

Basildon Borough

Local Development Monitoring Report

2014-2015

1. Introduction

1.1. The Policy Context

- 1.1.1. Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by section 113 of the Localism Act 2011) sets the formal requirement that each Local Planning Authority (LPA) must prepare a Monitoring Report. Whilst Local Planning Authorities no longer need to monitor National Core Indicators set by the former Audit Commission, monitoring reports should, as a minimum, contain information on progress towards the LPA's adopted Local Development Scheme (LDS) milestones; and the extent to which adopted local planning policies are being achieved.
- 1.1.2. Section 34 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012 sets out the requirements for what a LPAs' monitoring report must cover and this report meets those requirements.
- 1.1.3. LPAs are still required to survey and gather evidence to carry out regular development monitoring following the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012.
- 1.1.4. The NPPF clearly states that LPA's must identify and update annually, a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against their housing requirements with an additional buffer of 5%. In areas with persistent under delivery of housing, that buffer should be increased to 20%. Headline information regarding housing supply is presented in this monitoring report however all detail and specifics are set out in a separate 5 year Land Supply Report.

1.2. The Monitoring Period

- 1.2.1. This report examines the performance of the LPA on its planning application, appeal, enforcement and policy work, and how these perform against the overall planning priorities for the Borough. It specifically relates to progress during the last complete monitoring period of **1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015**. The reporting of some indicators which use third party data, reflect the latest position available. Where this evidence postdates the monitoring period, it is stated.

1.3. Monitoring Report Structure

- 1.3.1. In accordance with s.109 (3) of the Localism Act 2011, the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), which set development targets for Basildon Borough, was revoked by Order of Parliament on 3rd January 2013¹.
- 1.3.2. National guidance suggests that local development monitoring should relate to the local themes and objectives, which follows in the format advocated for Local Plan documents. In order to embed the Council's Local Plan process with relevant planning documents going forward, this monitoring report has therefore been set out

¹ http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-vote-office/December_2012/11-12-12/5-DCLG-EastOfEngland.pdf.

to consider progress and achievements in the context of the Spatial Objectives from the Council's emerging Local Plan document, the Core Strategy.

- 1.3.3. The Local Plan Core Strategy clearly sets out ten strategic objectives which reflect the overall vision for the future of the Borough and, where possible, are aligned with Basildon Borough Council's (BBC) wider Community Strategy 2012-2036.
- 1.3.4. By using the strategic objectives to structure and contextualise the monitoring report, not only can synergy between documents be achieved, but monitoring and indicators used will ensure that policies, plans and processes are delivering their intended aims for the local area or the extent to which this is happening.
- 1.3.5. The Strategic Objectives for the Basildon Borough Local Plan Core Strategy are:
 - SO1: Protecting and Enhancing the Quality of the Local Environment;
 - SO2: Improve the Quality and Value of the Green Belt;
 - SO3: Minimising Our Impact on the Environment;
 - SO4: Creating Vibrant and Thriving Town Centres;
 - SO5: Strengthening the Competitiveness of the Local Economy;
 - SO6: Delivering New Homes;
 - SO7: Capitalising on Local Tourism Opportunities;
 - SO8: Helping Local People Maintain Healthier Lifestyles;
 - SO9: Enhancing Quality of Life for All; and
 - SO10: Securing the Delivery of Supporting Infrastructure.

2. Policy Performance Monitoring

2.1. Local Development Scheme Progress - Local Development Scheme 2015-2018

2.1.1. The Local Development Scheme 2015-2018 was approved in December 2014. It reflects an accurate and up-to-date assessment of the authority's position in regards to the development of its Local Development Plan.

Basildon Borough Local Plan Stage	Proposed Timetable by Quarter	Progress (on 31 March 2015)
Reg 18 – Preparation and consultation	Q4 2015 to Q1 2016	On Track
Reg 19 – Publication and consultation	Q4 2016	On Track
Reg 20 – Representations considered	Q1 2017	On Track
Reg 22 – Submission	Q1 2017	On Track
Reg 24 – Examination	Q2 2017	On Track
Reg 25 – Examiner Report	Q4 2017	On Track
Reg 26 – Adoption	Q1 2018	On Track

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY CHARGING SCHEDULE	Proposed Timetable by Quarter	Progress (on 31 March 2015)
Reg 16 – Publication and consultation	Q2 2016 to Q3 2016	On Track
Reg 17 – Representations considered	Q3 2016	On Track
Reg 19 (1) – Submission	Q1 2017	On Track
IE - Independent Examination	Q4 2017	On Track
ADT - Adoption	Q1 2018	On Track

LOCAL PLAN POLICIES MAP Proposed Timetable	Proposed Timetable by Quarter	Progress (on 31 March 2015)
It will update the Local Plan Proposals Map 1998 and will set out the spatial extents of all allocated sites or designated areas as set out in the Development Plan documents. It will be adopted at the same time the Local Plan is adopted.	Q1 2018	On Track

REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF CONSULTATION (Not subject to Examination) Proposed Timetable	Proposed Timetable by Quarter	Progress (on 31 March 2015)
It will update the Statement of Consultation 2011 to take account of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and any other relevant changes to consultation procedures.	Q4 2015	On Track

Strategic Objective 1: Protecting and Enhancing the Quality of the Local Environment

Table – Indicator Performance SO1

Proposed Indicators	Performance	Performance Source
Number and Ha's of SSSIs	1. Norsey Wood – 66ha 2. Mill Meadows - 7 ha 3. Basildon Meadows – 6 ha 4. Vange & Fobbing Marshes – 165 ha 5. Pitsea Marsh – 89 ha	Natural England http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/search.cfm Natural England report both Pitsea and Vange and Fobbing Marshes have lost about 2 ha of land each due to unfavourable conditions.
% of Boroughs SSSIs in a favourable stable/improving condition	100% are in a favourable or improving condition ² : 1. Norsey Wood – 100% Favourable (as of Dec 2015) 2. Mill Meadows – 100% Unfavourable Recovering (as of Dec 2015) 3. Basildon Meadows – 100% Favourable (as of Dec 2015) 4. Vange & Fobbing Marshes – 85.69% Favourable & 14.31% Unfavourable Recovering (as of Dec 2015) 5. Pitsea Marsh – 69.77% Favourable & 30.23% Unfavourable Recovering (as of Dec 2015)	Natural England: http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/search.cfm

² <http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/search.cfm>

Proposed Indicators	Performance	Performance Source
% of Boroughs SSSIs in a unfavourable declining condition	0% are in an unfavourable/ declining condition (as of Dec 2015)	Natural England: http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/search.cfm
Number and Ha of Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS)	59 LoWS – 970.44ha	Essex Wildlife Trust: http://www.localwildlifesites.org.uk/
% of LoWS under positive management	44% (24 sites) under positive management (2009)	EECOS, Basildon Borough Habitat and Biodiversity Report, 2009 http://www.basildon.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=2110&p=0 No updated EECOS assessment has taken place.
% of LoWs in decline	35% (19 sites) Declining; of which 54% are stable and 11% are recovering (2009)	EECOS, Basildon Borough Habitat and Biodiversity Report, 2009 http://www.basildon.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=2110&p=0
Ha of Ancient Woodland	Natural England – 16 Ancient woodlands either within or adjoining Borough – 246.86ha	Natural England: http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/search.cfm & EECOS, Basildon Borough Habitat and Biodiversity Report, 2009
% of Ancient Woodlands LoWS in decline	Of 16 AW areas, 11 were found to be LoWS, 5 of which were declining. – 45%	EECOS, Basildon Borough Habitat and Biodiversity Report, 2009 http://www.basildon.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=2110&p=0
Ha of UK BAP Priority Habitats	113 BAP Priority Habitats – 794.05ha	EECOS, Basildon Borough Habitat and Biodiversity Report, 2009 http://www.basildon.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=2110&p=0
Ha of new Green Infrastructure secured through development	2010 – 0.3ha defined as part of Moat House School redevelopment 2011 – 0 2012 - 0 2013 - 0 2014 – 0.58ha 2015 - 0	Basildon Borough Council S.106 Contribution report.
Ha of open space lost to development per annum	2010: -2.74 Ha 2011: -4.02 Ha 2012: -0.23 Ha	Basildon Borough Council

Proposed Indicators	Performance	Performance Source
	2013: -0.0 Ha 2014: -3.9 Ha 2015 -0	
Ha of land covered by (a) Village/ Town Green, and (b) Common Land	<p>New Village Greens 2012 - 2015</p> <p>1) Kent View Recreation Ground – 0.2ha 2) Lee Chapel North – 0.44ha</p> <p>Common Land 2015</p> <p>1) Little Burstead Green 5.5ha 2) Laindon Common 12ha 3) Land extending from the west end of the A129 Rayleigh 0.2 ha 4) The Green Little Burstead 0.4 ha 5) Little Burstead Common 0.25 ha 6) Little Burstead Common 0.2 ha 7) Pieces of Land at side of Wiggins Lane, Little Burstead 0.6 ha 8) Land called Wiggins Lane, Little Burstead.0.5 ha</p>	<p>Essex County Council Legal Services</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/openaccess/default.aspx</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/common-land-management-protection-and-registering-to-use</p> <p>https://www.essex.gov.uk/Environment%20Planning/Environmental-Issues/local-environment/Pages/Village-Greens-and-Common-Land.aspx</p> <p>UNiform search at BBC</p>
Number of Listed Buildings	126 buildings, 2013 126 buildings, 2014 126 buildings, 2015	<p>Historic England</p> <p>http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england/</p>
Number of Listed Buildings delisted	2012-2013: 0 2013-2014: 0 2014-2015: 0	<p>Heritage Gateway</p> <p>http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/</p>
Number of Scheduled Monuments	3 (Multi-period site at Norsey Wood, Billericay; Moated site and fishponds at Botelers, Basildon and Moat at Basildon Hall, Basildon).	<p>Historic England</p> <p>http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/spatial-data/</p>
% of Conservation Areas with Conservation Area Management Plans in place	100% (Noak Bridge 2012, Great Burstead 2012, Little Burstead 2012, Billericay 2012).	<p>Basildon Borough Council</p> <p>http://www.basildon.gov.uk/article/640/Conservation-areas</p>

Proposed Indicators	Performance	Performance Source
Number of Listed Buildings on the Essex Heritage at Risk Register	2009: 4 2010: 3 2011: 3 2012: Not known 2013: 2 2014: Not Known 2015: No Updates from ECC	Historic England ³ and Essex County Council Heritage at Risk Registers ⁴ (HARR) http://www.essex.gov.uk/Activities/Heritage/Pages/Heritage-At-Risk-Register.aspx
Number of heritage assets in the Borough on the Essex Heritage at Risk Register (HARR) for more than 5 years (date of entry in brackets)	2012: Not known 2013: 1 (01/06/2004) 2014: No Updates from ECC 2015: No Updates from ECC	Historic England and Essex County Council Heritage at Risk Registers (HARR) http://www.essex.gov.uk/Activities/Heritage/Pages/Heritage-At-Risk-Register.aspx
Number of trees or woodlands protected by Tree Preservation Orders	2012-13: 846 sites; 3591 points 2013-14: -40 TPOs 2014-15: No Update available	Basildon Borough Council UNIFORM Spatial

Strategic Objective 2: Improve the Quality and Value of the Green Belt

Table – Indicator Performance SO2

Proposed Indicators	Performance	Performance Source
Ha of Green Belt Land	6,948 ha (63% of Borough)	Basildon Borough Council Local Plan 1998
Ha of Green Belt land lost to development per annum.	2014-2015: 0.0ha	Basildon Borough Council, Essex County Council
Ha of Green Belt habitat creation	Not specifically measureable, however RSPB created a new 270ha bird reserve on Bowers Marsh in the south of the Borough and in neighbouring Castle Point in 2012.	Basildon Borough Council
Ha of Green Belt subject to habitat restoration.	2014-15 – no new activity	Basildon Borough Council

Strategic Objective 3: Minimising our Impact on the Environment

³ <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/publications/publicationsNew/heritage-at-risk/har-2012-registers/ee-HAR-register-2012.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Activities/Heritage/Documents/Heritage%20at%20Risk%20in%20Essex.pdf>

Table - Indicator Performance SO3

Proposed Indicators	Performance	Performance Source
Alternative: Major Planning Applications where the Environment Agency has an Outstanding Objection on Flood Risk Grounds ⁵	2014 -2015 None	The Environment Agency http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33698.aspx
Ha of Green Infrastructure ⁶ with flood defence role provided through development	2013-14 Green infrastructure of this nature not formally measured in 2013-14 and 2014 -2015 – n/a	No reference of green infrastructure development within s106 report of monitoring period. Will look to establish better monitoring with the Lead Local Flood Authority during next monitoring period.

2.1.2. During the monitoring period, the Council did not have any mechanisms in place to monitor the installation and application for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). The Council will work with the Lead Local Flood Authority to establish better a better monitoring framework for drainage that will reflect the latest Government position on approval, ownership and maintenance of SuDS.

Strategic Objective 4: Creating Vibrant & Thriving Town Centres

2.1.3. The adoption of the Councils Local Plan, the predominant strategic document guiding town centre regeneration currently resides with the Basildon Town Centre Masterplan Interim SPD 2012 and therefore, monitoring is relatively restricted for this monitoring period.

2.1.4. Later monitoring reports will identify new indicators which assess the health of town centres across the borough and the performance of regeneration policies that have been set through the Local Plan. Examples of indicators which may be created could include data on access to services for new developments and findings of any town centre health checks which may be carried out.

Strategic Objective 5: Strengthening the Competiveness of the Local Economy

2.1.5. In order to ensure that employment levels within the borough are maintained and increased upon, it is important to monitor both loss and provision of new employment

⁵ See monthly reports here: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/124084.aspx>

⁶ <http://ies.jrc.ec.europa.eu/our-activities/scientific-achievements/green-infrastructures.html>,
http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/GI-signposting_tcm6-11961.pdf

space. In addition, the consideration of educational development and factors which may impact upon the skills of the Borough should also be recorded.

Table– Delivery of Office (B1a)

	Completed	Losses	Outstanding (gross)	Potential Loss	Of which PDL ⁷ (gross)
2011-2012	0 sqm	0 sqm	2998 sqm	1567sqm	2998 sqm
2012-2013	0 sqm	15632 sqm	2648 sqm	34262 sqm	2648 sqm
2013-2014	0 sqm	9641 sqm	9296 sqm	1997 sqm	9296 sqm
2014-2015	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table – Delivery of General Industrial Development 2011-2013 (B1-B8 all development)

	Completed	Losses	Outstanding (gross)	Potential Loss	Of which PDL (gross)
2011-2012	1366 sqm	2043 sqm	6849 sqm	1230 sqm	2132 sqm
2012-2013	2480 sqm	5012 sqm	21251 sqm	4665 sqm	21251 sqm
2013-2014	2695 sqm	2607 sqm	48523 sqm	2377 sqm	41150 sqm
2014-2015	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table – Indicator Performance SO5

Proposed Indicators	Performance	Performance Source
Net square metres of educational floorspace by primary, secondary, further, higher, and vocational levels.	<p>Permissions Granted/ No Obj/ etc 2013-14</p> <p>12/01035/FULL (Market Square) & 12/01080/OUT Nethermayne – Moving Basildon College & construction of Primary School</p> <p>13/00047/FULL -363sqm 13/00238/FULL +28sqm 13/00327/FULL +129sqm 13/00799/FULL +180sqm 13/00914/FULL +1389sqm 13/01100/FULL +392sqm 14/00110/FULL +20sqm</p>	<p>UNIFORM System at BBC, eplanning at Basildon:</p> <p>http://www.basildon.gov.uk/eplanning</p>

⁷ Previously Developed Land (PDL)

Proposed Indicators	Performance	Performance Source
	14/00131/FULL +111sqm 2014 -2015 14/00200/FULL +233.90sqm 14/00400/FULL +405sqm 14/00556/FULL +86.20sqm 14/00578/FULL +30sqm 14/00693/FULL Not Specified 14/00846/FULL +80sqm 14/01161/FULL +55sqm 14/01323/FULL +49sqm 14/01486/FULL 33sqm	

Strategic Objective 6: Delivering New Homes

- 2.1.6. The Council prepares a separate statement on the Borough's 5 Year Housing Land Supply. It is updated at least annually and the latest version can be found on the Council's website: <http://www.basildon.gov.uk/article/2075/Planning---Annual-Monitoring>
- 2.1.7. No target for Gypsy & Traveller pitches existed during the monitoring period; it is therefore not possible to formally identify how successful the Council has been in terms of working towards appropriate site provision.
- 2.1.8. During the monitoring period however the Council commissioned external and independent consultants to undertake a Gypsy and Traveller Local Needs Accommodation Assessment as required by the Housing Act 2004. The main purpose of this document is to inform the Council's preparation of the Local Plan as part of its evidence base which identifies the objectively assessed accommodation needs of the travelling community in Basildon Borough. The targets for pitch provision will be set through the Local Plan process and delivery monitored through this report in future years.

Table – Indicator Performance SO6

Proposed Indicators	Performance	Performance Sources
Net affordable dwellings per annum outside town centres	2011-12: 158 gross, 124 loss = 34 net 2012-13: 90 gross, 0 loss = 90 net	Basildon Borough Council

Proposed Indicators	Performance	Performance Sources
	2013-14: 2 gross, 86 loss = -84 net 2014-2015: 130 gross, 0 loss = 130 net	
Net affordable dwellings per annum within town centres	2011-12: 97 gross, 41 loss = 56 net 2012-13: 0 gross, 0 loss = 0 net 2013-14: 0 gross, 0 loss = 0 net 2014-2015: 0 gross, 0 loss = 0 net	Basildon Borough Council

Planning Obligations

- 2.1.9. Whilst the LDS stipulates that a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will be prepared for the Borough in time, planning obligations are currently secured through s.106 agreements.
- 2.1.10. As of June 2014, monitoring the progress of implementing financial s.106 agreements was the responsibility of the s.106 Task and Finish Group Review.
- 2.1.11. The S106 Task and Finish Group Review reviews the current monitoring process and investigates any spending of monies received. Its latest report can be found here:

<http://www.basildonmeetings.info/documents/s67072/Enc.%20%20for%20Task%20and%20Finish%20Light%20Touch%20Review%20-%20Section%20106%20contributions.pdf>

Strategic Objective 7: Capitalising on Local Tourism Opportunities

Table – Indicator Performance SO7

Proposed Indicators	Performance	Performance Sources
Square metres of hotel (C1) floor space (Granted Planning Permission)	2010-2011: 22429 sqm (11/00097/FULL) 2011-2012: 25000 sqm (Outline permission 11/00112/OUT) 2012-2013: 0 sqm 2013-2014: 710 sqm (13/00475/FULL) 2014-2015: 512sqm (14/01197/FULL)	Basildon Borough Council

- 2.1.12. Due to the interim stage of planning policy within the borough, tourism based monitoring has limited function at the time of writing this report. A new Monitoring Framework will be established in the Local Plan to measure the delivery of the Local Plan.

Strategic Objective 8: Helping Local People Maintain Healthier Lifestyles

Table – Indicator Performance SO8

Proposed Indicators	Performance	Performance Sources
Change in Ha of Open Space/ 1000 people	2012/13 - 7.85Ha/1000 population 2013/14 – 7.78Ha/1000 population 2014/15 – 7.7HA/1000 population	Basildon Borough Council, Office of National Statistics.
% of adult participation in Sport ⁸	2009/10 -34.6% 2010/11 – 32.6% 2011/12 - 38.2% 2012/13 – 36.6%	Sport England Local Sport Profiler http://www.sportengland.org/our-work/local-work/local-government/local-sport-profile/
Obesity rates of adults and children	2011-12 Children – 18.6% 2012-13 Adults – 71.7%	Sport England Local Sport Profiler http://www.sportengland.org/our-work/local-work/local-government/local-sport-profile/ (Figures are estimates derived from adjusted height and weight variables. Adults are defined as overweight (including obese) if their BMI is greater than or equal to 25kg/m ² . This data is not directly comparable with previous versions of the LSP Tool as it uses a new definition of “Excess weight” which includes BMI <25kg/m ² .)
Value of s.106 contributions secured for investment in leisure facilities.	2011-2012 £30,000 for Pomfret Mead play area; 2012-2013 Nil; 2014 -2015 Nil	Basildon Borough Council

⁸ http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey/national_indicator_8.aspx

Strategic Objective 9: Enhancing Quality of Life for All

Table – Indicator Performance SO9

Proposed Indicators	Performance	Performance Source
Value of s.106 contributions secured for a) education, b) health and c) communities services	a) 2011-2012 £228,500; 2012-2013 £Nil; 2013-14 £406,289 b) 2011-2012 £Nil; 2012-2013 £Nil; 2013-14 £55,000 c) 2011-2012 £Nil; 2012-2013 £Nil; 2013-14 £Nil; 2014 -2015 £318,200.75	Basildon Borough Council Essex County Council
% of population within a 30 minute public transport time to a) educational, b) healthcare, and c) communities facilities.	For 2014-2015: Secondary Schools: 100% Employment: 100% GPS: 100% Hospitals: 100% Post 16 Education: 100%: Primary Schools: 100% Retail Areas: 100%	Basildon Borough Council, Essex County Council

Strategic Objective 10: Securing the Delivery of Supporting Infrastructure

Table – Indicator Performance SO10

Proposed Indicators	Performance	Performance Source
% of new residential developments within 30 minutes public transport time of local services	For 2014-2015: Secondary Schools: 100% Employment: 100% GPS: 100% Hospitals: 100% Post 16 Education: 100%: Primary Schools: 100% Retail Areas: 100%	Basildon Borough Council, Essex County Council
S.106 contributions accumulated per annum for highway works.	2011-2012 £228,500; 2012-2013 £107,000; 2013-2014 £1,032,562; 2014 -2015 £29,950.	Basildon Borough Council, Essex County Council

3. Strategic Working: Duty to Cooperate

- 3.1 The Duty to Cooperate is an on-going process that will occur throughout preparation of the Basildon Borough Council Local Plan. Monitoring will include a regular record on co-operation and engagement activities, detailing what decisions have been reached and why, and what the outcomes are for Local Plan policy and Strategy.
- 3.2 The Thames Gateway South Essex (TGSE) Housing Group is made up of the Local Authorities: Basildon, Castle Point, Essex CC, Rochford and Thurrock, and seven Registered Providers (RPs) including Chelmer Housing Partnership, East Thames Group, Estuary, Family Mosaic, Moat, Sanctuary Group, and Swan Housing. In partnership with the South Essex Strategic Planning Group, it prepares a joint Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to determine the objectively assessed need for housing in the south Essex area.

- 3.3 Basildon Borough Council and Brentwood Borough Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding setting out the initial terms and conditions for the joint temporary project to explore the concept of a Dunton Garden Suburb cross boundary development. Both Councils subsequently prepared and approved a document for public consultation. This document explored the issues, location merits and constraints of the potential Dunton Garden Suburb. A public consultation was held for 10 weeks between Tuesday 6 January and Tuesday 17 March 2015.
- 3.4 Since 2015, the Council has participated proactively in the Wider South East Summits arranged by the Local Government Association and the Greater Local Authority, to discuss development pressures and infrastructure needs in the wider south east of England.
- 3.5 There are several officer groups which facilitate the delivery of the duty across Essex and the wider area, including professional associations and working groups; the work of which is ongoing.

4. Next steps

- 4.1. This Local Development Monitoring Report 2014-2015, has been prepared at a time when both Local and National policy were undergoing significant changes. As such, the findings within this document represent an interim phase of the planning process. Basildon Borough Planning Authority will update all findings in line with the emerging Local Development Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 4.2. In the absence of current and adopted policies, the Council has utilised national policy to deal with planning applications which has impacted upon the monitoring potential for the period. However, this period of change has enabled the Council to refocus its planning approach, providing the opportunity to determine local indicators through the preparation of the Local Plan and this will be reflected in later monitoring reports.
- 4.3. In September 2014, the Council's Cabinet endorsed a Statement of Consultation which sets out the responses and actions following the Local Plan Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options consultation which took place in early 2014. In addition, the Council's Cabinet also revised its Local Development Scheme which sets out key anticipated milestones for the preparation of the Local Plan and its associated documents going forward. This includes a commitment to produce a single Local Plan document in line with Planning Practice Guidance released in March 2014 and bring forward the preparation of the Community infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 4.4. This Local Development Monitoring Report will, each year, be updated to include any new indicators the LPA feels are beneficial to assessing and demonstrating progress in planning matters.