee, advises LPAs by highlighting issues and raising support or objections to applications before they go to decision. They are one of the department's Key Consultants in the Development Control process and their comments are taken very seriously before a decision is reached.
- 4.42 For more information about the Agency – please visit the following website:
<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/>.
- 4.43 For more information on Floodplains
<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/flood/?lang=e>
- 4.44 The Environment Agency commented on a number of applications with regard to floodplains. Essentially any development that occurs on, or close to a defined floodplain is given a 'flood risk assessment'.
- 4.45 Flood Risk Assessments operate at four levels 1-4 (with 1 being the least at threat, and 4 being the most at threat). Depending on the nature of the risk assessment, EA may advise that certain development should not take place. See the following link for more detail:
<http://www.pipernetworking.com/floodrisk/keychanges.html>
- 4.46 Of the 1,269 applications received last year, the Council received five requests from the EA for flood risk assessments (two, relating to risk level 1, and three at 3).
- 4.47 There were no requests from the EA regarding impacts to the environment in relation to standing water during the monitoring period.
- 4.48 No planning permissions were granted contrary to the advice of the EA in 2004-2005.
- 4.49 The Council has been in cooperation with the other SE Essex Thames Gateway authorities to undertake Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is to be carried out in South Essex from December 2005, with completion by April 2006. This information will be recorded in future AMR studies, and inform future Development Control decisions on planned development.

Changes in Area and Species of Biodiversity Importance

- 4.50 EECOS conducted a Phase 1 Habitat Survey which included a long term review of Wildlife Sites within Basildon District (between the years 1993 and 2004). The AMR has taken information on the change in priority habitats and species from this document. The other benefit is that EECOS have also taken into account the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) and assessed its accuracy for the District.

Table 22 Land Use Extents in 1993 and 2005

Land Use	Extent 1993 hectares	Extent 2004 hectares	Change in hectares	Notes
Arable/ Urban	6637.4	6793.5	+156.1	1
Semi-Natural Woodland	388.1	498.8	+110.7	2
Planted Woodland	68.0	85.9	+17.9	3
Scrub	281.2	160.1	-121.1	4
Amenity Grassland	710.1	720.7	+10.6	5
Total Other Grassland	2424.9	2299.7	-125.2	6
Neutral Soil grassland	2420.8	2283.5	-137.3	6
Lake/ Reservoir	30.0	49.3	+19.3	7
Waste/ Bare/ Refuse Tip	362.6	202.9	-159.7	8
Tall Ruderal	69.7	49.8	-19.9	9
Allotment/ horticulture	20.9	6.2	-14.7	10
Total Non-Arable/ Urban	4400.6	4244.5	-156.1	

From Essex Ecology Service – Nature Conservation Reference Guide for Basildon District 2005

Notes:

1. The increase of arable land has resulted in a loss of more wildlife friendly habitats of all types.
2. The growth identified here may be natural succession, but it is also likely to be that smaller areas of woodland have been identified and catalogued through more efficient techniques.
3. Increase is probably due to landscaped screening around Noak Bridge, the finished sections of Pitsea Landfill, and Vange Hill golf course.
4. Scrub habitats are the major casualties in Basildon. Wickford had large areas of scrub and grassland to the south of the town which has been built on as part of a large housing development. Some loss has also happened by natural succession to woodland.
5. This slight increase is likely to be the development of greensward in new housing areas.
6. The loss of grassland is even more worrying than the loss of scrub, especially since there are so few types of grassland that are less than 30 years old.
7. This increase may be caused by the creation of a lake at Wick Country Park.
8. Pitsea landfill being succeeded by grassland and planted broad field woodland accounts for this reduction.
9. 'Tidying up' areas that have gone wild cause the loss of this habitat type.
10. These areas are important urban wildlife havens, and their loss to development gives rise to concern.

4.51 The same report also highlights which habitats defined in the Biodiversity Action report (EBAP) have changed.

Table 23 Phase 1 Habitat study – 2005

Identified Habitats	Comments
Ancient and species rich hedgerows and green lanes	Three major areas have been identified as Wildlife Sites (Blind Lane, St. Margarets Wood and Lane, and Parsonage Farm Green Lane). These areas operate as wildlife corridors and as sites for ancient woodland flora and fauna. Many of the old plotland roads within Langdon Hills operate as green lanes.
Ancient Woodland	The majority of the areas ancient woods lie around Billericay.
Cereal Field margins	EECOS were unable to define specific areas of relic flora in the District.
Coastal Grazing Marsh	The marshes at Vange Creek Marshes, Bowers Marsh, Pitsea Marsh and Vange Marsh SSSIs show some signs of levelling and agricultural use in the recent past – and do not (on average) represent good examples of the habitat. They are a substantial part of the southern part of the District.
Lowland Heath	No true examples of this habitat type in the District. Semi-improved acid grassland was found at the north end of Laindon Common.
Old Orchards	There is one site, on the London Road, between Crays Hill and Wickford near Woolshots Farm, and is considered to be of little to no significance as a habitat site.
Reed beds	The most significant block of reed beds is probably that in Pitseahall Fleet within Watt Tyler Country Park. There is also some quantity of reed at the Bowers Marshes sites.
Saline Lagoons	There are tidal brackish dykes behind the seawalls at East Haven creek, and the complex at Vange Wharf might also provide suitable conditions – but tidal flow may be too extreme.
Urban Habitats	A number of wildlife sites in the District are truly urban. The Langdon Complex, Gloucester Park Meadow, Vange Hill, Nevendon Bushes are keys sites, with Northlands Park, the remainder of Gloucester Park, and Victoria Park are some of the next most significant green sites.

From Essex Ecology Service – Nature Conservation Reference Guide for Basildon District 2005

Table 24 Species study – 2005

Identified Species	Comments
Brown Hare	The older landscape and smaller fields to the northwest of the District is the best location of this species, along with the more arable landscape between Vange and Fobbing. There are very few records of this species otherwise.
Dormouse	Only known at Norsey Wood SSSI
Pipistrelle Bats	Considered to be common across Essex during the breeding season, but further investigation into habitats during winter needs to take place.
Grey Partridge	Very few breeding grounds in the District – mainly in the extreme south of the District.
Skylark	Nationally skylark density has declined – and the only likely habitat in the District would be the tall grasses in the Bowers Marshland.
Song Thrush	Similar to the Skylark, but with greater reliance on gardens and sub-urban habitats.
Great Crested Newt	Records indicate that there are many urban and threatened sites for this species, including the areas around Basildon Hospital.
Shrill Carder Bee	A large population present in a marshland complex near Pitsea Landfill
Black Poplar	A solitary tree may remain along the River Crouch, but no known records exist confirming presence of this tree in the District.
Barn Owl	Defined in the EBAP, but not discussed in the EECOS report – this species will need to be assessed for AMR 2006
Green winged Orchid	Defined in the EBAP, but not discussed in the EECOS report – this species will need to be assessed for AMR 2006
Water Vole	Defined in the EBAP, but not discussed in the EECOS report – this species will need to be assessed for AMR 2006
Scarce emerald Damselfly	Defined in the EBAP, but not discussed in the EECOS report – this species will need to be assessed for AMR 2006
Devils bit Scabious	Defined in the EBAP, but not discussed in the EECOS report – this species will need to be assessed for AMR 2006

From Essex Ecology Service – Nature Conservation Reference Guide for Basildon District 2005

4.52 Data collection has been passive this year, but will need to be improved to ensure more appropriate collection. Areas defined in the EECOS report will be spatially defined to support analysis in future years.

4.53 It is clear that development around Basildon District has had impacts on the local biodiversity, and these issues will have to be considered as an aspect of future AMRs.

Changes in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value

4.54 EECOS have considered Site of Important in Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) within Basildon District, comparing the years 1993 and 2004.

4.55 There are six SSSIs in Basildon District. No changes have taken place to these sites during the 1993-2004 period:

- Norsey Wood – 67.17 hectares
- Basildon Meadows – 2.2 hectares
- Pitsea Marsh – 94.63 hectares
- Vange and Fobbing Marshes – 165.1 hectares
- Mill Meadows – 36 hectares
- Holehaven Creek – 273 hectares

4.56 These are the following SINCs/ CoWs that have been revised since 1993:

- Langdon Nature Reserve has absorbed several smaller sites to become the Langdon Complex.
- Basildon Golf Course Earthworks has now been merged into Basildon Golf Course Wood, and also greatly extended into land not previously identified.
- Bowers and Vange Creek Marshes have greatly extended, with some land lost to lagoon development
- Wickford Meadows, River Crouch, has been greatly extended down the river corridor.

4.57 Three sites identified as SINCS in 1998 have been declassified following the 2004 survey. Whilst they retain some of nature conservation value, they no longer have County significance:

- Pond, Ford's Technical Centre, Dunton
- Shotgate Thickets, Wickford
- Laindon Hills Link, Basildon

4.58 The above represent the only changes for this indicator.

County Wildlife Sites (CoWS)

4.59 Following the Phase 1 habitat Survey, EECOS identified 46 County Wildlife Sites (CoWS) in 2005. CoWS replace the former designation of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). These are available to view on the Replacement Local Plan Redeposit proposals map.

Local Nature Reserves (LNR):

4.60 There are four LNR within Basildon District. No development has affected these reserves during the monitoring period:

- Norsey Wood: 70.8 hectares
- Mill Meadows: 36.4 hectares
- Nevendon Bushes: 6.1 hectares

- Vange Hill: 12.1 hectares

Renewable Energy

4.61 The Council is not aware of any renewable energy developments that took place during the year of study 2004-2005.

4.62 Data from Planning Applications

- One application has been approved in 2002, but not developed for a 15m high wind turbine that will generate 20kW at full power (02/01217/FULL). This relates to 0.02mW production for this period. No other renewable energy capacity developments have taken place since. At this point of time development has not happened.

4.63 Data from Building Control

- Solar water panels at Pitsea Pool plus solar photovoltaic "PV" for power generation.
- Wick Pavilion the Council put in rainwater harvesting to recycle for WC's and urinals.

4.64 It has been established that two developments include the provision of renewable energy harnessing technology within Basildon District.

- Pitsea Swimming Pool, Pitsea: Solar Water Panels at Pitsea Pool, Solar PV for power generation.
- Wick Pavilion, Wick Country Park, Wickford: Rainwater harvesting for WC's and urinals.

4.65 Work with the Building Control department in future monitoring periods may provide more insight into the nature of this indicator.

Overall Issues

4.66 The Core Indicators for the AMR 2005 has highlighted a range of issues, especially in relation to builds of new residential units, and the encroachment on the natural environment.

4.67 Failures to provide spatial analysis have been highlighted, and will be corrected for future monitoring periods.

4.68 In the AMR2006, the assessed Core Indicator output will be assigned to LDD policies, enabling the LPA to make an evidenced decision on whether a policy is working effectively.

Regionally Defined core indicators 2004-2005

Housing completions

5.1 EERA made a specific request for a range of data, including the Housing Flow Reconciliation, and it is expected that a similar monitoring request will be made for 2005-2006. The majority of the request fulfilled the Core Indicators on Housing; the remaining data is presented below.

Table 25 – Geography of completions based on population site

GEOGRAPHY OF COMPLETIONS	Net Dwelling Completions in 2004/2005
..at other larger urban areas (between 50,000 and 100,000 population in 2000)	-44
..at large urban areas (between 25,000 and 50,000 population in 2000)	165
..at smaller settlements (under 3,000 population in 2000)	15

BDC and ECC submission to EERA

5.2 Using Census 2001 definitions, Basildon Town is defined as an 'other large urban area' (OLUA), Wickford and Billericay Towns as 'large urban area's (LUA), and other population centres within Basildon District fell into the 'smaller settlement' (SS) due to population size.

Table 26 Housing Flow Reconciliation 2004-2005 – developments/ losses during year

A. New Build			B. Conversions			C. Change of Use			D. Other Demolitions (Non-Housing Development)	E1 Total Net Dwelling Completions	E2 Total Gross Dwelling Completions
1 Gross	2 Losses (Demolitions for Housing Development)	3 Net	1 Gains	2 Losses	3 Net	1 From non-residential to residential	2 From residential to non-residential	3 Net	1 Gross	(A3+B3+C3) -D1	(A1+B1+C1)
282	161	121	0	0	0	15	0	15	0	136	297

BDC and ECC submission to EERA 2005

Table 27 - Housing Flow Reconciliation 2004-2005 - final housing count

F. Opening Stock of Permanent and Non-Permanent Dwellings (at 01-04-04)	G. Permanent Dwellings Completed 2004-05 (E1)	H. Non-Permanent Dwellings Completed 2004-05			I. Closing Stock of Permanent and Non-Permanent Dwellings (at 31-03-05)	J. If you think that the opening stock in Section F is not accurate, please explain why in the commentary below and provide alternative figures in this column
		Gains	Losses	Net		
72,045	136	0	0	0	72,181	HFR data obtained from Housing BDC.

BDC and ECC submission to EERA 2005

Gypsy/ Traveller Sites

- 5.3 GO-East made a specific request for all local authorities to provide the following data on Gypsy/ Traveller sites:
- The number of authorised public and private sites (both permanent and transit) and number of caravans on them over the monitoring period, and any changes during the period.
 - Number of unauthorised sites and numbers of caravans on them (broken down if possible by unauthorised encampments, i.e. 'roadside' encampments; and unauthorised developments, i.e. land owned by the occupant without planning permission) and any known changes during the period.
 - Details of any permission granted for new public or private sites, or expansion of existing sites, during the monitoring period; and other unimplemented permissions outstanding at the end of the period.
 - Progress of any work to assess the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers in accordance with the requirements of housing legislation and planning policy. If none is underway, when this is anticipated to be undertaken and the nature of this work, e.g. countywide assessment or jointly with neighbouring authorities.
 - More generally, an assessment of the use and performance of existing development plan policies on this issue.
- 5.4 An authorised site has planning permission whilst an unauthorised site typically has been created without planning consent.
- 5.5 The following table shows the numbers of Unauthorised, Authorised Public (ECC owned and run sites) and Authorised Private sites:

Table 28 -Gypsy/ Traveller sites by Type

	Unauthorised encampments		Authorised sites: council		Authorised sites: private	
	Pitches	Caravans	Pitches	Caravans	Pitches	Caravans
Jan-05	101	221	25	31	81	149
Jul-04	98	174	25	34	81	111

BDC report 2005/ ODPM Count of Gypsy Caravans 04/05

- 5.6 Since January 1990, there has been a steady rise in the number of caravans on authorised sites within Basildon District (from 37 caravans to 180). Since 1993-2005 this increase has not been matched by Essex/ Eastern region/ England.
- 5.7 Local analysis of Gypsy/ Traveller population is made difficult for a number of reasons: for example - the Census 2001 did not include 'Gypsy' as an Ethnic Group. Similarly, specific population statistics are not collected during the Census or the bi-annual Gypsy Caravan Counts. As a rough guide, occupation levels can be estimated from the following: each pitch can comfortably hold one family (two adults, and up to four children). Whilst a pitch may have several caravans on it, they are usually single purpose (split between sleeping quarters, living quarters, and day rooms). As such, at January 2005 – an estimated population:

Table 29 Estimated Gypsy/ Traveller population based on site type

	Unauthorised	Authorised: Council	Authorised: Private	Total Population
Adults	202	50	162	414
Children (16 or under)	392	100	324	816

BDC 2005

5.8 Records of site names, number of caravans, and legal status are available from Basildon Planning Services but are provided subject to all the rules and regulations regarding provision of personal data as implied in the Freedom of Information Act.

5.9 Several planning applications were made during the 2004-2005 monitoring period – these can be viewed on the Council's Public Access system:

http://planning.basildon.gov.uk/publicaccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_searchform.aspx

Table 30 – Gypsy/ Traveller sites of interest during the monitoring period

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04/00779/Full: Change of use to Gypsy Caravan Site for Four Families. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This application is still pending decision.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04/00806/Full: Change of use of land for siting of Gypsy caravan including the creation of hard standing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This application is currently undergoing appeal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04/00807/Full: Change of use of land for siting of Gypsy caravan including the creation of hard standing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This application is currently undergoing appeal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04/00808/Full: Change of use of land for siting of Gypsy caravan including the creation of hard standing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This application is currently undergoing appeal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04/01056/Full: Use of land as a private Gypsy caravan site for a single family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This application is still pending decision.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04/01249/Full: Change in the use of land for the siting of three caravans, including one mobile home plus the siting of one portable structure for use as a washroom/toilet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This application is currently undergoing appeal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04/01526/Full: Change in the use of the land for the siting of 1 no. mobile home, 1 no. outbuilding and the formation of hard standing for residential use by a Gypsy family. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applicant withdrew application.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04/01527/Full: Change in the use of the land for the siting of 1 no. mobile home, 1 no. outbuilding and the formation of hard standing for residential use by a Gypsy family. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applicant withdrew application.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05/00390/Full: The retention of the change in the use of the land as a residential Gypsy caravan site consisting of 8 plots containing 9 mobile homes, 7 touring caravans, 6 day (utility) rooms, fencing and hard standings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This application is currently undergoing appeal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05/00391/Full: The retention of the change in the use of the land as a residential Gypsy caravan site consisting of 4 parcels of land comprising 5 plots containing 6 mobile homes, 5 touring caravans, 1 day room, fencing and hard standing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This application is currently undergoing appeal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 05/00393/Full: The retention of the change in the use of the land as a residential Gypsy caravan site comprising 7 no. plots. Plots 18, 20, 22, 23 and 25 to contain 2 mobile homes each. Plots 19 and 21 to contain 3 mobile homes each, together with fencing and hard standings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This application is currently undergoing appeal.

BDC 2005

LOCAL INDICATORS 2004-2005

Best Value Performance Indicators

- 6.1 Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI's) apply to all District Councils and are intended to set minimum levels of performance quality. LPAs have specific targets to work to, and the Council's performance in meeting these is set out below.
- 6.2 For more detail on Best Value:
<http://www.bvpi.gov.uk/pages/Index.asp> or
<http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1136106>
- 6.3 2004/2005 used the same methodology as 2003/2004, with some additional indicators. There are also indicators provided below that are new for the monitoring period 2005-2006 (for the AMR 2006)

BV106 – Percentage of new homes built on Previously Developed Land.

- 6.4 New homes include conversions, and PDL is defined in Annex C PPG 3 (Housing).
- 6.5 In setting local targets, authorities should have regard to ensure by 2008, 60% of additional housing is provided on either previously developed land, or through conversions of existing buildings.

Table 31 – BV106 – Homes built on PDL

Year of Study	Performance
2001-2002	25.00%
2002-2003	51.20%
2003-2004	51.60%
2004-2005	58.58%

Data taken from audited ODPM submissions for 2004-2005

- 6.6 Basildon District's performance is limited by the amount of brownfield land available, especially within Basildon New Town.

BV109a-c – Performance on targets for Major/ Minor/ Other Applications

- 6.7 Percentage of planning applications determined in line with the Governments new development control targets to determine:
- 60% of major applications in 13 weeks;
 - 65% of minor applications in 8 weeks; and
 - 80% of other applications in 8 weeks.

Table 32 – Decisions within a given time – BV109a-c

Year of Study	Performance BV109a	Performance BV109b	Performance BV109c
2002-2003	58%	69%	88%
2003-2004	52%	78%	94%
2004-2005	57%	67%	86%

Data taken from audited ODPM submissions for 2004-2005

6.8 Performance is failing targets in relation to BV109a (major applications). There are a number of reasons for this, including capacity issues, poor response times from external consultees, and the development of time consuming legal agreements. Performance of BV109b and c, whilst not failing national indicators has dropped slightly.

6.9 During the monitoring period 2005-2006, significant analysis in addition to performance assessment of BVPI109a has taken place. Impacts of analysis will be reported as part of future AMRs.

BV111 – Satisfaction with Planning Services

6.10 This indicator is studied on a three year basis. It is expected that this satisfaction survey will be dealt within part of a ‘whole Council performance survey’ which will be performed during next years MP. Results of this will be available for the 2007 AMR.

6.11 There is also an intention to roll out a smaller scale annual survey of Planning Service satisfaction, and this will be developed in the monitoring period 2006, and any interim results will be reported in the AMR 2006.

BV200a-c – Plan-making

6.12 This indicator will be subject to change during the 2005-2006 monitoring period.

- For 2004/ 2005
 - a. Do you have a development plan (or alterations to it) that has been adopted in the last 5 years and the end date of which has not expired?
 - b. If 'No', are there proposals on deposit for an alteration or replacement, with a published timetable for adopting those alterations or the replacement plan within three years?

6.13 For 2004-2005, criterion (a) adopted development plan was not met, but a draft RLP was placed on deposit in May 2004 (b) with a timetable for adoption within three years.

BV204 – Appeals

6.14 ODPM have introduced a new indicator to measure the percentage appeals allowed against the authority’s decision to refuse.

6.15 Target setting is Local, though a reference to 20% has been found in national literature.

Table 33 – % of appeals where local decision was overruled

Year of Study	Performance
2004-2005	19.7%

Data taken from audited ODPM submissions for 2004-2005

6.16 This is the results of a new indicator for 2004-2005. It may be that 20% is an unworkable local target, and that this will be assessed during the 2005-2006 year. Further analysis of appeals will be locally assessed, and action taken to improve performance during the year 2005-2006 will be published in the AMR 2006.

BV205 - The local authority’s score against a ‘quality of planning services’ checklist

6.17 Like all other services within a local authority, the Planning Service must show that it provides good quality work and ensures that the service is accessible to users. Categories in which the department was tested against are as follows:

- A. Whether the authority provides guidance to applicants on the requirements for submission of applications under the Planning Acts, reflecting the different types of development.
- B. Whether the authority provides pre-application advice.
- C. Whether, in addition to what is offered by CABE and English Heritage, the authority has local arrangements to access specialist advice on design in the preparation of the LDP, planning guidance and in determining all types of applications under the Planning Acts.
- D. Has the authority has local arrangements to access specialist advice on the historic environment in the preparation of the LDP, planning guidance, and in determining all types of applications under the Planning Acts.
- E. Whether there is a multidisciplinary team approach to determining major planning applications.
- F. Whether the authority provides the capability for an electronic planning service.

6.18 2004-2005 – The Council has been audited to show that 88.3% of all the above criteria were met to an acceptable level.

6.19 Performance has been notably improved by providing internet access to BDC Planning Services, and electronic service delivery. Actions are taking place to improve this performance further, by for example, foreign languages formats/ large print facilities/ audio formats, etc.

Equalities Monitoring

6.20 Planning Services aims to provide Equality of Opportunity in how its services are delivered. The AMR assesses evidence relating the collection of information on Equalities in relation to applications. This evidence is needed to show that the Planning Service is accessible to all groups within the District, and if evidence shows otherwise – to carry corrective action.

6.21 All application forms are sent out with Equalities monitoring sheets. Census 2001 Equalities criteria ensure that results would be comparable to recognised categories.

6.22 During the period 01/04/04 – 1/12/05 the Council received 20 planning applications that had detailed information regarding Equalities associated to them. Of these, those of White British origin completed 17, two by an agent of Iranian origin, and one by an agent of Black African origin. Women, one of whom was an agent, completed four of the applications. None of the applicants considered themselves disabled.

Good Consultation and Engagement Practice

6.23 Local Planning departments have several levels of consultation: from assessing satisfaction with services (BV111), to seeing what a neighbour thinks of a potential development. As such the department deals with a wide range of consultation and engagement at a number of statutory levels.

6.24 BDC is committed to improving engagement and participation with local people and organisations. A set of corporate principles and standards for consultation and

engagement have been established - a coordinated, consistent and coherent approach to actively involving local people in the work of the Council.

- 6.25 The Council intends to develop datasets that show social inclusion, taking into account age, sex, race, and locality to ensure that the community is engaged in relation to planning applications and formal planning documents.
- 6.26 Part of the LDS includes a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This LDD will assess our consultation and engagement provision at a highly specific level in support of the statement. These changes will not supersede current statutory planning practice, but supplement it with additional information for officers and councillors when decisions are made.

Consultations carried out during the 2004-2005 monitoring period

First Deposit RLP consultation

- 6.27 On 20 May 2004, the Council took the decision to place the draft Replacement Local Plan on First Deposit. The deposit period ran from 28 May 2004 to 9 July 2004.
- 6.28 A notice was published in the Basildon Evening Echo and the London Gazette, as required by the Regulations. Over 1,700 people & organisations were notified of the deposit period; including:
- People who responded to the Key Issues Consultation and SPG consultations;
 - People who have submitted proposals for inclusion in the Plan;
 - People who have registered an interest in the Plan
- 6.29 An exhibition on the First Deposit Plan took place in the Basildon Centre, Billericay and Wickford libraries. To complement the consultation arrangements, a summary leaflet of the First Deposit was available free of charge at the deposit points, and posted on the Council's web site.
- 6.30 Copies of the Plan were supplied to the Secretary of State and the organisations specified in the Development Plan Regulations. Copies of the Plan and its supporting documents were placed on deposit at the Basildon Centre, the Council's area offices, and the main libraries in the District.
- 6.31 The RLP04 documents are available on the Council's website at www.basildon.gov.uk/planning.
- 6.32 This consultation resulted in over 2,200 representations being made by about 850 individuals and organisations.

General Review of the AMR 2005

- 7.1 In relation to the first Basildon District Council AMR, the following conclusions have been drawn:
- 7.2 It is recognised that the document is deficient in some respects, but the AMR 2005 should be seen, to a large extent, as a template that can be developed more fully in future years.
- Not all the core indicators could be tackled in the 2005 assessment year, either due to lack of software/ evidence/ or resources.
 - Misinterpretation of AMR guidance may be an issue. It has been confirmed that the Councils' interpretations of requirements and core indicators sometimes vary from those of other authorities. This may result in problems in trying to compare performance across authorities until clear guidance/ methodologies are provided.
 - The document is nearly twice as long as suggested by Central Government, and is likely to get longer in future years, unless some form of hybridised information provision is envisaged.
 - The language is, at points somewhat technical, and this may cause problems for access to the document by the public and other stakeholders.
 - The assessment of Local Plan policies and the setting of "SMART" targets have not been attempted in the AMR 2005, owing firstly to the age of the adopted Local Plan and secondly to the draft status of the RLP.
- 7.3 The following benefits have, however, already been achieved from the production of the AMR:
- Progress on the preparation of LDDs is clearly set out.
 - A wide range of useful data has been collected.
 - It has shown the way in which data collection can be focused, to ensure Best Practice takes place, through recognition of external needs and internal performance.

Future Improvements

- 7.4 The AMR represents an initial attempt to collect and collate monitoring data on planning decisions/policies and LDS progress.
- 7.5 Some of the problems with indicators this year were due to lack of appropriate tools to ensure information provision. These issues should be resolved come the AMR2006. Corrective action or development processes to improve the quality of data for many of the core indicators is defined in the document.
- 7.6 Source documents often provided out of context data, but for the AMR2006, data sourced from non-Council (or partnered) sources will be appropriately identified and open to assessment.

APPENDIX 1: CORE INDICATORS – REVIEW SHEET

Ref	Name	Evidenced	Discussed	Futured	Notes
1a	Amount of Floor space developed for employment by type.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Part of ECC monitoring response to BDC
1b	Amount of Floor space developed for employment by type, in employment or regeneration areas.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Part of ECC monitoring response to BDC
1c	Amount of Floor space by employment type, which is on previously developed land.	Yes	No	Yes	Part of ECC monitoring response to BDC
1d	Employment Land Available by Type	Yes	Yes	Yes	Part of ECC monitoring response to BDC
1e(i)	Losses of employment land in employment/ regeneration areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Part of ECC monitoring response to BDC
1e(ii)	Losses of employment land in local authority area.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Part of ECC monitoring response to BDC
1f	Amount of employment land lost to residential development.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Part of ECC monitoring response to BDC
2a	Housing Trajectory showing: net additional dwellings over the previous five year period or since the start of the relevant development plan document period, whichever is longer, net additional dwellings for the current year; projected net additional dwellings up to the end of the relevant development plan document period or over a ten year period from its adoption, whichever is the longer; the annual net additional dwelling requirement; and annual average number of net additional dwellings, having regard to previous years performance.	Yes	Partially	No	Part of ECC monitoring response to BDC.
2b	Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land	Yes	No	No	Net variant of this figure presented as a core indicator, gross figure shown as a local indicator (BV106)
2c(i)	Percentage of new dwellings completed at less than 30 dwellings a hectare.	Yes	Yes	No	Part of ECC monitoring response to BDC
2c(ii)	Percentage of new dwellings completed at between 30 at 50 dwellings per hectare.	Yes	Yes	No	Part of ECC monitoring response to BDC
2c(iii)	Percentage of new dwellings completed at above 50 dwellings per hectare	Yes	Yes	No	Part of ECC monitoring response to BDC
2d	Affordable Housing Completions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Required work with BDC housing, future years should define where affordable development is taking place.
3a	Amount of completed non-residential development within UCO's A,B and D complying with car-parking standards set out in the local development framework	Yes	Yes	Yes	Completed but significant work needs to be performed to make the process useful for DC.

Ref	Name	Evidenced	Discussed	Futured	Notes
3b	Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of: a GP; a hospital; a primary school; a secondary school; areas of employment; and a major retail centre.	Partially evidenced	Yes	Yes	Requires significant work to meet standards defined in guidance.
4a	Amount of completed retail, office, and leisure development.	Yes	No	No	Part of ECC monitoring response to BDC.
4b	Amount of completed retail, office, and leisure development in town centres	Yes	No	No	Part of ECC monitoring response to BDC.
4c	Amount of Eligible open spaces managed to Green Flag Award standard	Yes	Yes	Yes	Decision about what BDC has been 'awarded' and what BDC considers to be appropriately managed has to take place in future years
5a	Production of Primary Land won aggregates	No	No	No	Indicator not appropriate to BDC
5b	Production of secondary/ recycled aggregates	No	No	No	Indicator not appropriate to BDC
6a	Capacity of new waste management facilities by type	No	No	No	Indicator not appropriate to BDC
6b	Amount of municipal waste arising, and managed by management type, and the percentage each manage type	No	No	No	Indicator not appropriate to BDC
7	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Future Assessment could utilise more GIS tools in association to EA.
8(i)	Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance, including change in priority habitats and species (by type)	Partial	Yes	No	Future assessment needs a great deal of work to define full populations.
8(ii)	Change in areas and population of biodiversity importance, including changes in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional, sub-regional or local significance.	Yes	Yes	No	Could be better studied in terms of GIS, with any changes/ developments by year defined.
9	Renewable Energy Capacity Installed by Type	Yes	Yes	Yes	Identification in UNIFORM system of any known renewable energy development to be defined.

