

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) for the Southend-on-Sea Local Plan

IIA Scoping Report

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

October 2017

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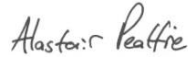
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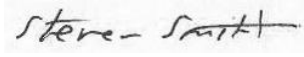
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1. Introduction

AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) in support of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's emerging new Local Plan (hereafter referred to as the 'Local Plan'). IIA fulfills the requirements and duties for Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA). AECOM has also been commissioned to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the new Local Plan¹. The findings of the HRA will be reported separately from but inform the IIA.

IIA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the impacts of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of IIA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative impacts. Through this approach, the IIA for the Local Plan seeks to maximise the developing plan's contribution to sustainable development.

1.1 Southend-on-Sea Borough's new Local Plan

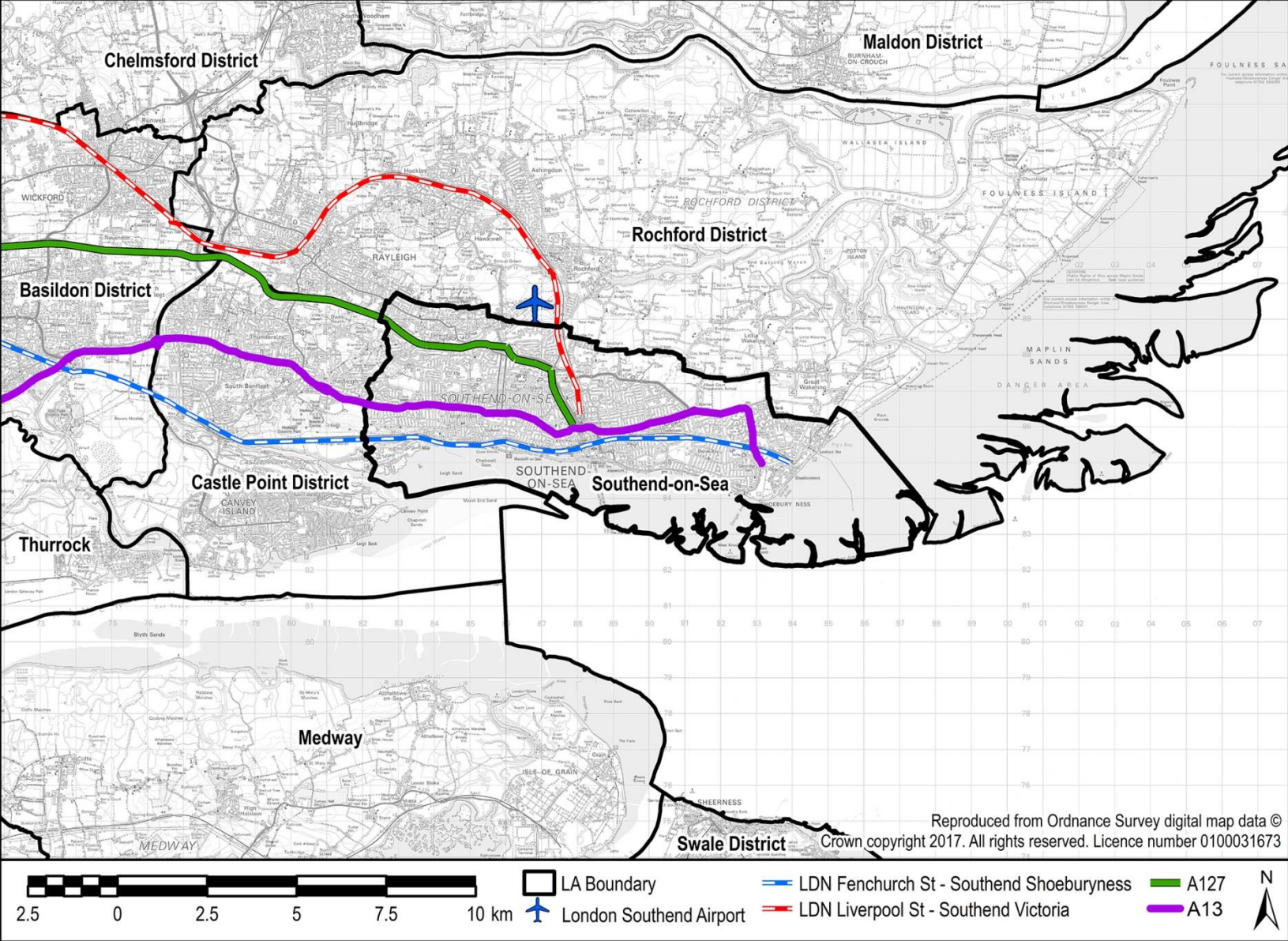
The Council is in the process of producing a new Local Plan in line with policy and guidance changes at the national and local level, which includes the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and updated evidence (including the South Essex Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Addendum). It will include strategic and detailed planning and development management policies, land allocations for housing, employment and mixed use and identify areas in the Borough for protection. Key information relating to the Local Plan is presented in **Table 1** below.

Table 1: Key facts relating to the Southend-on-Sea new Local Plan

Title of Plan	Southend-on-Sea new Local Plan
Subject	Spatial plan
Purpose	The Local Plan will set out the strategy for future growth within Southend-on-Sea Borough up to 2036. The new Local Plan will replace a number of the adopted policy documents which form the local development plan for the Borough.
Timescale	Up to 2036
Area covered by the plan	Southend-on-Sea Borough (Figure 1)
Summary of content	The Local Plan will set out the Borough's strategic vision, policies and land allocations, where necessary, for meeting future needs (including housing, employment, community facilities, transport and other infrastructure needed to support development). It will also identify areas for protection, such as sites that are important for wildlife and open space.

¹ The requirement for HRA is set out within Article 6 of the EC Habitats Directive 1992, and interpreted into British law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

Figure 1: Southend-on-Sea Borough



1.2 IIA explained

As previously explained, the IIA seeks to fulfill the requirements and duties for SA, EqlA and HIA. The approach is to fully integrate these components and issues to provide a single assessment process to inform the development of the new Local Plan. A description of each of the various components and their purpose is provided below.

1.2.1 Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

SA is undertaken to address the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive². It also widens the scope of the assessment from focussing on environmental issues to further consider social and economic issues. SA is a legal requirement for Local Plans.

The National Planning practice Guidance (NPPG) states that “*the role of the Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.*”³

Two key procedural requirements of the SEA Directive are that:

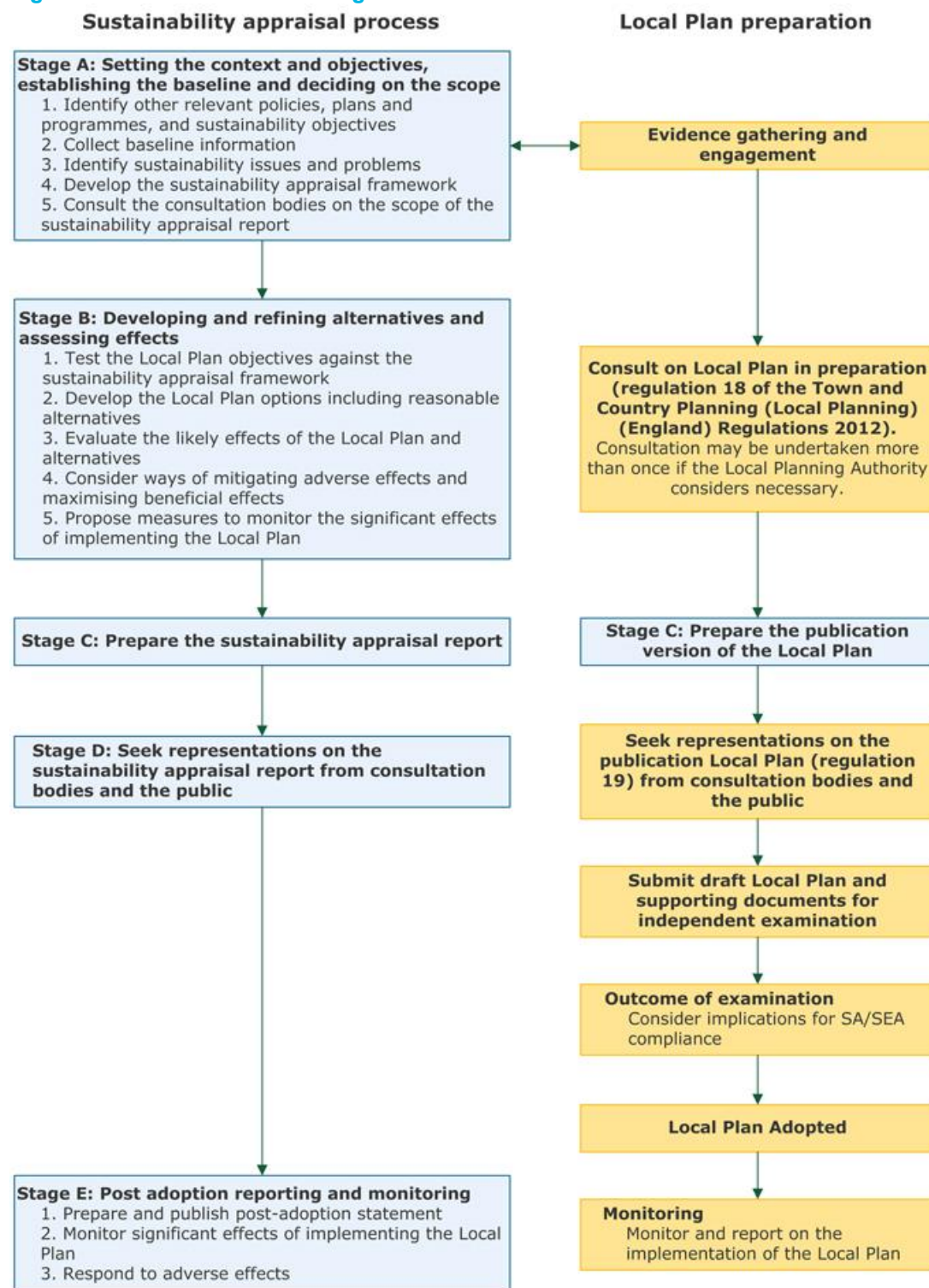
1. When deciding on ‘the scope and level of detail of the information’ which must be included in the SA Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues; and
2. A report (the ‘SA Report’) is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan that presents an assessment of the Draft Plan (i.e. discusses ‘likely significant effects’ that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives.

The key stages of Local Plan preparation and their relationship with the SA process are shown in **Figure 2** on the following page.

² Directive 2001/42/EC

³ Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) Planning Practice Guidance Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal Para 001 Reference ID: 11-001-20140306 [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal> Last Accessed Oct 2017

Figure 2: SA and Local Plan Stages⁴



⁴ National Planning Practice Guidance Ref ID: 11-013-20140306 [online] available at: http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/#paragraph_013 Accessed Aug 2017

This Scoping Report is concerned with Stage A in the figure above. Scoping is the first stage of the SA process in which you identify the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SA Report. It sets out the context, objectives and approach of the assessment; and identifies relevant environmental, economic and social issues and objectives. The NPPG states that “a key aim of the scoping procedure is to help ensure the SA process is proportionate and relevant to the Local Plan being assessed”. It also states more widely that the SA process “should only focus on what is needed to assess the likely significant effects.....It does not need to be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is considered to be appropriate for the content and level of detail in the Local Plan”.⁵

It presents a suggested scope for the SA so that the nationally designated authorities (which, in England, are Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England) can provide timely comment.

1.2.2 Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

As a public sector organisation, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council has a duty under the Equality Act 2010⁶ and associated Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to ensure that the objectives and policy options within the Southend Local Plan eliminate unlawful discrimination (direct and indirect), as well as advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between those with a protected characteristics⁷ and all others. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is often used by public sector organisations to demonstrate how this duty has been met.

1.2.3 Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

There are numerous links to planning and health throughout the NPPF. The NPPG states that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in Local Plans and in planning decision-making.⁸ A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a tool used to identify and assess the potential impacts of a plan and inform decision-making.

1.3 Approach to scoping for the IIA

Developing the draft scope has involved the following steps:

1. Exploring the policy context for the IIA, i.e. reviewing high level messages (e.g. from government departments and agencies in particular) with a view to gaining an understanding of broadly what the IIA needs to focus on.
2. Establishing the baseline for the IIA, i.e. the current and further situation in the area in the absence of the Local Plan, in order to help identify the plan's likely significant effects.
3. Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a particular focus of the IIA.
4. Developing an IIA Framework comprising objectives and assessment questions on the basis of these issues which can then be used to assess the draft plan and consider alternatives.

⁵ Department for Communities and Local Government (2015) Planning Practice Guidance Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal Para 014 Reference ID: 11-001-20140306 [online] available at:

http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/#paragraph_013 Accessed Oct 2017

⁶ Equality Act 2010 [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

⁷ Protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 include age, sex, marital status, disability, gender reassignment, ethnicity, religion, pregnancy and maternity, sexual orientation and deprived/disadvantaged groups.

⁸ National Planning Practice Guidance. Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 53-001-20140306 [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-and-wellbeing>

1.4 Structure of this Report

The outcomes of the scoping elements introduced through steps 1 - 4 above have been presented under a series of IIA themes, as follows:

- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Landscape and Historic Environment
- Environmental Quality
- Land, Soil and Water Resources
- Population and Communities
- Health and Wellbeing
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Transportation & Movement
- Economy

The selected IIA themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive⁹ as well as specific themes to address equality and health issues. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects.

It is intended that presenting the scoping information under these themes will help enable the reader to easily locate the information of greatest interest to them. Once agreed (i.e. subsequent to the current consultation), the suggested scope presented under nine themes will provide a methodological 'framework' for the assessment of the draft plan and alternatives. The discussion of the scoping information under each IIA theme is presented in **Sections 2 to 11**.

⁹ The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on *'the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors'* [our emphasis]

2. Biodiversity

2.1 Context Review

2.1.1 National

- **Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006¹⁰**: Section 40 places a duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity.
- **Biodiversity 2020 Strategy¹¹**: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services, 2011: builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and set out the "strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade". Aims to halt biodiversity loss and improve the ecological networks and ecosystems for all peoples.
- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹²**: commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity by minimising impacts and achieving net gains in biodiversity wherever possible. Promote the 'preservation, restoration and recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks' and the 'protection and recovery of priority species'. Plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries.
- **National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)¹³**: Local Plans should consider the opportunities that individual development proposals may provide to enhance biodiversity and contribute to wildlife and habitat connectivity in the wider area. It also highlights that brownfield land can have a high ecological value.
- **Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP)¹⁴**: sets out the importance of a healthy, functioning natural environment to sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being.
- **The Biodiversity Offsetting Green Paper (September 2013)¹⁵**: Biodiversity offsets are conservation activities designed to compensate for residual losses. The Green Paper sets out a framework for exploring offsetting.

2.1.2 Regional

- **Improving Nature in the Greater Thames - Action Plan (2015)¹⁶**: Vision is for a living and vibrant marshland and estuary landscape. Objectives include building the biological evidence base; delivering more, bigger, better and connected habitats; facilitating better co-ordination of resources by working in partnership; communications and access and securing a long-term future.

2.1.3 Local

- **Southend-on-Sea Core Strategy (adopted 2007)¹⁷**: seeks to protect and enhance the Borough's distinctive character as well as enhance its role as the cultural and intellectual hub of the Thames

¹⁰ Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents> Accessed Aug 2017

¹¹ Defra (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services> Accessed Aug 2017

¹² Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf Accessed Aug 2017

¹³ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/> Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁴ Defra (2012) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (Natural Environment White Paper) [online] available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm80/8082/8082.pdf> Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁵ Defra (2013) Biodiversity Offsetting in England Green Paper [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/biodiversity-offsetting-in-england> Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁶ Thames Gateway Local Nature Partnership (2015) Improving Nature in the Greater Thames - Action Plan [online] available at: <http://greaterthamesmarshes.com/> Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁷ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2007) Core Strategy [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1540/core_strategy_dpd1pdf Accessed Aug 2017

Gateway South Essex sub-region. Policy KP2 (Development Principles) requires all new development to contribute to environmental regeneration in a sustainable way, respecting, conserving, enhancing, and where necessary mitigating effects on the natural environment. Policy CP4 (The Environment and Urban Renaissance) seeks to safeguard, protect and enhance nature conservation sites of international, national and local importance. This policy also seeks to protect and enhance the town's parks, gardens and other urban spaces, including the biodiversity of the area. This recognises the importance of the green resource as part of the wider green infrastructure network.

- **Southend Local Wildlife Site Review (2011)**¹⁸: comprises the results of a review of existing and potential new Local Wildlife Sites to contribute to the Local Development Framework evidence base or any other subsequent Local Plan documentation.
- **Southend-on-Sea Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2014)**¹⁹: identifies species and habitats unique to, or important to communities. The Local Biodiversity Action Plan consists of individual action plans for 18 Southend habitats (plus one habitat statement) and 14 species.
- **Southend-on-Sea Development Management Document (adopted 2015)**²⁰: reflects the spatial vision of the Core Strategy DPD, identifying the valuable amenity, biodiversity and natural resource sites to be protected for international, national and local importance. It also gives specific importance to the seafront as a natural environment, providing a wildlife and biodiversity habitat and being an attraction in its own right.
- **Southend Central Area Action Plan (Current stage - examination)**²¹: recognises the importance of conserving the biodiversity assets along the coast and foreshore. Policy CS2 relates to the need to protect the nature conservation sites on the sea front, including the requirements for assessment as part of the Habitats Regulation. Policy CS1 (Central Seafront) further identifies the importance of maintaining a 'green grid' with the intention of linking the urban open spaces and helping to alleviate pressure on the internationally designated foreshore area.

2.2 Baseline Review

2.2.1 Summary of Current Baseline

2.2.1.1 Internationally designated sites

There are five internationally designated sites for nature conservation within the administrative boundary of the Borough (see **Figure 3**):

- Benfleet and Southend Marshes Special Protection Area SPA and Ramsar site;
- Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation SAC; and
- Foulness SPA and Ramsar site.

¹⁸ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2011) Local Wildlife Site Review [online] available at:

http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/200160/local_planning_framework Accessed Oct 2017

¹⁹ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2014) Local Biodiversity Action Plan Annual Report [online] available at:

http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3558/local_biodiversity_action_plan_report_2014

²⁰ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Development management Document [online] available at:

http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3737/southend_development_management_document_adopted_version Accessed Aug 2017

²¹ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2016) Southend Central Area Action Plan available [online]

http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200420/development_plan_documents/391/southend_central_area_action_plan_scaap/4

The qualifying features of the Essex Estuaries SAC are²²:

- Estuaries;
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide;
- Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand;
- Spartina swards (*Spartinion maritima*);
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*);
- Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*); and
- Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time.

These habitats support a large number of waterfowl as well as wide range of important bird species for which the SPAs and Ramsar sites (in part) are designated. These include²³:

- Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*);
- Dark-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*);
- Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*);
- Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*);
- Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*);
- Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*);
- Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*);
- Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*);
- Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*);
- Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*);
- Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*);
- Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*); and
- Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*).

Natural England has produced a Site Improvement Plan (SIP) for the European sites within the Essex Estuaries, which includes the sites identified above²⁴. The SIP provides a high level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the European sites and outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. The SIP identifies the following priority and key issues in relation to the Essex Estuaries:

- Coastal squeeze
- Public Access/ Disturbance
- Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine
- Planning Permission: general
- Changes in species distribution
- Invasive species
- Fisheries: both recreational and commercial marine/estuarine
- Air pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

²² JNCC. Protected Sites. Essex Estuaries. [online] available at: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4> Accessed Aug 2017

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Natural England (2015) Site Improvement Plan Essex Estuaries [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5459956190937088?category=4873023563759616> Accessed Aug 2017

Natural England have raised concerns through consultation on a number of emerging Local Plans in Essex that the cumulative impact of growth across Essex on increased recreational activity in or nearby European sites, impacting on their integrity. Natural England have indicated that unless a Recreational Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) is put in place, it will not be possible for some local planning authorities (LPAs) to adopt their local plans, as to do so would be illegal in the context of the Habitat Regulations which require no harmful impact on European sites.

This is not an issue LPAs can tackle individually; therefore, a joint approach is needed. Natural England have suggested that this should be Essex wide, as the zones of influence for each of the European sites overlap with each other and cover 11 of the 14 Greater Essex authorities. This includes the LPAs of Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Maldon, Rochford, Southend, Tendring and Thurrock. These LPAs and NE are in the early stages of discussing this issue, including the delivery of a RAMS for Essex.

2.2.1.2 Nationally designated sites

In terms of nationally designated nature conservation sites, the single National Nature Reserves (NNRs) within the Borough is Leigh National Nature Reserve.

There are five Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) (see **Figure 3**):

- Benfleet and Southend Marshes SSSI;
- Foulness SSSI;
- Crouch and Roach Estuaries SSSI;
- South Thames Estuary and Marshes SSSI; and
- Mucking Flats and Marshes SSSI.

The condition of these SSSIs, which is monitored and assessed by NE, is set out in **Table 2** below.

Table 2: SSSI Condition Summary²⁵

Condition Summary	Benfleet and Southend Marshes SSSI	Mucking Flats and Marshes SSSI	South Thames Estuary and Marshes SSSI	Foulness SSSI	Crouch and Roach Estuaries SSSI
% Area meeting PSA target	92.26%	100.00%	97.63%	97.28%	99.3%
% Area favourable	0.87%	94.13%	95.28%	72.61%	22.87%
% Area unfavourable recovering	91.39%	5.87%	2.35%	24.68%	76.46%
% Area unfavourable no change	7.74%	0.00%	0.59%	0.02%	0.67%
% Area unfavourable declining	0.00%	0.00%	1.79%	2.70%	0.00%
% Area destroyed / part destroyed	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

The condition of SSSIs within the Borough has been improving in recent years and this is considered likely to continue, unless there are any significant changes with regard to the management of the land.

²⁵ Natural England - Sites of Special Scientific Interest [online] available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/> Accessed Aug 2017

2.2.1.3 Locally designated sites

There are four Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) covering an area of 1295.1 hectares (see **Figure 3**):

- Belfairs (84.7ha);
- Southend-on-Sea Foreshore (1088 hectares);
- Belton Hills (26 hectares); and
- Shoeburyness Old Ranges (6.4ha).

There are also 9 Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) within the Borough, located along the western boundary of the Borough adjoining Castle Point District, the south eastern boundary adjacent to Shoeburyness, and within the urban centre including west of Thorpe Bay and south of Leigh on sea. The largest LWS is the Southend-on-Sea Foreshore located at the mouth of the Thames Estuary, covering 1,088 hectares (ha).²⁶

In England and Wales, Ancient Woodland is land which has been continuously wooded since AD1600. The woodland is a diverse ecosystem with enormous biodiversity value providing a wide range of habitats for wildlife as well as hosting many different species. The western part of Belfairs Golf Course retains the greatest area of the Borough's ancient woodland, and is contiguous with Belfairs Park Wood, at 181ha²⁷. It is classified as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and part dates back to the twelfth century. There are also smaller areas of woodland located in the northwest of the Borough.

Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) requires the government to publish a list of habitats that are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity. In 2013, Natural England published a new priority habitats' inventory that replaced the previous Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat inventories. The Borough contains the following priority habitats²⁸:

- Coastal saltmarsh;
- Deciduous woodland;
- Lowland Meadows;
- Coastal sand dunes;
- Coastal and flood plain grazing marsh; and
- Mudflats.

Intertidal mudflats are the most significant priority habitat present in the Borough, recognised as a very important, non-terrestrial habitat. Coastal saltmarsh forms part of the Benfleet and Southend marshes SSSI and is found exclusively around the Nature Reserve on the east side of Two Tree Island Nature Reserve, Leigh on Sea. The area south of Leigh on Sea is a combination of grassland and former coastal grazing marsh habitat, now protected from seasonal inundation by sea wall defences. Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland is represented predominately with Belfairs Golf Course and Oak Park Wood; however this is not restricted to ancient woodland.²⁹

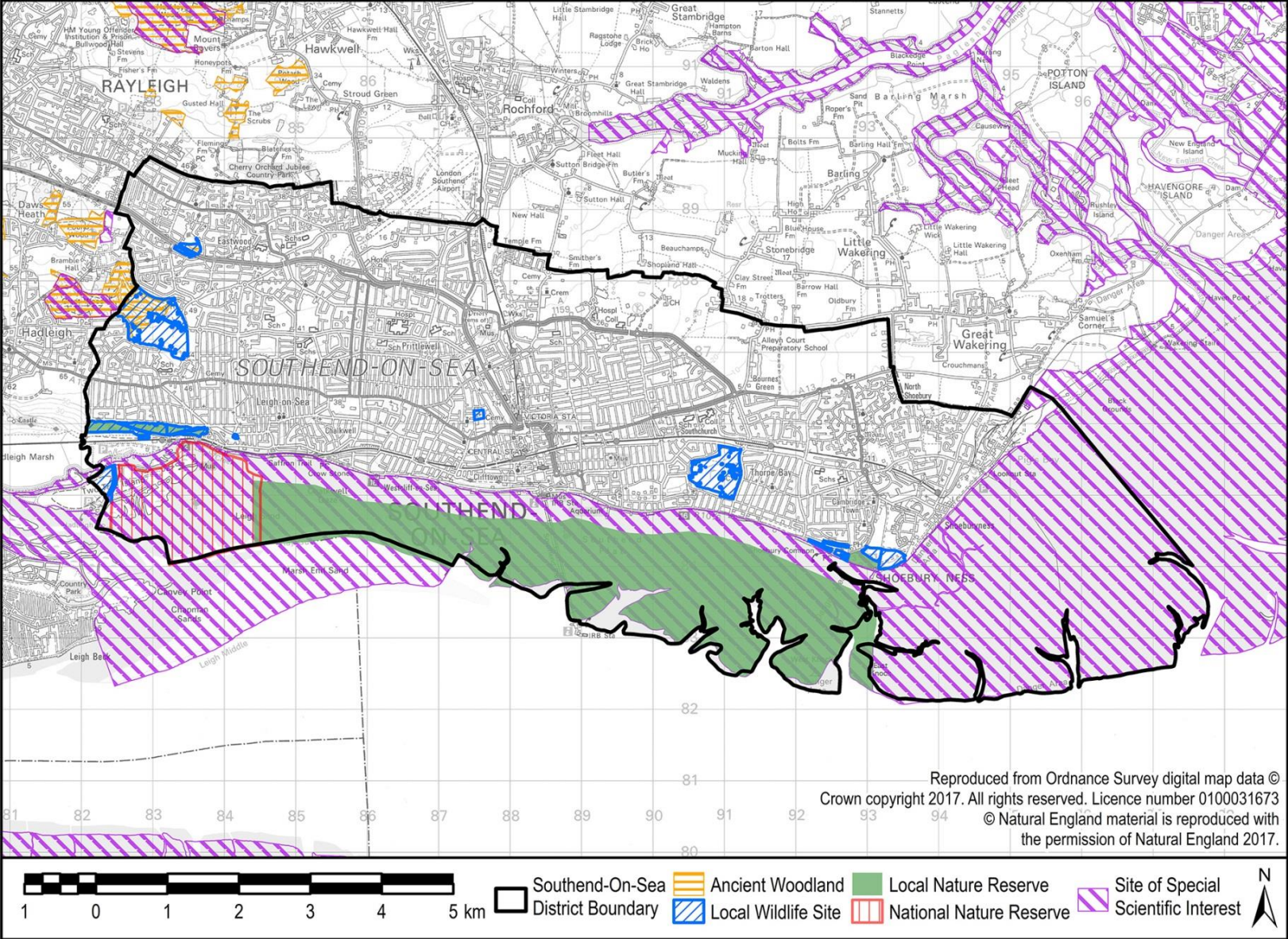
²⁶ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2011) Southend-on-Sea Local Wildlife Site Review

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Defra. Magic Map [online] available at: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/home.htm> Accessed Aug 2017

²⁹ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2011) Southend-on-Sea Local Wildlife Site Review

Figure 3: Biodiversity Designations



2.2.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Habitats and species have the potential to come under increasing pressure from the provision of new housing, employment and infrastructure in the Borough, including at designated sites. This could include increased disturbance (recreational, noise and light) and atmospheric pollution as well as the loss of habitats and fragmentation of biodiversity networks. The loss and fragmentation of habitats will be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition and character of habitats. Coastal defences along much of the coastline prevent intertidal habitats from shifting landward in response to rising sea levels. As a result, these habitats are being gradually degraded and reduced in extent, with knock-on effects on the waterbirds and other species they support.

Benefits for biodiversity have the potential to arise from the increasing integration of biodiversity considerations within forward planning and efforts to improve green infrastructure networks across the Borough and sub-regionally. To maintain and improve the condition of biodiversity in the future it will be important to not only protect and enhance important habitats but the connections between them.

2.3 Key Issues

- There are five European designated sites (Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC and Foulness SPA and Ramsar site) within the Borough and these are situated in the estuaries and along the coast. The key issues of relevance for the Local Plan and IAA include coastal squeeze through further development and increased levels of public access/disturbance.
- There are five SSSIs in the Borough located at Benfleet and Southend Marshes, Foulness, Crouch and Roach Estuaries, South Thames Estuary and Marshes and the Mucking Flats and Marshes. The SSSIs are generally in a favourable or unfavourable recovering condition. Only Foulness and South Thames Estuary contain a percentage area in unfavourable declining condition, of which for both sites this was <3%. Overall, the condition of SSSIs within the Borough has been improving in recent years and this is considered unlikely to change in the future, unless there are any significant changes with regard to the management of the land.
- There are four LNRs and nine LWSs within the Borough.
- Belfairs Golf Course retains the greatest area of the Borough's Ancient Woodland at 181 ha.
- The Borough contains a number of priority habitats, which include; deciduous woodland; coastal sand dunes; coastal and flood plain grazing marsh; coastal saltmarsh; and mudflats.

2.4 IIA Objectives

Table 3: IIA Objectives and assessment questions for Biodiversity

IIA Objective	Assessment questions
Protect and enhance biodiversity within and surrounding the Borough.	Will the option/proposal help to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains where possible? • Protect and enhance ecological networks, including those that cross administrative boundaries?
<i>Relevant SEA Topics: Biodiversity, flora & fauna</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise recreational impacts on designated sites, in particular European sites?
<i>Relevant NPPF Paragraphs: 109 & 117</i>	

3. Climate Change

3.1 Context Review

3.1.1 National

- **Climate Change Act 2008³⁰**: established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. The Act sets targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions through action in the UK of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO₂ emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.
- **Flood and Water Management Act (2010)³¹**: sets out measures to ensure that risk from all sources of flooding, not just rivers and seas, are managed more effectively. This includes: incorporating greater resilience measures into the design of new buildings; utilising the environment in order to reduce flooding; identifying areas suitable for inundation and water storage to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere; roll back development in coastal areas to avoid damage from flooding or coastal erosion; and creating sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)³²**:
 - This supports the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate as a 'core planning principle'. To support the move to a low carbon future, local planning authorities should: plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions; actively support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings; and when setting any local requirement for a building's sustainability, do so in a way consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy and adopt nationally described standards.
 - Direct development away from areas highest at risk of flooding, with development 'not to be allocated if there are reasonably available sites appropriate for the proposed development in areas with a lower probability of flooding'. Where development is necessary, it should be made safe without increasing levels of flood risk elsewhere.
 - Take account of the effects of climate change in the long term, taking into account a range of factors including flooding. Adopt proactive strategies to adaptation and manage risks through adaptation measures including well planned green infrastructure.
- **National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)³³**:
 - This guidance states that Local Plans should support the delivery of appropriately sited green energy and the management of greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency measures. Local Planning Authorities should "adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change". Climate change can be mitigated through Local Plans by reducing the need to travel, providing opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy technologies, identifying opportunities for decentralised energy and heating and through the design of new development to reduce energy demand.
 - Sets out the steps to take flood risk into account in the preparation of a Local Plan.
- **How local authorities can reduce emissions and manage climate change risk (2012)**: This report emphasises the crucial role councils have in helping the UK meet its carbon targets and preparing for the impacts of climate change. It outlines specific opportunities for reducing emissions and highlights good practice examples from a number of local authorities. The Committee

³⁰ Climate Change Act 2008 [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents> Accessed Aug 2017

³¹ Flood and Water Management Act (2010) [online] available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents> Accessed Aug 2017

³² Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf Accessed Aug 2017

³³ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/> Accessed Aug 2017

recommends that a statutory duty and/or additional funding is needed to ensure local authorities have stronger incentives to act.

3.1.2 Regional

- **Thames Gateway South Essex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Review Scoping Report (2009)**³⁴: provides a brief for the production of a Level 1 and Level 2 SFRA for Thames Gateway South Essex, particularly given the changes in policy relating to flood risk and development since the production of the existing SFRA (completed in 2006). A review of existing data and information is carried out, and regeneration in Southend is supported by drivers such as the Thames Gateway initiative.
- **Essex Thames Gateway Water Cycle Study Scoping Study (2009)**³⁵ undertakes a sub-regional review of the existing condition of both the natural water environment and the water infrastructure which serves the population of the South Essex study area. The study identifies limitations on the capacity of the infrastructure available to service new development proposed within Southend-on-Sea.
- **South Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan (2010)**³⁶: identifies Southend-on-Sea and Rayleigh as 'sub-area 7', and directs future flood risk management for the area. It is acknowledged that flood risk is likely to increase and that the protection given by defences may decline such that improving maintenance is important.
- **Managing Flood Risk through London and the Thames Estuary (2012)**³⁷: investigates the tidal Thames and its floodplain from Teddington in the west to Sheerness/Shoeburyness in the east. The plan considers how tidal flood risk is likely to change in response to future changes in climate and people and property in the floodplain. Recommendations and actions are set out to manage flood risk through the century.

3.1.3 Local

- **Southend-on-Sea Core Strategy (adopted 2007)**³⁸: highlights through the Spatial Strategy (Policy KP1) that development will be supported where it minimises its impacts on climate change. Policy KP2 (Development Principles) states that all development proposals should demonstrate how they will maximise the use of renewable and recycled energy, water, and other resources. The Core Strategy also includes a number of sustainable transport objectives within Policies KP3 (Implementation and Resources) and CP3 (Transport and Accessibility).
- **Southend SFRA Level 1 (2010)**³⁹: enables the application of the Sequential Test. The Level 1 SFRA assists with the development of LDF documents by identifying flood risk areas and outlining the principles for sustainable development policies, informing strategic land allocations and integrating flood risk management into the spatial planning of the area.
- **Southend SFRA Level 2 (2010)**⁴⁰: is an increased scope of the SFRA for sites where the Exception Test is required. The Level 2 SFRA provides a more detailed assessment of flood risk to inform the

³⁴ Scott Wilson (2009) Thames Gateway South Essex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Review Scoping Report [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/2501/thames_gateway_south_essex_tgse_strategic_flood_risk_assessment_sfra_-_review_scoping_report_2009 Accessed Oct 2017

³⁵ Essex Thames Gateway Water Cycle Study Scoping Study [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1629/essex_thames_gateway_water_cycle_study_-_scoping_study_09pdf Accessed Oct 2017

³⁶ Environment Agency (2010) South Essex Catchment Flood Management Plan: Summary Report [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/south-essex-catchment-flood-management-plan> Accessed Aug 2017

³⁷ Environment Agency (2012) Managing Flood Risk through London and the Thames Estuary [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/thames-estuary-2100-to2100> Accessed Oct 2017

³⁸ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2007) Core Strategy [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1540/core_strategy_dpd1pdf Accessed Aug 2017

³⁹ Scott Wilson (2010) Southend-on-Sea Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 Report [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1690/southend_flood_risk_assessment_-_level_1_main_reportpdf Accessed Oct 2017

⁴⁰ Scott Wilson (2010) Southend-on-Sea Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2 Report [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1692/southend_flood_risk_assessment_level_2pdf Accessed Oct 2017

Exception Test and concentrates on the Southend Central Area Action Plan and London Southend Airport Joint Area Action Plan areas.

- **Low Carbon Energy and Sustainability Strategy 2015-2020**⁴¹: sets out a suite of objectives to lead the move to a low carbon economy in Essex, including through encouraging local businesses to achieve carbon and financial savings through energy efficiency initiatives.
- **Southend Climate Change Review Addendum (2014)**⁴²: provides an update to the Climate Change Review published in 2011. Prepared as part of the evidence base to inform the proposed low carbon development and efficient use of resources policy (Policy DM2) in the Southend on Sea Development Management DPD.
- **Southend-on-Sea Borough Development Management Plan (adopted 2014)**⁴³: Policy DS4 requires that development proposals which are or will be within a flood risk zone will require the submission of a flood risk assessment that considers all sources of flooding. For all new development the council will also require new impermeable areas to be drained via Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).
- **Southend-on-Sea Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2015)**⁴⁴: outlines the long term plan for managing local sources of flood risk across the Borough. Objectives include improving understanding of flood risk including likely effects of climate change as well as encourage future development to provide betterment to flood risk.
- **Southend Central Area Action Plan (current stage - examination)**⁴⁵: requires new development to be planned to avoid increased vulnerability to a range of impacts arising from climate change (including factors such as flood risk, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape). The plan encourages the provision of SuDS and urban greening measures.

3.2 Baseline Review

3.2.1 Summary of Current Baseline

3.2.1.1 Climate Change Adaptation

The outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2009 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team⁴⁶. UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the East of England by 2050 for a medium emissions scenario⁴⁷ are likely to be as follows:

⁴¹ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Low Carbon Energy & Sustainability Strategy 2015-2020 [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/4675/low_carbon_energy_and_sustainability_strategy_2015_-_2020 Accessed Aug 2017

⁴² Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2014) Southend Climate Change Review Addendum 2014 [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/2949/climate_change_review_addendum_2013.pdf Accessed Oct 2017

⁴³ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Development management Document [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3737/southend_development_management_document_adopted_version Accessed Aug 2017

⁴⁴ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Local Flood Risk Management Strategy [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/download/578/surface_water_and_flooding_strategies Accessed Oct 2017

⁴⁵ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2016) Southend Central Area Action Plan [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200420/development_plan_documents/391/southend_central_area_action_plan_scaap/4 Accessed Aug 2017

⁴⁶ UK Climate Projections (2009) South East 2050s Medium Emissions Scenario [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/> Accessed Aug 2017

⁴⁷ Ibid.

- the central estimate of increase in winter mean temperature is 2.2°C and an increase in summer mean temperature of 2.5°C; and
- The central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is 14% and summer mean precipitation is -17%.

It is also predicted that there could be an increase of 36cm in sea level, and as weather is likely to become more variable, there could be more frequent extreme events, such as flash flooding, storms and coastal erosion. Defra announced in January 2016 that the UK Climate Projections will be updated following the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (December 2015)⁴⁸.

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment⁴⁹ Level 1 (2010) found that the main two sources of flooding for this area are tidal flooding from the River Thames Estuary and North Sea, and fluvial flooding from the Prittle Brook, Eastwood Brook and Willingale watercourse that runs through Southchurch Park.

The most significant events in this area, in terms of potential for flooding, tend to be storm surges coupled with high spring tides which produce high tidal water levels in the Thames Estuary. These have the potential to impact on large areas of development along the tidal frontage. Although defences are present along the River Thames and North Sea frontages, the crest height of these defences in some areas is lower than the extreme water levels, so flood risk from this source is through potential overtopping as well as the residual risk of a failure in the flood defences.

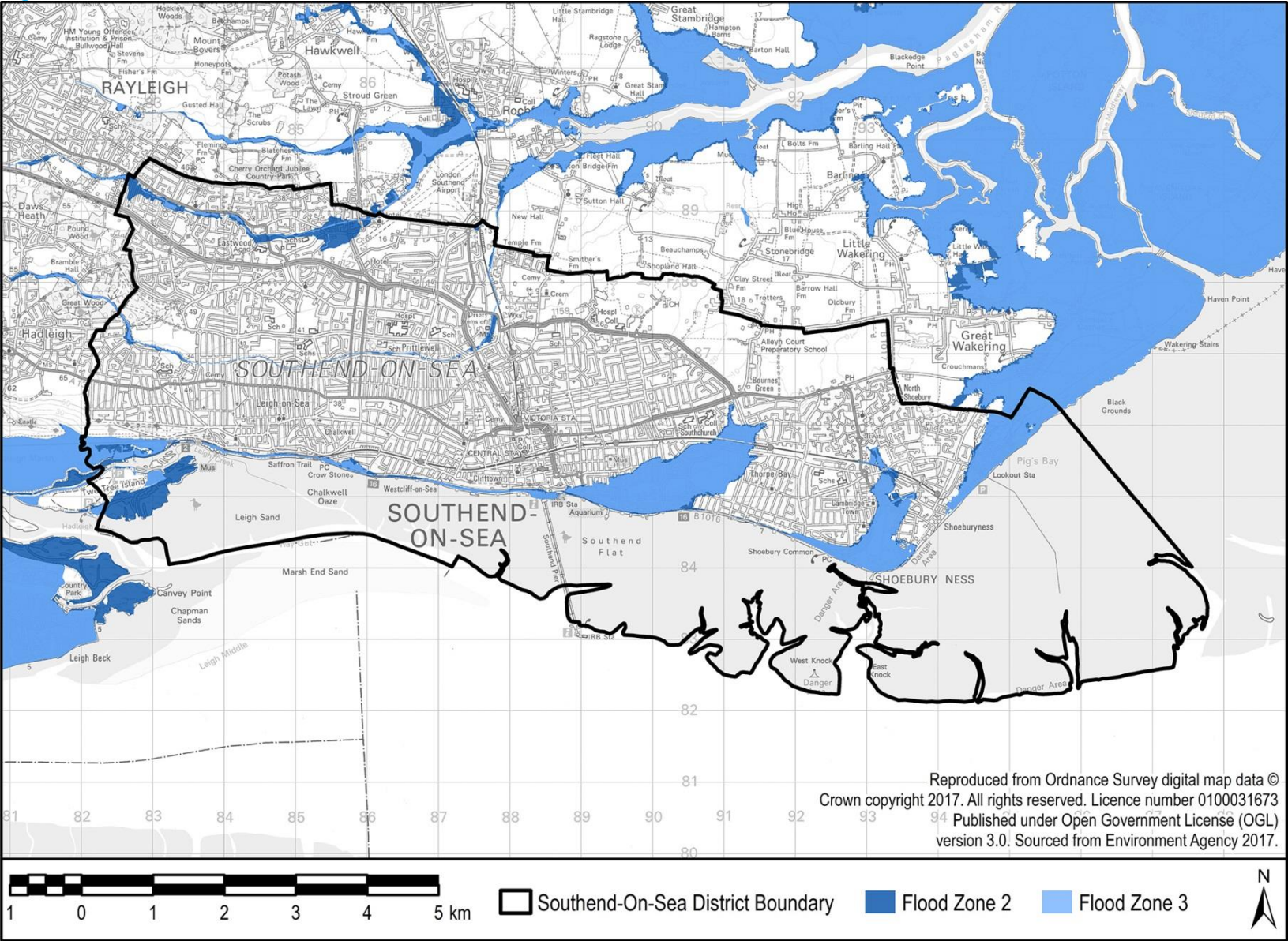
In addition to flood risk from tidal sources the fluvial watercourses pose generally localised flood risk and are largely located in the north west of the area. These have a history of flooding and alleviation works have been undertaken to try and reduce the risk of flooding to the areas of Prittlewell and Eastwood.

Figure 4 illustrates the areas of the Borough that fall within Flood Zones 2 and 3.

⁴⁸ Met Office. UK Climate Projections - UKCP18 Project announcement [online] available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/24125> Accessed Aug 2017

⁴⁹ Scott Wilson (2010) Southend-on-Sea Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1[online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1690/southend_flood_risk_assessment_-_level_1_main_reportpdf Accessed Oct 2017
Accessed Aug 2017

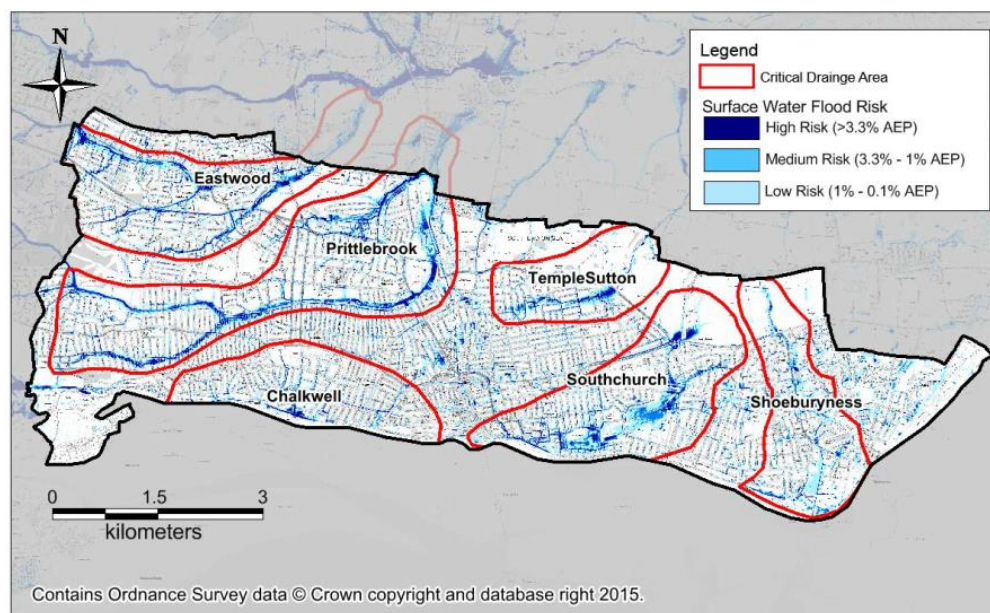
Figure 4: Flood Risk



The Southend-on-Sea Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP)⁵⁰ further identifies that there is a significant risk of flooding in Southend-on-Sea from surface water, groundwater, ordinary watercourses and sewer flooding sources. The SWMP includes an analysis of surface water flood risk across the Borough, which shows that approximately 3,100 residential properties could be at risk of surface water flooding from a rainfall event with a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP).

An assessment of flood risk from other local sources, including groundwater and ordinary watercourses, has also been undertaken by the Southend-on-Sea SWMP (2015). The predicted consequences of flooding to property, businesses or infrastructure has been analysed and those areas identified to be at more significant risk have been delineated into Critical Drainage Areas (CDAs). These areas are shown in **Figure 5** below.

Figure 5: Identified CDAs within Southend-on-Sea



3.2.1.2 Climate Change Mitigation

In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, source data from the Department of Energy and Climate Change⁵¹ suggests that changes in per capita emissions across all sources have been declining in the Borough since 2005, with the exception of domestic 'other' fuels. The largest reduction is from industrial and commercial sources at 20.8%, with a 12.2% reduction in domestic sources and 11.8% reduction in road sources between 2005 and 2012. Total per capita emissions for the Borough are significantly lower when compared to Essex, the East of England and National comparators. The data also demonstrates that Southend-on-Sea Borough has lower per capita transport emissions when compared to Essex as a whole. See **Table 4** below.

Southend-on-Sea's average domestic energy consumption per household is 3,976 KWh; which is lower than the East of England average of 3,986 KWh, and lower than the England average of 3,986 KWh.

The Borough's domestic per capita carbon dioxide emissions for 2012, 2.3t CO₂ is the same as that of Essex, and only marginally higher than the regional and national average of 2.2t CO₂⁵². The total emissions for the Borough for 2012 (4.6t CO₂) are lower than that of Essex (6.5t CO₂), the East of England (7.0t CO₂), and England (7.3t CO₂).

⁵⁰ AECOM (2015) Southend-on-Sea Surface Water Management Plan [online] available at:

http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/download/578/surface_water_and_flooding_strategies Accessed Aug 2017

⁵¹ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates> Accessed Aug 2017

⁵² Ibid.

Table 4: Carbon Dioxide emissions and sources, plus emissions per capita, 2005-2012⁵³

	Industrial and Commercial (t CO ₂)	Domestic (t CO ₂)	Road and Transport (t CO ₂)	Total (t CO ₂)
Southend-on-Sea Borough				
2005	1.9	2.8	1.1	5.8
2006	1.9	2.7	1.1	5.8
2007	1.8	2.6	1.1	5.5
2008	1.6	2.5	1.0	5.1
2009	1.4	2.3	1.0	4.7
2010	1.4	2.4	1.0	4.8
2011	1.2	2.0	0.9	4.2
2012	1.4	2.3	0.9	4.6
Essex				
2005	2.3	2.6	2.6	7.6
2006	2.3	2.6	2.6	7.5
2007	2.2	2.5	2.7	7.4
2008	2.1	2.4	2.5	7.1
2009	1.9	2.2	2.5	6.6
2010	2.0	2.4	2.4	6.8
2011	1.8	2.1	2.4	6.2
2012	1.9	2.3	2.3	6.5
East of England				
2005	3.0	2.6	2.6	8.3
2006	3.0	2.6	2.6	8.2
2007	2.8	2.5	2.6	8.0
2008	2.8	2.4	2.5	7.7
2009	2.4	2.2	2.4	7.0
2010	2.6	2.3	2.3	7.3
2011	2.3	2.0	2.3	6.6
2012	2.4	2.2	2.3	7.0
England				
2005	4.0	2.6	2.3	8.7
2006	4.0	2.6	2.2	8.7
2007	3.9	2.5	2.3	8.5
2008	3.7	2.4	2.1	8.1
2009	3.2	2.2	2.0	7.3

⁵³ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011) Official statistics: Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates> Accessed Aug 2017

2010	3.3	2.3	2.0	7.5
2011	3.0	2.0	2.0	6.8
2012	3.1	2.2	1.9	7.1

3.2.2 Summary of Future Baseline

3.2.2.1 Climate Change Adaptation

Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in the Borough, with increases in mean summer and winter temperatures, increases in mean precipitation in winter and decreases in mean precipitation in summer. The UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team have estimated that under a medium emissions scenario, the central estimate of change in winter mean precipitation is an increase of 16%, while there is estimated to be an average drop in summer precipitation of 19%. This is likely to increase the risk of flooding in winter months and increase water shortages during summer months with an increased need for resilience and adaptation.

The Southend-on-Sea SWMP (2015) shows that approximately 3,100 residential properties could be at risk of surface water flooding from a rainfall event with a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP). Without intervention this trend is expected to continue. In general, the EA recommends that SAs and Local Plans should promote the implementation and funding of Property Level Resilience (PLR) to individual properties affected by all sources of flooding.⁵⁴

3.2.2.2 Climate Change Mitigation

In terms of climate change mitigation, per capita emissions are likely to continue to decrease as energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies become more widely adopted. This includes relating to transport, as increased take up of more energy efficient vehicles and electric vehicles takes place. However, increases in the built footprint of the Borough may lead to increases in overall emissions if efficiency measures do not keep pace.

3.3 Key Issues

- The main two sources of flooding for the Borough are tidal flooding from the River Thames Estuary and North Sea, and fluvial flooding from the Prittle Brook, Eastwood Brook and Willingale watercourse that runs through Southchurch Park.
- The most significant events tend to be storm surges coupled with high spring tides which produce high tidal water levels in the Thames Estuary. Flood risk from this source is through potential overtopping as well as the residual risk of a failure in the flood defences.
- Climate change is likely to increase sea levels and cause weather to become more variable. It is therefore likely that the flood risk from tidal sources in the Borough will continue to increase over time.
- Six Critical Drainage Areas have been identified for Southend-on-Sea Borough. Approximately 3,100 residential properties in the Borough could be at risk of surface water flooding from a rainfall event with a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP).
- Climate change increases for the Thames Gateway South Essex are suggested at a 20% increase in fluvial discharge and 1.02m increase in tidal water levels over the next 100 years.
- Fluvial watercourses pose generally localised flood risk and are largely located in the north west of the area.

⁵⁴ <https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/>

- Per capita greenhouse gas emissions are decreasing and this is likely to continue as energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new technologies become more widely adopted.

3.4 IIA Objectives

Table 5: IIA Objectives and assessment questions for Climate Change

IIA objectives	Assessment questions
<p>Promote climate change mitigation in Southend-on-Sea Borough.</p> <p><i>Relevant SEA Topics:</i> <i>Climatic factors</i></p> <p><i>Relevant NPPF Paragraphs:</i> <i>93 - 108</i></p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Reduce the need to travel? • Promote use of energy from low carbon sources? • Reduce energy consumption and increase efficiency?
<p>Support the resilience of Southend-on-Sea Borough to the potential effects of climate change.</p> <p><i>Relevant SEA Topics:</i> <i>Climatic factors & water</i></p> <p><i>Relevant NPPF Paragraphs:</i> <i>93 - 108</i></p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct development away from areas at risk of all forms of flooding as per the sequential test, taking into account the likely effects of climate change? • Make development safe where it is necessary within an area of flood risk and without increasing flood risk elsewhere? • Sustainably manage water run-off, with priority given to SuDS, ensuring that the risk of flooding is not increased and where possible reduced? • Improve and enhance multifunctional green infrastructure networks in the Borough (and beyond) to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change? • Support the priorities identified in the Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan?

4. Landscape and Historic Environment

4.1 Context Review

4.1.1 National

- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**⁵⁵: Core planning principles stated in the NPPF include: to always seek high quality design; conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance; take account of the roles and character of different areas and contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment. Local Authorities/ the planning system should:
 - Protect and enhance valued landscapes, giving particular weight to those identified as being of national importance.
 - Maintain the character of the undeveloped coast, protecting and enhancing its distinctive landscapes, particularly in areas defined as Heritage Coast, and improve public access to and enjoyment of the coast.
 - Recognise that heritage assets are an ‘irreplaceable resource’ and conserve them in a ‘manner appropriate to their significance’.
- **National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)**⁵⁶:
 - Local authorities should set out in their Local Plans a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. The strategy should recognise that conservation is not a passive exercise. In developing their strategy, local planning authorities should identify specific opportunities within their area for the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets.
 - Local plans should include strategic policies for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including landscape. This includes designated landscapes but also the wider countryside.
- **Historic Environment for England**⁵⁷: sets out the Government’s vision for the historic environment. It calls for those who have the power to shape the historic environment to recognise its value and to manage it in an intelligent manner in light of the contribution that it can make to social, economic and cultural life. Also of note is the reference to promoting the role of the historic environment within the Government’s response to climate change and the wider sustainable development agenda.

4.1.2 Local

- **Conservation Area Appraisals (dates vary)**⁵⁸: have been produced for each of the Borough’s Conservation Areas (CAs). In each case the appraisals identify the special historic and architectural interest of the CAs, review its boundaries, and include a management plan for the future. The appraisals assist in the preparation of local planning policies and inform decisions on planning proposals. Appraisals have been carried out for the following CAs:
 - Chapmanslord Conservation Area
 - Clifftown Conservation Area
 - Crowstone Conservation Area
 - Eastern Esplanade Conservation Area

⁵⁵ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf Accessed Aug 2017

⁵⁶ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/> Accessed Aug 2017

⁵⁷ HM Government (2010) The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment for England [online] available at: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6763.aspx Accessed Aug 2017

⁵⁸ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (dates varied) Conservation Area Character Appraisals [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200422/conservation_areas/413/conservation_area_character_appraisals

- The Leas Conservation Area
- Leigh Conservation Area
- Leigh Cliff Conservation Area
- Leigh Old Town Conservation Area
- Shoebury Garrison Conservation Area
- Milton Conservation Area
- Prittlewell Conservation Area (Draft Appraisal in progress)
- Shorefields Conservation Area (Draft Appraisal in progress)
- Warrior Square Conservation Area (Draft Appraisal in progress)
- **Southend-on-Sea Core Strategy (adopted 2007)**⁵⁹: seeks to protect and enhance the Borough's landscapes and historic environment through Policy CP4 (The Environment and Urban Renaissance). This policy requires development to contribute towards the creation of a high quality, sustainable urban environment through:
 - Providing for the effective management of land uses on the urban fringe, including landscape enhancement in respect of any development;
 - Providing for quality in the public round through the use of innovative design, sustainable materials and landscaping;
 - Maintaining and enhancing the amenities, appeal and character of residential areas, securing good relationships with existing development, and respecting the scale and nature of that development;
 - Protecting and enhancing the area's parks, gardens and other urban spaces, including all open areas whose townscape and amenity value is important to the surrounding area; and
 - Safeguarding and enhancing the historic environment, heritage and archaeological assets, including listed buildings Conservation Areas, and Ancient Monuments.
- **Southend-on-Sea Design and Townscape Guide (2009)**⁶⁰: encourages high quality design for development proposals, providing a practical basis for achieving this and to assist the Council in resisting poor quality design. The guide includes information on the historic environment, building form, and creating successful places.
- **Southend Borough Wide Character Study (2011)**⁶¹: provides a description of the physical form of the Borough, and also presents a historical appreciation of the growth of the Borough over time identifying the structure of the Borough as a series of settlements and neighbourhoods. The study informs and supports the development of planning policy and development management decisions.
- **Southend-on-Sea Development Management Document (adopted 2015)**⁶²: sets out the importance for conservation of heritage assets in the Borough, through Policy DM5 (Southend-on-Sea's Historic Environment). The policy covers impact on archaeological deposits, as well as alterations and additions to heritage assets, requiring evaluations and supporting evidence where necessary. Policy DM2 (Low Carbon Development and Efficient Use of Resources) highlights the importance of securing effective and efficient sustainable development, promoting the principles of the energy hierarchy (be lean, be clean, be green). Sustainable places are further focussed on

⁵⁹ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2007) Core Strategy [online] available at:

http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1540/core_strategy_dpd1pdf Accessed Aug 2017

⁶⁰ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2009) Southend-on-Sea Design and Townscape Guide [online] available at:

http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200421/supplementary_planning_documents_spds/393/design_and_townscape_guide_spd_1 Accessed Oct 2017

⁶¹ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2011) Southend-on-Sea Borough Wide Character Study [online] available at:

http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/download/302/southend_character_study Accessed Oct 2017

⁶² Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Development management Document [online] available at:

http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3737/southend_development_management_document_adopted_version Accessed Aug 2017

through Policy DM1 (Design Quality), which promotes the creation of successful places, including development contributing positively to the space between buildings.

- **Southend Central Area Action Plan (Current stage - examination)⁶³**: includes policies on general improvements to the landscape and built environment which range from specific criteria for the development of proposal sites to general requirements to enhancing the wider environment.
 - Policies DS2 (Key Views) and DS3 (Landmarks and Landmark Buildings) recognises the importance of schemes that enhance visually important views and landmark buildings including - sightlines, access, open space and view improved to identify areas. The quality of the built environment is further managed through area specific policies such as PA2 (London Road) which includes the pedestrianisation of the area to create new public space. Other areas have more specific proposals such as PS7 (Victoria Gateway) which includes green walls, landscaping and a linked public greenspace.
 - Archaeology is identified in specific policies to ensure development in areas of potential archaeology undertake appropriate measures to identify potential for remains and take the correct action. They include at the Central Seafront (CS1) and Victoria Gateway (PA8). Protection of heritage assets is also part of Policy PA6 (Cliff town) including the station building and Policy CS1 (Central Seafront) including the pier.

4.2 Baseline Review

4.2.1 Summary of Current Baseline

4.2.1.1 Historic environment baseline

There are a number of designated heritage assets within the Borough (see **Figure 6**).

- 4 Scheduled Monuments, including Prittlewell Priory and Southchurch Hall;
- 14 Conservation Areas (areas of special architectural or historic interest), which with the exception of the centrally placed Prittlewell are all located along the southern fringe of the Borough. And include Chapmansland Conservation Area, Leigh Old Town Conservation Area, and Crowstone Conservation Area.
- Many Listed Buildings - including the Grade I* Prittlewell Priory, four Grade I listed buildings (Southchurch Hall, Porters (Civic House), Church of St Lawrence and All Saints, and Church of St Mary) and four Grade II* (Church of the Holy Trinity, War Memorial, Manor House, and Church of St Andrew) scattered throughout the Borough, with concentrations in Southend and Shoebury Garrison.

More than 400 sites of archaeological interest are recorded on the Heritage Gateway in the Borough. These range from Neolithic axes to Roman coins and pottery, through to Bronze Age and Iron Age Hillforts, Prehistoric settlements, and a variety of World War II and Cold War monuments. The extent of the archaeological resource of the Borough is currently unknown, with likely to be good evidence surviving below ground⁶⁴, probably unrecorded.

Southend-on-Sea Borough currently has the following heritage registered by Historic England as being at risk:

- Crowstone Conservation Area, Westcliff on Sea (Condition: very bad; Vulnerability: low)
- Manor House Grade II* Listed Building (Condition: poor; Vulnerability: immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric – no solution agreed)

⁶³ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2016) Southend Centre Area Action Plan [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200420/development_plan_documents/391/southend_central_area_action_plan_scaap/4 Accessed Aug 2017

⁶⁴ Southend-on-Sea (2017) Historic Southend [online] available at: https://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200410/historic_southend/332/history_of_southend Accessed Aug 2017

4.2.1.2 Landscape baseline

There are no nationally designated landscapes (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) within or in close proximity to the Borough. The Borough is situated within two Landscape Character Areas defined at the national level: The Greater Thames Estuary and The Northern Thames Basin. Further information on these areas is presented below.

The Greater Thames Estuary⁶⁵:

- Predominantly flat, low-lying coastal landscape
- Important site for geodiversity due to underlying geology of London Clay
- Open grazing pastures patterned by a network of ancient and modern reed-fringed drainage ditches and dykes, numerous creeks and few hedges or fences, with limited tree cover
- Traditional unimproved wet pasture grazed with sheep and cattle combined with extensively drained and ploughed arable land protected by floods by sea walls, with some areas of more mixed agriculture on higher ground.
- Strong feelings of remoteness and wilderness persist on extensive salt marshes, mud flats and reclaimed farmed marshland, which support internationally important plants, invertebrates and populations of breeding and overwintering birds, notably overwintering Brent geese.
- Distinctive landmarks of coastal military present such as military defences, forts and pill boxes.
- Increasing development pressures around major settlements and especially towards London, with urban, industrial and recreational sites often highly visible within the low-lying marshes.

The Northern Thames Basin.⁶⁶

- The landform is varied with a wide plateau divided by river valleys. There are prominent hills and ridges to the north-west and extensive tracts of flat land in the south.
- Characteristic of the area is a layer of thick clay producing heavy acidic soils, resulting in retention of considerable areas of ancient woodland.
- Areas capped by glacial sands and gravels have resulted in nutrient-poor, free-draining soils which support remnant lowland heathlands, although these are now small. Areas that have alluvial deposits present are well drained and fertile.
- The diverse range of semi-natural habitats include ancient woodland, lowland heath and floodplain grazing marsh and provide important habitats for a wide range of species including great crested newt, water vole, dormouse and otter.
- Rich archaeology including sites relating to Roman occupation.
- The medieval pattern of small villages and dispersed farming settlement remains central to the character of parts of Hertfordshire and Essex.

The East of England Intrusion Map⁶⁷ demonstrates how the Borough is largely formed of urban areas, with areas to the north of the Borough disturbed by noise and visual intrusion. Today, the areas of disturbance are consistent around the urban areas that were present in the 1960s.

A landscape character study was produced and published in 2003 for Essex County Council and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, with the focus of establishing a baseline of the existing character of

⁶⁵ National Character Area Profile 81: Greater Thames Estuary [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4531632073605120> Accessed Aug 2017

⁶⁶ National Character Area Profile 111: Northern Thames Basin [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4721112340496384> Accessed Aug 2017

⁶⁷ CPRE (2007) East of England Intrusion Map [online] available at: <http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/tranquil-places/item/1786-> Accessed Aug 2017

the Essex landscape⁶⁸. The study identifies the Borough as being located within two Landscape Character Areas (LCA):

- South Essex Coastal Towns
- Crouch and Roach Farmlands

South Essex Coastal Towns: The majority of the Borough is located within the South Essex Coastal Towns LCA, which is an area of very mixed character but unified by the overall dominance of urban development. The major towns spread over gently undulating or flat land, but locally extend over prominent ridgelines and hillsides as well.

A distinctive steep sided south facing escarpment between Hadleigh and Basildon retains significant areas of open grassland, as well as a patchwork of small wood, including small pastures. Contrasting flat coastal grazing marsh lies to the south. In some parts such as south of Hadleigh, and around Hockley, the urban form is softened by very large woodlands and the Roach Valley is largely undeveloped⁶⁹.

The key characteristics are summarised below:

- Large areas of woodland in the centre of the area;
- Large areas of dense urban development;
- Major transportation routes;
- Presence of pylons and overhead lines dominate farmland; and
- Extensive flat coastal grazing marshes in the south adjacent to the Thames Estuary.

The Landscape Character Study (2003) highlights the following past, present and future trends for change for the South Essex Coastal Towns:

- The area has been subject to very significant change, with massive expansion of urban areas, and urban development pressure is likely to be a significant ongoing trend;
- Areas where traditional landscape character survives well, such as Upper Roach Valley, the Crouch Valley, the Thames Marshes, Langdon Hills and Dunton Ridges need particular protection from landscape or development change; and
- Recreational pressures are also likely to be considerable.

Crouch and Roach Farmlands: A small section of the east of the Borough is located within the Crouch and Roach Farmlands LCA. The area is characterised as having a rural and tranquil setting with the coastal character of the area defined by moderate to steep estuary valley, narrow estuaries', mudflats, saltmarsh and reclaimed marshlands. A significant loss of hedgerows in the south of the landscape area has created an open character here with sparse settlement patterns.

The key characteristics are summarised below:

- Undulating arable farmland;
- Long narrow Crouch and Roach river estuaries with flat low lying marshlands;
- Small villages/hamlets, farms and suburban properties are present along lanes on higher ground;
- Right angled pattern of lanes; and
- Long views across the farmland to the estuaries from higher ground.

The Landscape Character Study (2003) highlights the following past, present and future trends for change for the Crouch and Roach Farmlands:

⁶⁸ Essex County Council (2003) Landscape Character Assessment of Southend-on-Sea [online] available at: http://www.essex.gov.uk/AnalyticsReports/CB_LCA_Essex_2002.pdf Accessed Aug 2017

⁶⁹ Ibid.

- The area has been significant loss of grazing marsh as a result of agricultural intensification since the Second World War;
- Loss of elm trees from the farmland in the 1960's and 1970's made the character of the area more open; and
- Present and likely ongoing trends for change include pressure for urban development around South Woodham Ferrers, transportation development near Southend, and demand for additional boat moorings, marina facilities along the estuary. Flood protection may also likely be a future issue.

The Southend Character Study (2011)⁷⁰: further sets out the key physical, and social, characteristics of the Borough. The study identifies the detailed character of the various urban forms found in the Borough, recognising the following key features:

- There is a strong presence of regular grids of streets, most typically running north-south, perpendicular between the key routes through the Borough;
- Inter-war areas of development feature perimeter block arrangements, but are more likely to be laid out in a looser grid or geometric arrangement than the rectilinear grids of the Victorian and Edwardian periods; and
- Several areas of post-war development including Eastwood and North Shoebury take a distinctly non-grid form, breaking with the predominant character of the Borough.

Figure 7 shows the character areas and buildings identified through existing planning policy as being of importance to landscape/ townscape.

⁷⁰ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2011) Southend-on-Sea Borough Wide Character Study [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/download/302/southend_character_study Accessed Oct 2017

Figure 6: Historic Environment

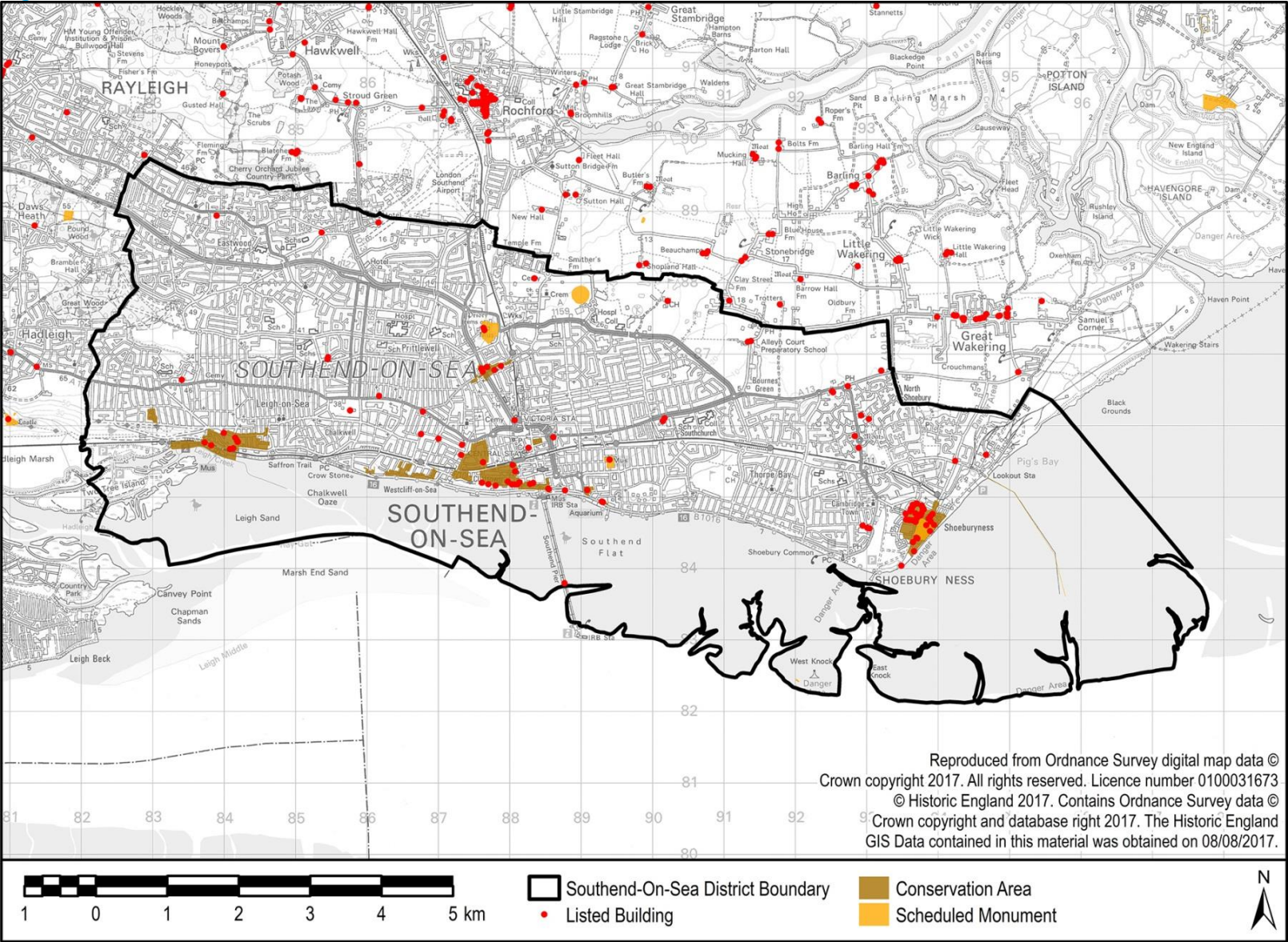
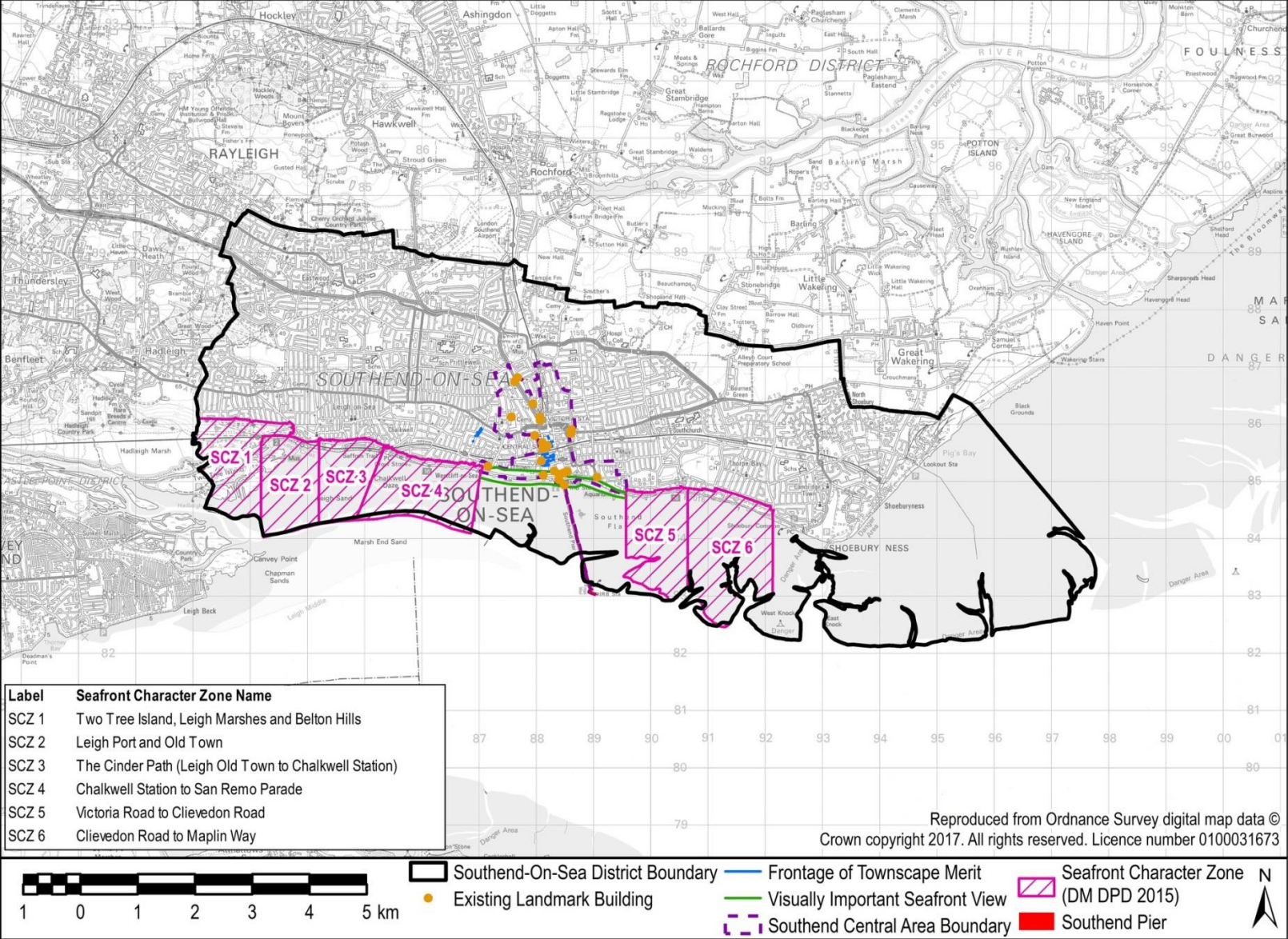


Figure 7: Landscape and Townscape



4.2.2 Summary of Future Baseline

New development within the Borough has the potential to have impacts on the fabric and setting of cultural heritage assets through inappropriate design and layout. It should be noted, however, that existing historic environment designations and will offer a degree of protection to cultural heritage assets and their settings. Also new development need not be harmful to the significance of a heritage asset; new development may be an opportunity to enhance the setting of an asset and better reveal its significance.

New development has the potential to lead to incremental changes in landscape and townscape character and quality in and around the Borough. This includes from the loss of landscape features and visual impact. There may also be potential effects on landscape/townscape character and quality in the vicinity of the road network due to an incremental growth in traffic flows.

There is not expected to be significant change in tranquillity in and around the Borough, considering the area is predominately urban/ disturbed by noise and visual intrusion.

4.3 Key Issues

- There a range of designated heritage assets present within the Borough, including 4 Scheduled Monuments, 14 Conservation Areas and numerous Listed Buildings.
- There are two designated heritage assets identified by Historic England as being at risk: Crowstone Conservation Area and Manor House Grade II* Listed Building.
- There are more than 400 sites of archaeological interest recorded in the Borough.
- The majority of the Borough is located within the South Essex Coastal Towns LCA, characterised by large areas of dense urban development and major transportation routes.

4.4 IIA Objectives

Table 6: IIA Objectives and assessment questions for Landscape and Historic Environment

IIA objectives	Assessment questions
<p>Protect and enhance the significance of the Borough's historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.</p> <p><i>Relevant SEA Topics:</i> <i>Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage</i></p> <p><i>Relevant NPPF Paragraphs:</i> <i>6 – 10 & 126 - 141</i></p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, and where possible, enhance heritage assets and their settings? • Protect, and where possible, enhance conservation areas? • Protect, and where possible, enhance the wider historic environment? • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?
<p>Protect and enhance the character and quality of the Borough's landscapes and townscapes.</p> <p><i>Relevant SEA Topics:</i> <i>Landscape</i></p> <p><i>Relevant NPPF Paragraphs:</i> <i>109 - 125</i></p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance landscape and townscape character? • Support the integrity of the Borough's conservation areas?

5. Environmental Quality

5.1 Context Review

5.1.1 National

- **Anglian River Basin Management Plan (2015)**⁷¹: provides a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. It sets out the current status and pressures affecting the water environment; environmental objectives and programme of measures that are used to inform land-use planning.
- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**⁷²: encourages the effective use of land and seeks to protect and enhance valued soils. The planning system should prevent new and existing development from contributing to unacceptable levels of air, water and soil pollution. 'Planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants.
- **National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)**⁷³:
 - The Local Plan should consider the potential cumulative impact of a number of smaller development on air quality as well as more substantial ones; the impact of point sources of air pollution and ways in which new development would be appropriate in locations where air quality is or is likely to be a concern and not give rise to unacceptable risks from pollution.
 - Plan-making should consider how to help protect and enhance local surface water and groundwater in ways that allow new development to proceed and avoids costly assessment at the planning application stage. It should also consider the type or location of new development where an assessment of the potential impacts on water bodies may be required.
 - Reiterates the NPPF in stating that the planning system should protect and enhance valued soils and prevent the adverse effects of unacceptable levels of pollution.

5.1.2 Regional

- **South Essex Surface Water Management Plan (2012)**⁷⁴: provides a surface water management strategy for South Essex which includes consideration of flooding from sewers, drains, groundwater and runoff from land, small watercourses and ditches.

5.1.3 Local

- **Southend-on-Sea Core Strategy (adopted 2007)**⁷⁵: prioritises the reuse of previously developed land and includes policies to reduce impacts on air quality and protect water quality, resources and flooding risk.
- **Southend-on-Sea Development Management Document (adopted 2015)**⁷⁶: requires developments to improve air quality through appropriate traffic management measures (Policy

⁷¹ Defra and the Environment Agency (Dec 2015) Part 1: Anglian river basin District – River Basin Management Plan [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/anglian-river-basin-District-river-basin-management-plan> Accessed Aug 2017

⁷² Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf Accessed Aug 2017

⁷³ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/> Accessed Aug 2017

⁷⁴ South Essex Surface Water Management Plan [online] available at: http://www.rochford.gov.uk/sites/rochford.gov.uk/files/planning_surfacemanagement.pdf Accessed Aug 2017.

⁷⁵ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2007) Core Strategy [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1540/core_strategy_dpd1pdf Accessed Aug 2017

⁷⁶ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Development management Document [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3737/southend_development_management_document_adopted_version Accessed Aug 2017

DM15), and considers the risks of development to the natural environment and water quality (Policy DM 14).

- **Southend Central Area Action Plan (Current stage - examination)⁷⁷**: sets out particular sensitivities in relation to air quality, water quality and contamination, allowing identification of where, if any, impacts may arise and mitigation as necessary.
- **Southend-on-Sea Surface Water Management Plan (2015)⁷⁸**: provides a surface water management strategy for Southend-on-Sea Borough which includes consideration of flooding from sewers, drains, groundwater and runoff from land, small watercourses and ditches that occurs as a result of heavy rainfall.
- **Southend-on-Sea Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2015)⁷⁹**: addresses local flood risk, exploring the risk of flooding from surface water runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. The strategy establishes the starting point for a long-term strategy to manage flood risk which will influence future capital investment, maintenance, public engagement and understanding, land-use planning and future developments across the Borough.

5.2 Baseline Review

5.2.1 Summary of Current Baseline

5.2.1.1 Air Quality

In relation to air quality monitoring, there has been continuous automatic air quality monitoring at one site (CMS) in Southend during 2015. This site is based in Chalkwell Park, approximately 90m west from the nearest minor road, Chalkwell Road, and about 160m south from the nearest major road, A13 London Road. The pollutants measured at this monitoring site include ozone, nitrogen dioxide and PM2.5 particulate matter⁸⁰.

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council undertook non-automatic (passive) monitoring of NO₂ at 27 sites during 2015. During 2015, intermediate diffusion tube results identified that an exceedance was likely to occur at the site located at the junction between Prince Avenue, Hobleythick Lane and Rochford Road (also known as “The Bell Junction”). As a result of ongoing exceedances at this site, a temporary automatic monitor was in place to monitor NO₂ and PM₁₀ concentrations. The final audited results showed that The Bell Junction recorded an exceedance at relevant exposure.

In response, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council declared an Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) for nitrogen dioxide at the junction between Prince Avenue, Hobleythick Lane and Rochford Road (also known as “The Bell Junction” in 2016.⁸¹ The location of the AQMA is shown in **Figure 8**.

The main source of air pollution in the Borough is road traffic emissions from major roads, notably the A13, A127 and A1159. Other pollution sources including commercial, industrial and domestic sources also make a contribution to background pollutant concentrations.⁸²

5.2.1.2 Water quality

In terms of water quality, Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and

⁷⁷ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2016) Southend Central Area Action Plan [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200420/development_plan_documents/391/southend_central_area_action_plan_scaap/4 Accessed Aug 2017

⁷⁸ Scott Wilson (2015) Southend-on-Sea Surface Water Management Plan [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/download/578/surface_water_and_flooding_strategies Accessed Aug 2017

⁷⁹ AECOM (2015) Southend-on-Sea Local Flood Risk Management Strategy [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/download/578/surface_water_and_flooding_strategies Accessed Oct 2017

⁸⁰ Defra (2017) Monitoring Networks [online] available at: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/networks/> Accessed Aug 2017

⁸¹ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2016) Declaration of Air Quality Management Area

⁸² Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2016) Air Quality Annual Status Report

springs that are used for public drinking water supply. The zones show the risk of contamination from activities that might cause groundwater pollution in the area. There are no SPZ's designated in the Borough.

The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwaters have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwaters are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes in order to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. There are no NVZs for groundwater in the Borough; however there is designated surface water NVZ in the north of the Borough and this reflects the agricultural use of the land.

The Anglian RBMP reports current ecological quality for the estuarine waters of the River Roach as moderate and predicted to remain moderate for 2015. Current chemical water quality is good and predicted to remain good in 2015.

The Prittlewell Brook is a short tributary of the River Roach which travels through the urban area of Prittlewell and discharges into the Roach at Rochford. The channel is mainly concrete lined with little in channel vegetation; however this changes downstream where the channel begins to become choked with vegetation⁸³.

Coastal waters to the south and east of the Borough are currently of moderate ecological quality and good chemical quality with no change predicted for 2015.

The revised Bathing Water Directive⁸⁴ requires EU Member States to monitor and assess the bathing water for at least two parameters of bacteria. The EEA identifies individual bathing water sites (points) throughout the EU for water quality monitoring. The 2016 classification of water quality for bathing sites within the Southend-on-Sea Borough are as follows:

- Shoebury East: Excellent quality
- Shoeburyness: Excellent quality
- Southend Thorpe Bay: Excellent quality
- Southend Jubilee: Good quality
- Southend Three Shells: Good quality
- Southend Westcliffe Bay: Excellent quality
- Southend Chalkwell: Good quality
- Leigh Well Wharf: Sufficient quality

All sites have sufficient water quality or higher, with the majority of sites having excellent quality for 2016.

5.2.1.3 Soil quality

The Borough includes the following soil types⁸⁵:

- Loamy and Clayey soils of coastal flats with naturally high groundwater (predominantly in the south of the Borough along the coastline)
- Freely draining acid loamy soils over rock (this covers a large portion of the Borough, predominately in the centre and east)

⁸³ Essex Rivers Hub (2017) Prittlebrook; Prittlewell [online] available at: <http://www.essexrivershub.org.uk/index.php/walkover-lists/river-roach-catchment-walkovers/411-prittle-brook-prittlewell> Accessed Aug 2017

⁸⁴ Directive 2006/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 February 2006 concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing Directive 76/160/EEC [online] available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32006L0007> Accessed Oct 2017

⁸⁵ Defra: Magic Map [online] available at: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/> Accessed Aug 2017

- Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (this covers a large portion of the Borough, predominately in the centre and west)
- Loamy soils with naturally high groundwater (predominately in the southeast of the Borough)
- Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (predominantly in the southwest areas of the Borough)

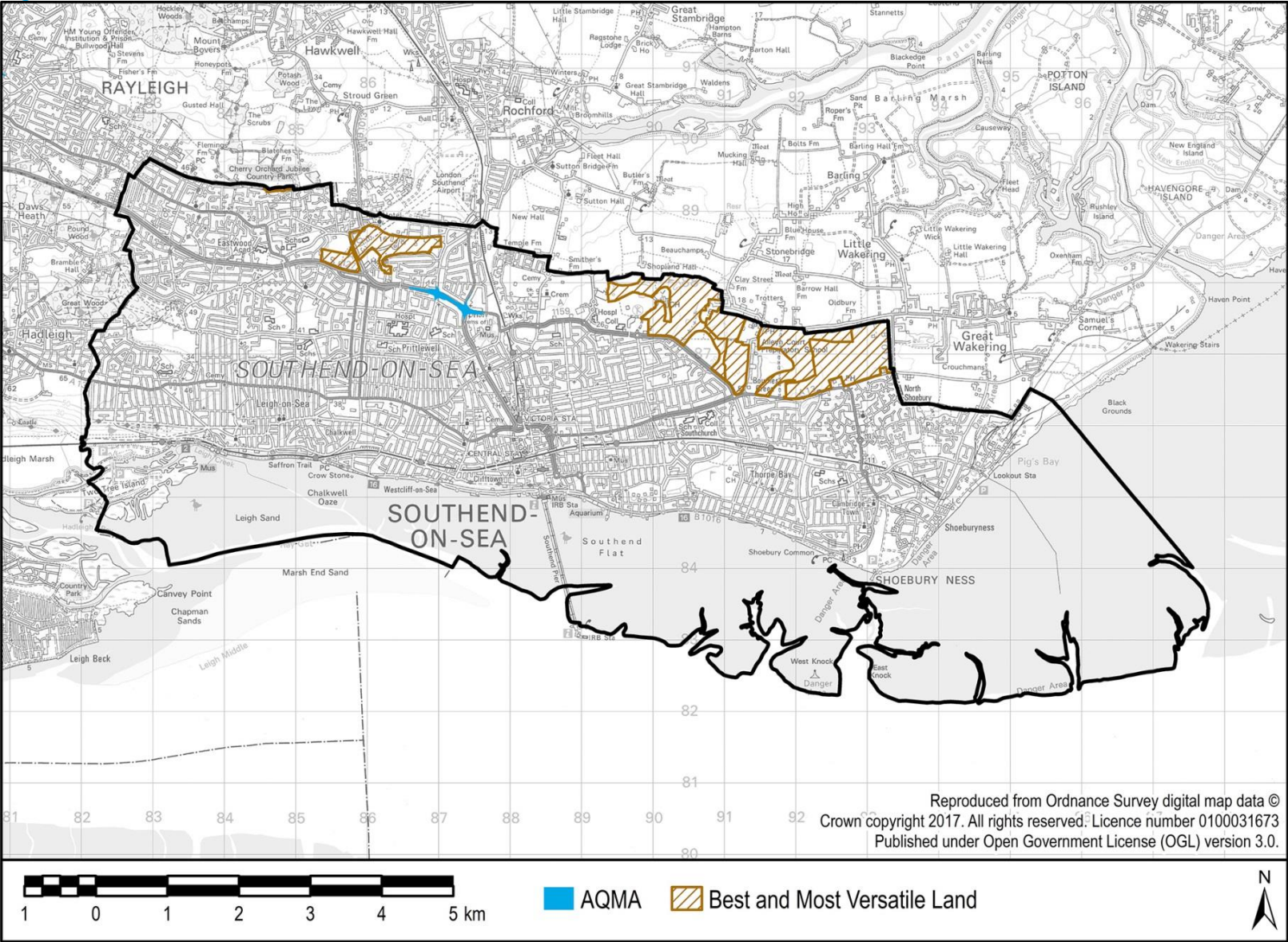
There are considerable areas of contaminated land throughout the Borough, particularly around Southend-on-Sea and Shoeburyness.⁸⁶ However, no land in the Borough is listed in the public register, which includes land that has been designated as a special site, and also details where remediation notices have been served.⁸⁷

Agricultural land quality is addressed within **Section 6**.

⁸⁶ Data.gov.uk (2012) Map preview [online] available at: https://data.gov.uk/data/map-preview?url=http%3A%2F%2Fessex.astuntechnology.com%2Fgetows.ashx%3Fmapsource%3DEssex%2FInspire_Southend%26service%3DWMS%26request%3DGetCapabilities&w=51.5751&w=0.624066&e=0.824187&s=51.5124

⁸⁷ Public register of contaminated land [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200378/pollution/717/contaminated_land Accessed Oct 2017

Figure 8: AQMA and BMV



5.2.2 Summary of Future Baseline

New housing and employment provision in the Borough and sub-regionally has the potential to have adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide. Areas of particular sensitivity to increased traffic flows are likely to be routes with the largest congestion issues, including the designated AQMA at The Bell Junction.

Water quality is also likely to continue to be affected by pollution incidents in the area, the presence of non-native species and physical modifications to water bodies. In the short term, the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality in watercourses in the wider area.

5.3 Key Issues

- Nitrogen dioxide levels in excess of the annual average objective level have been monitored at 27 locations in the Borough in 2015.
- There is one Air Quality Management Area within the Borough at The Bell Junction and it has been designated as a result of emissions from road transport.
- Ecological status of upper reaches of the River Roach is of moderate quality and predicted to remain moderate.
- Estuarine waters and coastal waters to the south and east of the Borough are of good chemical quality and moderate ecological quality.

5.4 IIA Objectives

Table 7: IIA Objectives and assessment questions for Environmental Quality

IIA objectives	Assessment questions
Improve air, soil and water quality.	Will the option/proposal help to:
<i>Relevant SEA Topics:</i> <i>Soil, water & air</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or improve local air quality? • Promote the remediation of contaminated land? • Protect and improve the area's chemical & biological water quality?
<i>Relevant NPPF Paragraphs:</i> <i>109 - 125</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect groundwater resources?

6. Land, Soil and Water Resources

6.1 Context Review

6.1.1 National

- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁸⁸**: Key messages include:
 - Protect and enhance soils. The value of best and most versatile agricultural land should also be taken into account.
 - Prevent new or existing development from being ‘adversely affected’ by the presence of ‘unacceptable levels’ of soil pollution or land instability and be willing to remediate and mitigate ‘despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate’.
 - Encourage the effective use of land’ through the reuse of land which has been previously developed, ‘provided that this is not of high environmental value’.
 - With regards to waste, the NPPF does not contain any specific waste policies as waste planning policy will be published as part of the National Waste Management Plan.
- **National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)⁸⁹**:
 - Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality.
- **Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England⁹⁰**: this document sets out a vision for soil use in England, and the
- **Water White Paper⁹¹**: sets out the Government’s vision for a more resilient water sector. It states the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.
- **Government Review of Waste Policy in England⁹²**: recognises that environmental benefits and economic growth can be the result of a more sustainable approach to the use of materials.

6.1.2 Regional

- **Essex & Southend Waste Local Plan (adopted by Essex County Council July 2017, with Southend-on-Sea Council for adoption October 2017)⁹³**: provides the key principles and policies to guide the future management of waste in the Plan area up until 2032. The plan recognises the need to move away from traditional forms of waste management towards greater levels of re-use, recycling and recovery. The plan provides a ‘Spatial Strategy; which provides the means by which the Strategic Objectives are proposed to be met within the context of the plan area.

⁸⁸ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf Accessed Aug 2017

⁸⁹ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/> Accessed Aug 2017

⁹⁰ Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England [online] available at: <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/land/soil/documents/soil-strategy.pdf> Accessed Aug 2017

⁹¹ Defra (2011) Water for life [online] available at <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm82/8230/8230.pdf> Accessed Aug 2017

⁹² Defra (2011) Government Review of Waste Policy in England [online] available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13540-waste-policy-review110614.pdf> Accessed Aug 2017

⁹³ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council & Essex County Council (2016) Replacement Waste Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft [online] available at: <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Environment%20Planning/Planning/Minerals-Waste-Planning-Team/Planning-Policy/Pages/Replacement-Waste-Local-Plan.aspx> Accessed Oct 2017

6.1.3 Local

- **Southend-on-Sea Core Strategy (adopted 2007)⁹⁴:**
 - Policy KP2 requires development proposals to minimise the use of greenfield land and make the best use of previously developed land where possible.
 - Policy CP4 promotes sustainable development of the highest quality, encouraging excellence in design. Design solutions should maximise the use of sustainable and renewable resources in the construction of development and resource and energy conservation (including water) in developments.
- **Southend-on-Sea Development Management Plan (adopted 2015)⁹⁵:** Policy DM8 identifies residential standards for development, to ensure that new developments contribute to a suitable and sustainable living environment now and for future generations. The policy includes reference to minimum space standards, which are intended to encourage provision of enough space in dwellings. This is to ensure that they can be used flexibly by residents, according to their needs, and that sufficient storage can be integrated.
- **Technical Housing Standards Policy Transition Statement: Southend Borough Council (2015)⁹⁶:** sets out how existing policies relating to Housing Standards in the Development Management Document and Core Strategy should be applied from 1st October 2015. This is in light of new technical housing standards in England introduced in March 2015.

6.2 Baseline Review

6.2.1 Summary of Current Baseline

6.2.1.1 Agricultural land

The Agricultural Land Classification classifies land into six grades (including 'non-agricultural' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are 'best and most versatile' land and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality. Best and most versatile land is the land which is most flexible, productive and efficient in response to inputs and which can best deliver food and non-food crops for future generations. **Figure 8** in Section 5 shows that there are areas of best and most versatile agricultural land in north of the Borough. According to data provided by Natural England this includes a mix of Grade 1, 2, 3a and 3b land.

6.2.1.2 Waste Management

There are two Household Waste and Recycling Centres that serve the Borough, which are located at Stock Road and Leigh Marshes and are operated by Veolia. There is also a Waste Transfer Station at the Central Cleansing Depot Eastern Avenue, and another at Hadleigh Salvage, Plot 9 Stock Road.

6.2.1.3 Water Availability

South Essex relies on water imported from outside the area and this is provided by Essex & Suffolk Water; Southend-on-Sea Borough is within the Essex Water Resource Zone (WRZ). Water companies are required to set out how they will maintain the balance between supply and demand in Water Resource Management Plans (WRMPs). The Essex & Suffolk Water's (ESW) WRMP⁹⁷ covers the period

⁹⁴ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2007) Core Strategy [online] available at:

http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1540/core_strategy_dpd1pdf Accessed Aug 2017

Southend on Sea Borough Council (2015) Development management Document [online] available at:

http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3737/southend_development_management_document_adopted_version Accessed Aug 2017

⁹⁶ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Technical Housing Standards Policy Transition Statement: Southend Borough Council [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3831/housing_standards_transition_policy_statement Accessed Oct 2017

⁹⁷ Essex & Suffolk Water (2014) Final Water Resources Management Plan 2014 [online] available at: <https://www.eswater.co.uk/your-home/current-WRMP.aspx> Accessed Aug 2017

from 2015 to 2040 indicates that the Essex WRZ will maintain a surplus of supply across the 25 year planning horizon and negotiations are ongoing with the neighbouring water companies regarding bulk transfer schemes from Essex.

The annual review for the WRMP published in June 2016 concluded that the supply demand balance will remain in surplus throughout the 25 year planning period now that the Abberton scheme is fully available⁹⁸.

6.2.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Existing planning policy encourages the efficient use of land and a preference for the development of brownfield land. Future housing, employment and infrastructure growth may result in loss of greenfield and agricultural land as a result of the environmental constraints and therefore limited availability of land in the Borough. In line with the NPPF, the Council should seek to use areas of poorer agricultural land in preference to that of higher quality; however, it is recognised that the Borough contains only a small proportion of agricultural land.

Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improve recycling and composting rates and move towards zero waste to landfill. However, potential population increases within the Borough may increase pressures on recycling and waste management facilities. Furthermore, Defra's estimation for waste growth shows that national waste growth and estimates of future waste arising's expected to remain consistent with current levels. This is because widespread initiatives to reduce waste and improve materials reuse and recycling are likely to reduce long-term production of waste.

Water availability in the wider area may be affected by regional increases in population and an increased occurrence of drought, which is estimated to become increasingly prevalent as a result of climate change.

6.3 Key Issues

- There are areas of best and most versatile agricultural land in the north of the Borough.
- Due to increasing legislative and regulatory requirements, there are increasing pressures to improve recycling and composting rates.
- The Essex Water Resource Zone will maintain a surplus of water supply for at least the next 25 years.

6.4 IIA Objectives

Table 8: IIA Objectives and assessment questions for Land, Soil and Water Resources

IIA objectives	Assessment questions
Promote the efficient and sustainable use of natural resources.	Will the option/proposal:
<i>Relevant SEA Topics:</i> <i>Water & soil</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of previously developed land? • Avoid the use of land classified as best and most versatile agricultural land? • Minimise water consumption? • Reduce the amount of waste produced and move it up the waste hierarchy? • Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction?
<i>Relevant NPPF Paragraphs:</i> <i>47 - 78</i>	

⁹⁸ Essex & Suffolk Water (2016) Annual Review of the Water Resources Management Plan 2016 [online] available at: https://www.eswater.co.uk/assets/documents/ESW_WRMP_Annual_Update_-_2015_16_-_Final.pdf Accessed Aug 2017

7. Population and Communities

7.1 Context Review

7.1.1 National

- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁹⁹:** These policies include:
 - To ‘boost significantly the supply of housing’, local planning authorities should meet the ‘full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing’ in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.
 - With a view to creating ‘sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities’ authorities should ensure provision of affordable housing onsite or externally where robustly justified.
 - The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. It explains how good design is a key aspect in sustainable development, and how development should improve the quality of the area over its lifetime, not just in the short term. Good architecture and landscaping are important, with the use of design codes contributing to the delivery of high quality outcomes. Design should reinforce local distinctiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places.
 - The social role of the planning system involves ‘supporting vibrant and healthy communities’.
 - The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities.
 - Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
 - Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
 - Ensuring that there is a ‘sufficient choice of school places’ is of ‘great importance’ and there is a need to take a ‘proactive, positive and collaborative approach’ to bringing forward ‘development that will widen choice in education’.
 - The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.
- **National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)¹⁰⁰:**
 - Local Planning Authorities should assess their development needs working with the other local authorities in the relevant housing market area or functional economic market area in line with the duty to cooperate. This is because such needs are rarely constrained precisely by local authority administrative boundaries.
 - Local planning authorities should secure design quality through the policies adopted in their local plans. Good design is indivisible from good planning, and should be at the heart of the plan making process.

⁹⁹ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁰⁰ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/> Accessed Oct 2017

- A healthy community is a good place to grow up and grow old in. It is one which supports healthy behaviours and supports reductions in health inequalities. It should enhance the physical and mental health of the community.
 - Green infrastructure is a network of multifunctional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. Local Plans should identify the strategic location of existing and proposed green infrastructure networks. Where appropriate, supplementary planning documents can set out how the planning, design and management components of the green infrastructure strategy for the area will be delivered.
- **Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change report Ready for Ageing? (2013)**¹⁰¹: warns that society is underprepared for the ageing population. The report says that '*longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises*'. The report says that the housing market is delivering much less specialist housing for older people than is needed. Central and local government, housing associations and house builders need urgently to plan how to ensure that the housing needs of the older population are better addressed and to give as much priority to promoting an adequate market and social housing for older people as is given to housing for younger people.

7.1.2 Local

- **Southend-on-Sea Core Strategy (adopted 2007)**¹⁰²: requires development proposals to mitigate their impact on community infrastructure. Policy CP6 reiterates this, ensuring that development contributes appropriately to services and facilities that would be adversely affected. The policy supports improvements to existing, and the provision of new, facilities to support the needs of education, skills and lifelong learning strategies.
- **London Southend Airport Joint Area Action Plan (JAAP) (2014)**¹⁰³: will include a variety of community benefits for Southend-on-Sea such as the provision of public open space (Policies ENV2, ENV3, ENV4) and a green corridor to the business park to provide a pleasant environment to cyclists and pedestrians (Policy ENV 5).
- **Southend-on-Sea Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2015)**¹⁰⁴: includes details of the infrastructure identified by the Council and other service providers as being needed to support the delivery of the Core Strategy. The plan categorises infrastructure for delivery, listing critical infrastructure categories as the police, transport, and flood defence, to support the Borough's community.
- **Southend-on-Sea Development Management Document (adopted 2015)**¹⁰⁵: recognises the importance of local residents being able to access housing that meets their specific needs. Policies DM7 and DM8 address this, stating that providing good quality housing and a well-integrated blend of different housing types and tenures is a vital part of achieving the strategic vision of the 'Southend Together' Partnership; creating a community where people work together in partnership and understanding to improve quality, for all.

¹⁰¹ Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee/report-ready-for-ageing/> Accessed Aug 2017.

¹⁰² Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2007) Core Strategy [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1540/core_strategy_dpd1pdf Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁰³ Rochford District Council and Southend on Sea Borough Council (2014) London Southend Airport and Environs Joint Area Action Plan (JAAP) [online] available at: <https://www.rochford.gov.uk/london-southend-airport-and-environs-jaap-evidence-base-%E2%80%933-documents/london-southend-airport-and> Accessed Oct 2017

¹⁰⁴ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Southend Infrastructure Delivery Plan [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3412/southend_infrastructure_delivery_plan_%E2%80%933_february_2015 Accessed Oct 2017

¹⁰⁵ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Development management Document [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3737/southend_development_management_document_adopted_version Accessed Aug 2017

- **Southend Central Area Action Plan (Current stage - examination)**¹⁰⁶: Includes a number of policy criteria which supports community infrastructure in the area. Policy DS7 states that the Council will work in partnership with faith, community and voluntary sector organisations to maintain and enhance their facilities. Policy DS6 supports proposals which enhance or diversify the range of arts, culture, entertainment, leisure and recreational facilities, in line with the spatial strategy and subject to an assessment of the scale, character, location and impact of the proposal on existing facilities and residential uses.

7.2 Baseline Review

7.2.1 Summary of Current Baseline

According to the most recent census data available, in 2011 the total population of Southend-on-Sea Borough was 173,600¹⁰⁷. This was an increase of 13,331 from the 2001 census, or an 8.3% growth in population (see **Table 9**). The rate of population growth in the Borough during this period was just below regional and above national comparators. The population of the Borough is predicted to grow 23% by 2039 reaching a total population of 214,000¹⁰⁸. The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 2015 mid-year population estimate for the Borough was 178,700¹⁰⁹. This is a further increase of 5,100 from the 2011 census, or a 2.9% growth in population.

Table 9: Population growth, 2001-2011¹¹⁰

Date	Southend-on-Sea Borough	East	England
2001	160,269	5,388,140	49,138,831
2011	173,600	5,846,965	53,012,456
Population Change 2001-2011	8.3%	8.5%	7.88%

Table 10 highlights the age structure of the Southend-on-Sea Borough compared with South East and England averages. Adapted from statistics compiled by the ONS, the data indicates the total population of each age group, and the percentage of that group within the total population of each area.

¹⁰⁶ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2016) Southend Centre Area Action Plan [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200420/development_plan_documents/391/southend_central_area_action_plan_scaap/4 Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁰⁷ Office for National Statistics (2011) Neighbourhood Statistics [online] available at: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/> Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁰⁸ ONS (2016) Subnational population projections for Local Authorities in England: Table 2 [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenqandtable2>

¹⁰⁹ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2016) Southend-on-Sea Annual Monitoring Report 2016 [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/4711/annual_monitoring_report_2016_ldf.pdf Accessed Oct 2017

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

Table 10: Age Structure (2011)¹¹¹

Age group	Southend-on-Sea Borough	East	England
0-15	33,037 (19%)	1,108,632 (19%)	10,022,836 (18.9%)
16-24	17,884 (10.3%)	638,273 (11%)	6,284,760 (11.9%)
25-44	46,211 (27.8%)	1,546,616 (25%)	14,645,152 (27.5%)
45-59	33,309 (19.2%)	1,156,696 (20%)	10,276,902 (19.4%)
60+	42,217 (24.3%)	1,396,748 (24%)	11,832,806 (22.3%)
Total	173,658 (100%)	5,846,965 (100%)	53,012,456 (100%)

As highlighted by the above table, the Borough has a slightly lower proportion of individuals across the 16-24 age range compared to national and regional averages, with a higher proportion of the 60+ age group within the Borough than comparators. There are 42,217 people aged 60 or over living in the Borough, which comprises 24.3% of the population. This proportion is slightly higher than the regional and national comparators.

7.2.1.1 Ethnicity

Table 11 shows the breakdown of ethnic groups in the Borough, which is predominantly comprised of White English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British at 87%. White; other white and White Irish make up a further 4.5% and White Gypsy or Irish Traveller only make up 0.1% of the population. Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African make up 1.6% and Asian/Asian British: Indian 1% of the population.

Table 11: Ethnicity

Ethnic group	Southend-on-Sea	East	England
White English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	87%	85.2%	79.8%
White Irish	0.9%	85.2%	79.8%
White Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
White; other white	3.6%	4.4%	4.6%
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups: White and Black Caribbean	0.6%	0.5%	0.8%
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups: White and Black African	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups: White and Asian	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups: Other mixed	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Asian/Asian British: Indian	1%	1.8%	2.6%
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	0.6%	1.1%	2.1%
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	0.5%	0.3%	0.8%

¹¹¹ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Age structure (KS102EW) [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census> Accessed Aug 2017

Ethnic group	Southend-on-Sea	East	England
Asian/Asian British: Chinese	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%
Asian/Asian British: Other Asian	0.9%	1.4%	1.5%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African	1.6%	1%	1.8%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean	0.3%	0.4%	1.1%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black: Other Black	0.2%	0.2%	0.5%
Other Ethnic Group: Arab	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%
Other Ethnic Group: Any Other Ethnic Group	0.3%	0.4%	0.6%

7.2.1.2 Deprivation

The Multiple Deprivation Index (2015) shows that Southend-on-Sea Borough is one of the most deprived Boroughs in Essex. This is reflected in the national rankings which highlights it is 105th out of 327 local authorities nationally.¹¹² **Figure 9** illustrates the varied levels of deprivation across the Borough. Some areas of persistent deprivation in the Borough are among the worst in the country.¹¹³ Within the Borough the areas of Prittlewell, Central Southend, northern Southchurch and parts of Shoeburyness fall within the poorest nationally.¹¹⁴

By contrast, Southend also has some pockets of high affluence, including the western areas of Leigh, Chalkwell, Noble's Green, and Thorpe Bay to the east of the Borough. The spread of deprivation reflects in the varied levels of child poverty and life expectancy across the Borough. Life expectancy is 11.1 years lower for men and 10.0 years lower for women living in the most deprived areas of Southend-on-Sea when compared to those living in the least deprived areas of the Borough.¹¹⁵

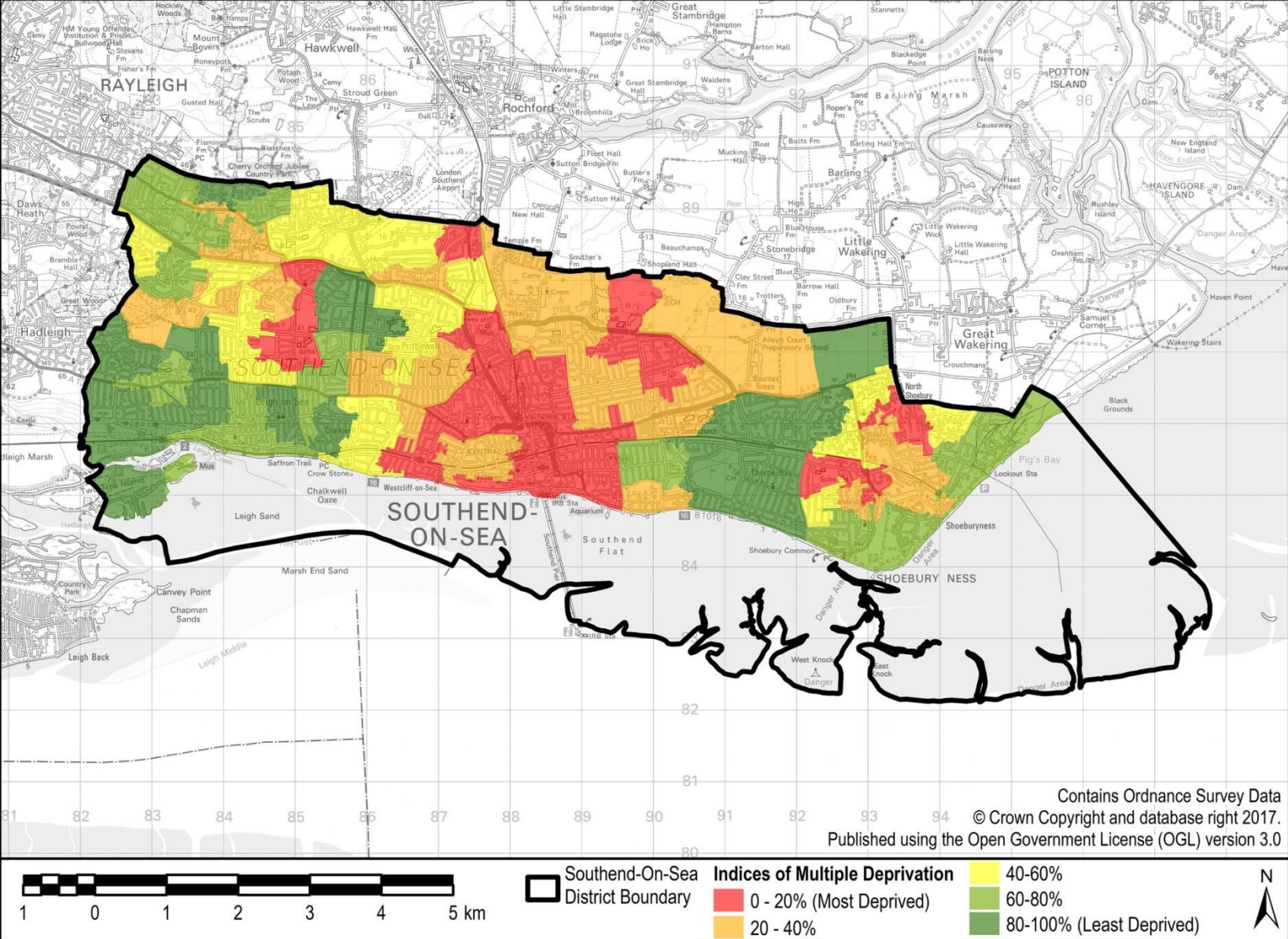
¹¹² DCLG (2015) English indices of deprivation [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015> Accessed Aug 2017

¹¹³ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2010) Economic Development & Tourism Strategy Refresh [online] available at: <http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/2519/economic-development-and-tourism-strategy-refresh-2010> Accessed Aug 2017

¹¹⁴ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (date unknown) Southend Character Study: Southend Today [online] available at: <http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1684/southend-character-study-2-southend-todaypdf> Accessed Aug 2017

¹¹⁵ Public Health England (2015) Southend-on-Sea Unitary Authority Health Profile 2015

Figure 9: Deprivation



7.2.1.3 Housing

A Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) for South Essex was published in May 2016. Its purpose is to assess the future requirement for affordable and market housing within the wider Housing Market Area (HMA) that comprises the five local authorities of Basildon, Rochford, Southend-on-Sea, Castle Point, and Thurrock.¹¹⁶

The SHMA was updated in May 2017 to reflect the release of the 2014-based sub-national population and household projections as well as the South Essex Economic Development Needs Assessment. The Addendum to the South Essex SHMA identifies that the objectively assessed housing need for Southend-on-Sea Borough is 1,072 dwellings per year. The SHMA Addendum also identifies that the net affordable housing need for the Borough is 764 per year.¹¹⁷

Average house prices in Borough have increased by over 75% between 2002 and 2012.¹¹⁸ The median selling price in June 2017 was £273,188. This was an increase of 9.5% from £249,382 in 2016.¹¹⁹ This is higher than the national average of £240,325, which increased at a slower rate of 5.2% from 2016. The median house price to income ratios for the Borough was 9.1 in 2016, an increase from 8.9 in 2015.¹²⁰

In 2015/16, there were 1,455 households on Local Authority housing waiting lists in Southend-on-Sea Borough, a decrease of 73 since 2010.¹²¹

Figure 10 shows the tenure of households¹²² in Southend-on-Sea Borough in comparison with tenure in the East of England and nationally. Southend has a slightly higher proportion of people that live in housing owned either outright or with a mortgage (65.2%) than national averages (63.3%). However, this local figure is lower than the regional average of 67.6%.

A higher proportion of the Borough's residents (22.0%) rent privately than compared with the regional (14.7%) and national (16.8%) averages. In contrast, the Borough has lower proportion of social rented, living rent free, and shared ownership tenures than regional and national comparators. 65.2% of the Borough's residents own their homes, which is slightly lower than that of the East of England (67.6%), and slightly higher than the national average (63.3%).

¹¹⁶ South Essex Authorities (2016) South Essex SHMA. Prepared by Turley.

¹¹⁷ South Essex Authorities (2017) Addendum to the South Essex SHMA. Prepared by Turley.

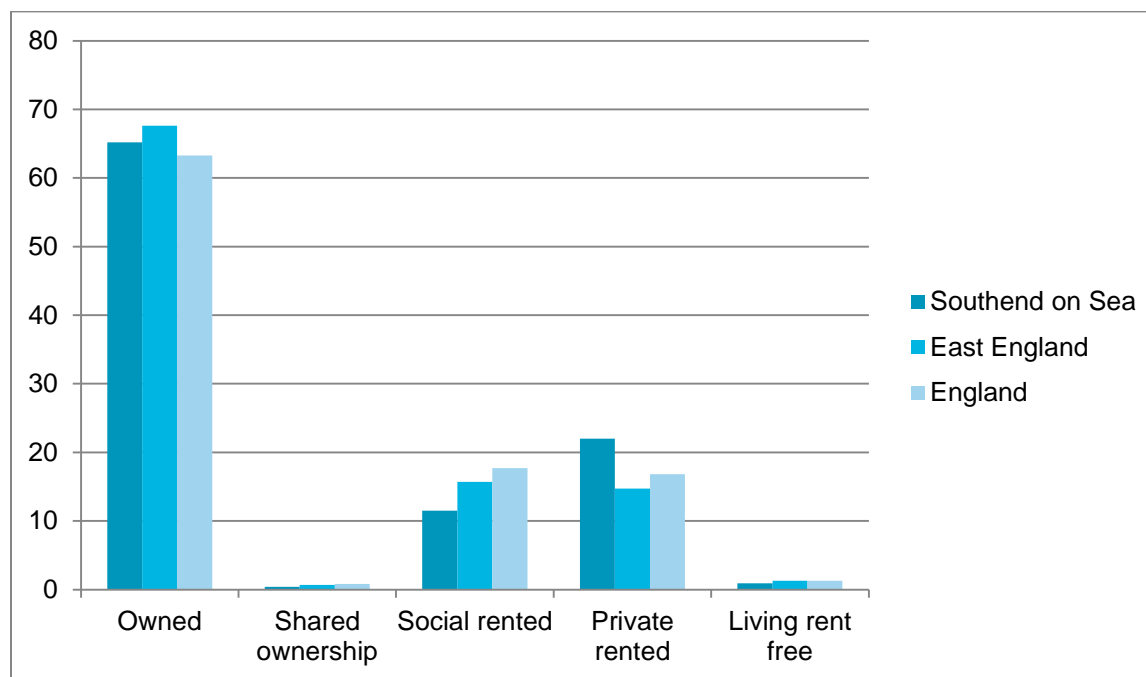
¹¹⁸ South Essex Authorities (2016) South Essex SHMA. Prepared by Turley.

¹¹⁹ Gov.uk (2017) UK House Price Index England: June 2017 [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-house-price-index-england-june-2017/uk-house-price-index-england-june-2017> Accessed Aug 2017

¹²⁰ ONS (2016) Housing Affordability in England and Wales 1997-2016 [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/housingaffordabilityinenglandandwales/1997to2016> Accessed Aug 2017

¹²¹ DCLG (2012) Statistical data set Live tables on rents, lettings and tenancies. Table 600: numbers of households on local authorities' housing waiting lists, by District: England 1997 to 2016 [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-housing-market-and-house-prices> Accessed Aug 2017

¹²² ONS (2011) Census 2011, Tenure - Households, 2011 (QS405EW) [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census> Accessed Aug 2017

Figure 10: Tenure by Household

7.2.1.4 Community Facilities

The Southend Character Study¹²³ indicates that the main retail and civic functions of the Borough are focussed towards the seaward edge of the Borough, principally around Southend and Leigh-on-Sea.

There are good levels of accessibility to key services and facilities (schools and leisure) throughout the Borough, with the majority of the Borough living within 10 minutes travel of a GP surgery¹²⁴. The Local Transport Plan 3 suggests that the majority of the Borough is within 30 minutes travel of a hospital, with the exception of parts of Shoeburyness in the north east of the Borough.

The Borough's main recreational space (parks and open spaces) are distributed across the Borough, with overall provision being highest in the wards of Shoeburyness, West Leigh and Belfairs. The largest parks in the Borough include Southend Cliffs and Belfairs Park (including Belfairs Golf Course). The Borough also has small local and neighbourhood recreational spaces, including Churchill Gardens and Prittlewell Square, providing easily accessible green space for residents.

Policies CP6 (Community Infrastructure) and CP7 (Sport, Recreation and Green Space) within the Core Strategy (2007) bring forward proposals that contribute to sports, recreation and green space facilities within the Borough. Policy CP7 in particular supports the development of new green spaces and greenways, including a new Country Park facility within or close to the north-eastern part of the Borough, as part of the development of a Green Grid of open spaces and associated linkages through Essex Thames Gateway. The Thames Gateway South Essex Green Space and Green Grid Strategy' Supplementary Planning Document will be prepared, adopted and maintained to guide and facilitate this.

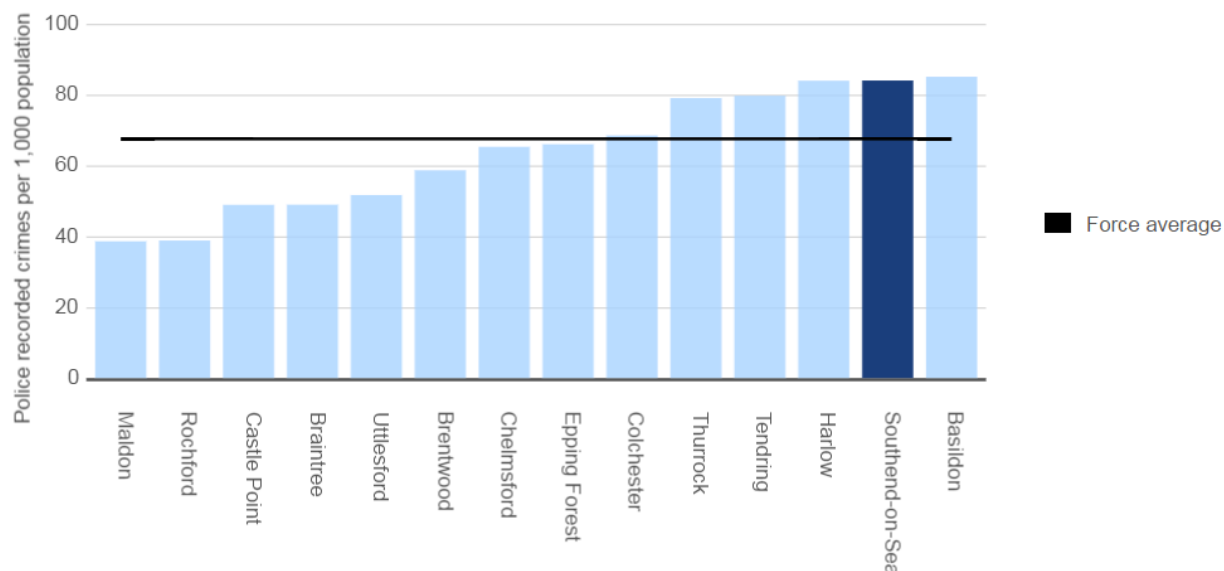
¹²³ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (date unknown) Southend-on-Sea Character Study

¹²⁴ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Southend Local Transport Plan 3 – Strategy Document 2011-2026 [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200242/transport_policies_and_traffic_regulation_orders/343/local_transport_plans Accessed Aug 2017

7.2.1.5 Safety

Southend-on-Sea has an above average crime rate for Essex. As highlighted by **Figure 11** Southend has a high crime rate per 1,000 of the population compared to other Local Authorities in Essex.¹²⁵

Figure 11: Crime Rates



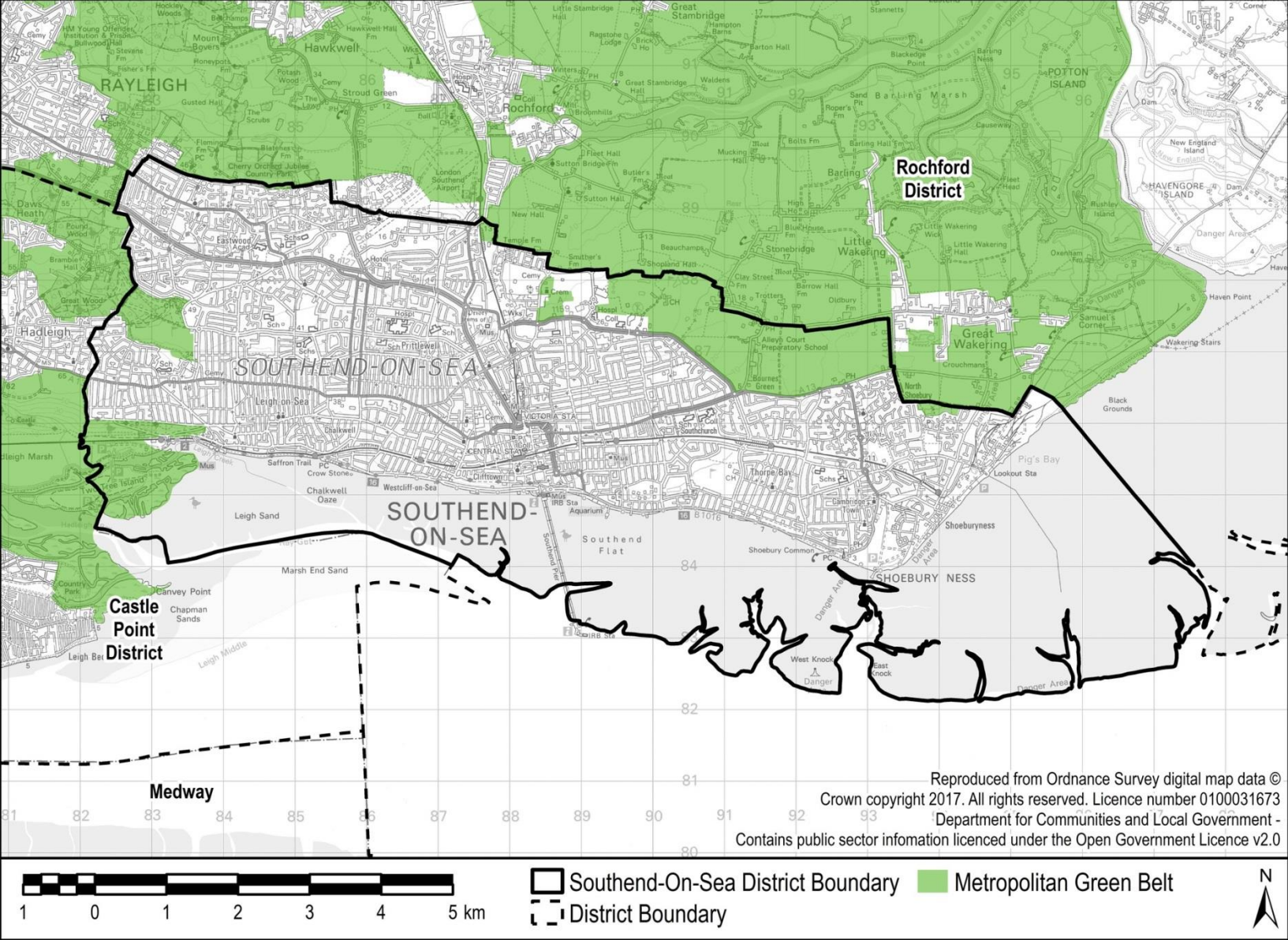
7.2.1.6 Green Belt

The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open. This helps to protect the identity of settlements and communities within the Borough. **Figure 12** shows that parts of the Borough's land mass is designated as Green Belt land, particularly in the north east and south west of the Borough.

Policy KP1 (Spatial Strategy) of the Core Strategy (2007) states that the Green Belt will be maintained around the urban area. The policy further states that minor amendments to the Green Belt boundary may exceptionally be considered where this would enable delivery of specific objectives and policies in the Core Strategy that could not otherwise be achieved in a sustainable manner, and the openness of the remaining Green Belt and its ability to provide effective separation between Southend and neighbouring settlements are maintained.

¹²⁵ <https://www.police.uk/essex/85/performance/compare-your-area/>

Figure 12: Green Belt



7.2.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Recent population increases experienced in Southend-on-Sea Borough are likely to continue. Population forecasts predict that the proportion of older people within the Borough will increase and residents aged 60+ already comprise around 24.3% of the population (based on 2011 data). However, the 25-44 age group for the Borough comprises 27.8%, higher than regional and national averages. This age bracket may also see a rise in proportion of residents within the Borough, particularly considering the economic development of the area proposed throughout the plan period.

The suitability of housing for local requirements depends in part on the successful implementation of appropriate housing policies taken forward through the Local Plan. However, without interventions, the affordability, suitability and quality of housing in the Borough may continue to be undermined. Unplanned development may also have wider implications in terms of transport and access to infrastructure or the natural environment.

7.3 Key Issues

- The Borough, in common with many other areas, is experiencing a growing and ageing population. This will have implications for health service provision and the provision of other services, facilities and amenities.
- Levels of private renting are higher than the regional and national averages.
- Affordability of housing in the Borough is a key issue. Median house price to income ratios were 9.1 in 2016, an increase from 8.9 in 2015.
- The Borough has a higher crime rate compared to other Local Authorities in Essex, with the exception of Basildon.
- New community and employment provision in the Borough should reflect existing and future needs.
- Levels of Deprivation vary across the Borough, with some areas being amongst the most deprived in the country, and some the least deprived.

7.4 IIA Objectives

Table 12: IIA Objectives and assessment questions for Population and Communities

IIA objectives	Assessment questions
<p>Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community.</p> <p><i>Relevant SEA Topics:</i> <i>Population & human health</i></p> <p><i>Relevant NPPF Paragraphs:</i> <i>47 - 78</i></p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the identified objectively assessed housing needs for the Borough? • Ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures to meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?
<p>To maintain and enhance community and settlement identity.</p> <p><i>Relevant SEA Topics:</i> <i>Population & human health</i></p> <p><i>Relevant NPPF Paragraphs:</i> <i>47 - 78</i></p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid the coalescence of settlements and loss of Green Belt land? • Provide development in the most deprived areas and stimulate regeneration? • Can development effectively integrate within the existing settlement pattern? • Enhance the identity of a community or settlement?

8. Health and Wellbeing

8.1 Context Review

8.1.1 National

- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**¹²⁶:
 - The social role of the planning system involves ‘supporting vibrant and healthy communities’.
 - A core planning principle is to ‘take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all’.
 - The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities’
 - Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
 - Set out the strategic policies to deliver the provision of health facilities.
 - Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.
 - Health and wellbeing and health infrastructure should be considered in local plans. In this context local plans should promote healthy lifestyles, social and cultural wellbeing and ensure access to the whole community by all sections of the community is promoted.
- **National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)**¹²⁷:
 - Local planning authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in local and neighbourhood plans and in planning decision making.
- **Fair Society, Healthy Lives (‘The Marmot Review’)**¹²⁸: investigated health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is: *“overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities”*.

8.1.2 Local

- **Southend Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh (2015-2016)**¹²⁹: examines the ongoing challenges whilst reviewing progress of the Strategy and related work, identifying key priorities going forward. Key priorities include financial pressures – ongoing strained health and care economy, whole system transformation – integration of services, and prevention – promoting healthy lifestyles.
- **Southend-on-Sea Core Strategy (adopted 2007)**¹³⁰:
 - Policy KP3 will ensure that development include provisions such as open space ‘green grid’ recreational sport or other community development where appropriate.

¹²⁶ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf Accessed Aug 2017.

¹²⁷ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/> Accessed Aug 2017

¹²⁸ The Marmot Review (2011) The Marmot Review: Implications for Spatial Planning [online] available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12111/53895/53895.pdf> Accessed Aug 2017

¹²⁹ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Southend Health and Wellbeing Strategy [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/3529/southend_s_health_and_wellbeing_strategy_refresh_2015-16_v3.pdf Accessed Oct 2017

¹³⁰ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2007) Core Strategy [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1540/core_strategy_dpd1pdf Accessed Aug 2017

- Policy CP4 protects and enhances the town’s parks gardens and other urban spaces including all open areas whose townscape and amenity value is important to the surrounding area, and the biodiversity of the area.
- Policy CP4 also seeks to maintain and enhance the amenities, appeal and character of residential areas, securing good relationships with existing development.
- Policy CP6 seeks to provide for health and social care facilities in particular supporting the strategic services development plan of the Primary Care Trust, and the expansion plans of Southend Hospital and other key health and social care agencies where these demonstrate clear net benefits in terms of accessibility to services for the local community.
- Policy CP6 also requires new development to safeguard existing and provide for new leisure, cultural, recreational and community facilities, including optimising the potential of Garon’s Park and the reinforcement of Southend Pier as an Icon of the Thames Gateway.
- **Southend-on-Sea Development Management Plan (adopted 2015)**¹³¹: Policy DM6 supports development within the Seafront Area which incorporates measures to provide new and improved facilities for water recreation and other leisure facilities in appropriate locations. Development must also take account for the valuable natural amenity areas of International, European and national importance.
- **Southend Central Area Action Plan (Current stage - examination)**¹³²: includes proposals to improve the quality of existing areas, through new planting, such as at the High Street and also identifies the need for ‘soft’ landscaping and new green/open spaces. In helping achieve more sustainable development the SCAAP supports an approach where urban greening is not only considered for its aesthetic benefits but also the biodiversity value. It also recognises the benefits new open/green spaces in the central area can have in terms of relieving pressure on the foreshore, in accordance with the Appropriate Assessment of the Core Strategy, which highlights that development in the seafront area (CS Policy KP1) is likely to result in increased recreational and development pressures on designated international and European sites.
- **Southend Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh (2015)**¹³³: seeks to increase physical activity, and aspiration and opportunity. The strategy sets out a number of objectives to improve the overall health and wellbeing of the Borough, supporting a safer population with healthier lifestyles.
- **Southend Public Health Report (2015)**¹³⁴: focuses on ‘healthy settings’ and explores the opportunities for improving health and wellbeing provided by early education and childcare settings, schools, homes, the workplace as well as the physical environment of the Borough.
- **Southend Older People Strategy (2015)**¹³⁵: seeks to support the ageing population in the Borough through prioritising commissioning and delivering services for older people. The strategy develops four approaches for meeting the challenges of the Borough, and includes supporting older people to make more decisions over managing their own care, while providing the necessary information to support this.
- **Southend Local Transport Plan 3 Strategy Document 2011-2026 (revised 2015)**¹³⁶: recognises the need for good quality street furniture and townscape design to promote community safety and

¹³¹ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Development management Document [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3737/southend_development_management_document_adopted_version Accessed Aug 2017

¹³² Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2016) Southend Centre Area Action Plan [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200420/development_plan_documents/391/southend_central_area_action_plan_scaap/4 Accessed Aug 2017

¹³³ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Southend Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3529/southend_s_health_and_wellbeing_strategy_refresh_2015-16_v3 Accessed Aug 2017

¹³⁴ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Annual Report of the Director of Public Health [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/4668/annual_public_health_report_2015 Accessed Aug 2017

¹³⁵ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Southend-on-Sea’s Older People Strategy: A Joint Commission Strategy 2015-2018 [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3661/southend-on-seas_older_people_strategy.pdf Accessed Aug 2017

¹³⁶ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Southend Local Transport Plan 3 Strategy Document 2011-2026

social inclusion and the importance of the 'Green Grid' and greenways as sustainable corridors offering a pleasant environment for walkers and cyclists between green open spaces and urban centres.

8.2 Baseline Review

8.2.1 Summary of Current Baseline

As highlighted in **Table 13**, general health across Southend-on-Sea Borough is broadly favourable against all comparators. In this context 56.9% of people reported that they were in 'very good' health¹³⁷, which is well above the comparative averages. Conversely, the proportion of people reporting that they were in 'very bad' or 'bad' health' is marginally higher than regional and national averages.

Table 13: General Health

Categories	Southend-on-Sea Borough	East England	England
Very Good Health	56.9%	47.2%	47.2%
Good Health	35.1%	35.2%	34.2%
Fair Health	14.1%	12.9%	13.1%
Bad Health	4.5%	3.6%	4.2%
Very Bad Health	1.3%	1 %	1.2%

Public Health England (2016) figures for Southend-on-Sea Borough show that Life expectancy in the Borough is 79.6 for men and 83.1 for women, which is slightly above the national average of 79.5 for men and slightly below the national average of 83.2 for women.¹³⁸ This suggests that the average woman in the Borough is of slightly worse health than the national average, and the average man is of slightly better health than the national average. It is noted that life expectancy is dependent on a number of factors, including food supply and nutrition, health and hygiene¹³⁹.

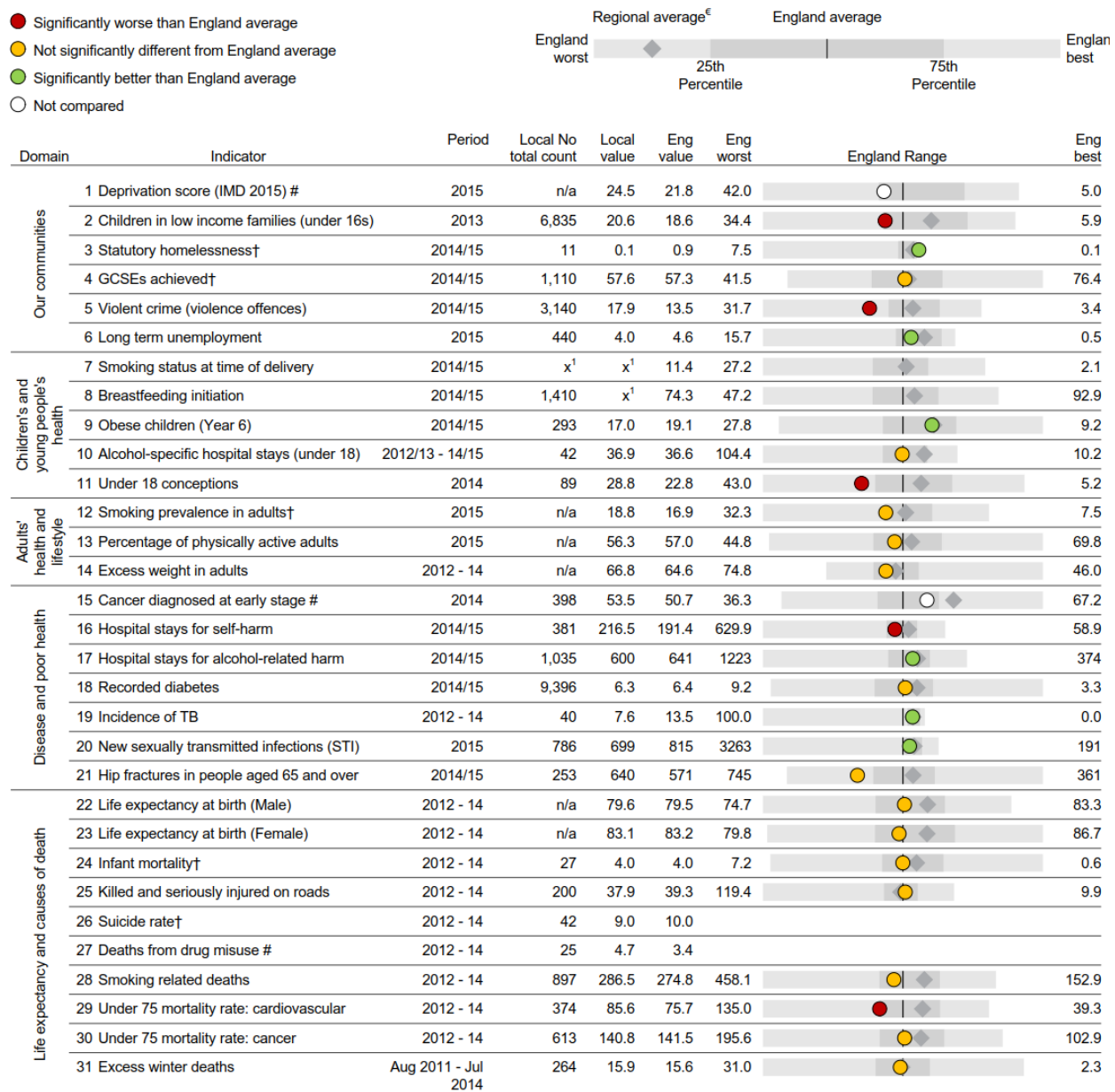
The 2016 Health Profile for Southend-on-Sea¹⁴⁰ further suggests that life expectancy is 11.6 years lower for men and 10.7 years lower for women living in the most deprived areas of Southend-on-Sea Borough when compared to those living in the least deprived areas of the Borough. **Figure 13** is from the health profiles developed by Public Health England, it shows how the health of Southend-on-Sea compared with the rest of England.

¹³⁷ ONS (2011) Census 2011, General Health (QS302EW)

¹³⁸ Public Health England (2016) Southend-on-Sea Unitary Authority Health Profile 2016

¹³⁹ Mathers, C., Stevens, G., Boerma, T., White, R. and Tobias, M. (2015). Causes of international increases in older age life expectancy. The Lancet, 385(9967), pp.540-548.[online] available at:<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0140673614605699> Accessed Oct 2017

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

Figure 13: Health Profile for Southend-on-Sea


According to the 2016 Health Profile, Southend-on-Sea performs better than the national average for homelessness, long term unemployment, obese children, hospital stays for alcohol-related harm and new sexually transmitted infections. In contrast, children in low income families, violent crime, rate of under-18 conceptions, hospital stays for self-harm and early deaths from cardiovascular disease are less favourable when compared with the national average.

Local priorities in the Southend-on-Sea Borough include increasing levels of physical activity, improving health and life changes of children and young people and reducing smoking rates in the local population.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Southend¹⁴¹ highlights the existing situation for Southend. The baseline includes the following topics:

¹⁴¹ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2013) Southend-on-Sea Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- **A positive start in life:** 1 in 4 children living in Southend live in poverty. Southend's overall income level is of a relatively low standing. The income level is linked directly to the town's comparatively low skills base and higher than average number of people claiming job seekers allowance.
- **Promoting healthy lifestyles (reducing the use of tobacco):** It is estimated that 20.5% of Southend's adult population are smokers. Inequalities exist in relation to smoking prevalence dependant on levels of deprivation, with 32.5% of adults in the 20% most deprived population compared to just fewer than 20% for the remaining 80% of residents¹⁴².
- **Promoting healthy lifestyles (a healthy weight):** It is estimated that 24.8% of all adults in Southend are obese. National Childhood Measurement Programme shows that 8.3% (156) of 4-5 year olds and 17.6% (289) of 10-11 year olds are classified as obese. Each week 19.9% of residents aged 16+ take part in 3x30 minutes sport and active recreation.
- **Promoting healthy lifestyles (substance misuse):** Southend has more drug problem users, more drug related hospital stays and more drug related deaths than the regional averages.
- **Improving mental wellbeing:** More vulnerable groups, including those socially excluded or economically deprived, children in care, asylum seekers and prisoners, are at higher risk of developing mental illness.
- **A safer population:** Over 6,000 people live with a long term limiting illness in Southend. During 2009/10 the Police received 3861 reports of domestic abuse in Southend.
- **Living independently:** of the 31,600 people aged over 65 in Southend, over 13,000 are unable to manage at least one domestic task of their own, with over 11,000 unable to manage at least one self-care task on their own.
- **Active and healthy ageing:** With a high proportion of single pensioner households, Southend faces potentially high levels of social isolation among older people, which can significantly reduce their quality of life. Poor health decreased mobility and poor transport and fear of crime can all contribute to social isolation in older people. People aged 65 and over occupy almost two thirds of general and acute hospital beds and account for 50% of the recent growth in emergency admissions to hospitals.
- **Protecting health:** A comprehensive public service exists in Southend that maintains the popular seaside town as a safe place to live and safe resort to visit.

The Borough provides a range of leisure facilities; the most visited being Southend Pier which provides a landmark along the seafront and provides a range of leisure and cultural facilities, including the Royal Pavilion. There are other leisure facilities at the seafront, including the Adventure Island amusement park, the Kursaal, amusement arcades, and other activities, including improved areas of public realm in the central seafront area which contains fountains and iconic lighting masts. There are also seven boating clubs, three public slipways and 1,200 mooring sites, and the new lagoon at Three Shells Beach. In addition, the seafront area also contains Gunners Park, Southend Cliffs Gardens, and the Marine Parade Gardens.

Further leisure facilities in the Borough include: Shoeburyness Leisure Centre, Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre at Garons Park (including the Diving Centre), Belfairs Swim Centre, and Chase Sports & Fitness Centre, as well as a seafront cycle way and Prittle Brook Greenway. Recreation and open spaces within the Borough also include:

- Bowling greens
- Football pitches
- Play spaces for children
- Golf courses

¹⁴² Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2013) Southend Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- Large (greater than 20ha) parks (Southend Cliffs, Belfair's Park including Belfair's Golf Course, Chalkwell Park, Priory Park, Southchurch Park, Belton Hills/Marine Parade Gardens, and Gunners Park)
- Smaller (less than 20ha) local and neighbourhood parks (including Garon's Park, Shoeburyness Park, Edwards Hall Park, Southchurch Park, and St Laurence Park, Churchill Gardens, Prittlewell Square)
- Belfair's Wood, Park and Nature Reserve - the flagship green space for the area with facilities for tennis, golf and horse riding, and is also a conservation site for the Heath fritillary butterfly.

Southend also promotes a variety of clubs and activities through the ActiveSouthend and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council partnership. Sports clubs include yoga, archery, athletics, cricket, bowls, dance, netball, and football. The Council, together with Basildon, Castle Point and Rochford Council's, has recently commissioned a South Essex Playing Pitch and Built Facilities Study, which will provide an up to date evidence base for the authorities in terms of sports facilities within the South Essex area and at a local authority level.

Given the highly developed nature of the Borough, there are deficiencies throughout the Borough area in terms of access to good quality sport and recreation infrastructure¹⁴³. **Figure 14** shows some of the existing protected green spaces within the Borough. There are only very limited areas of public open space, particularly green space, in the central area, with the exception of the seafront. Areas of importance to the central area include the Southend Cliffs formal gardens and The Shrubbery, as well as smaller areas of green space including Prittlewell Square Gardens.

The Southend-on-Sea Parks & Green Spaces Strategy¹⁴⁴ (2015) sets out a five year action plan with the following priorities for the Borough:

- To provide and maintain good quality parks and open spaces;
- To connect these spaces with a well maintained, attractive street scene;
- To provide recreation and sports facilities to encourage active, healthy lifestyles;
- To protect and promote our natural green heritage and biodiversity preserving it for future generations; and
- To encourage community involvement in the development and management of green spaces;

The action plan also includes timescales for action and describes how the above actions are going to be achieved, positively addressing the need to safeguard and enhance Southend's open spaces.

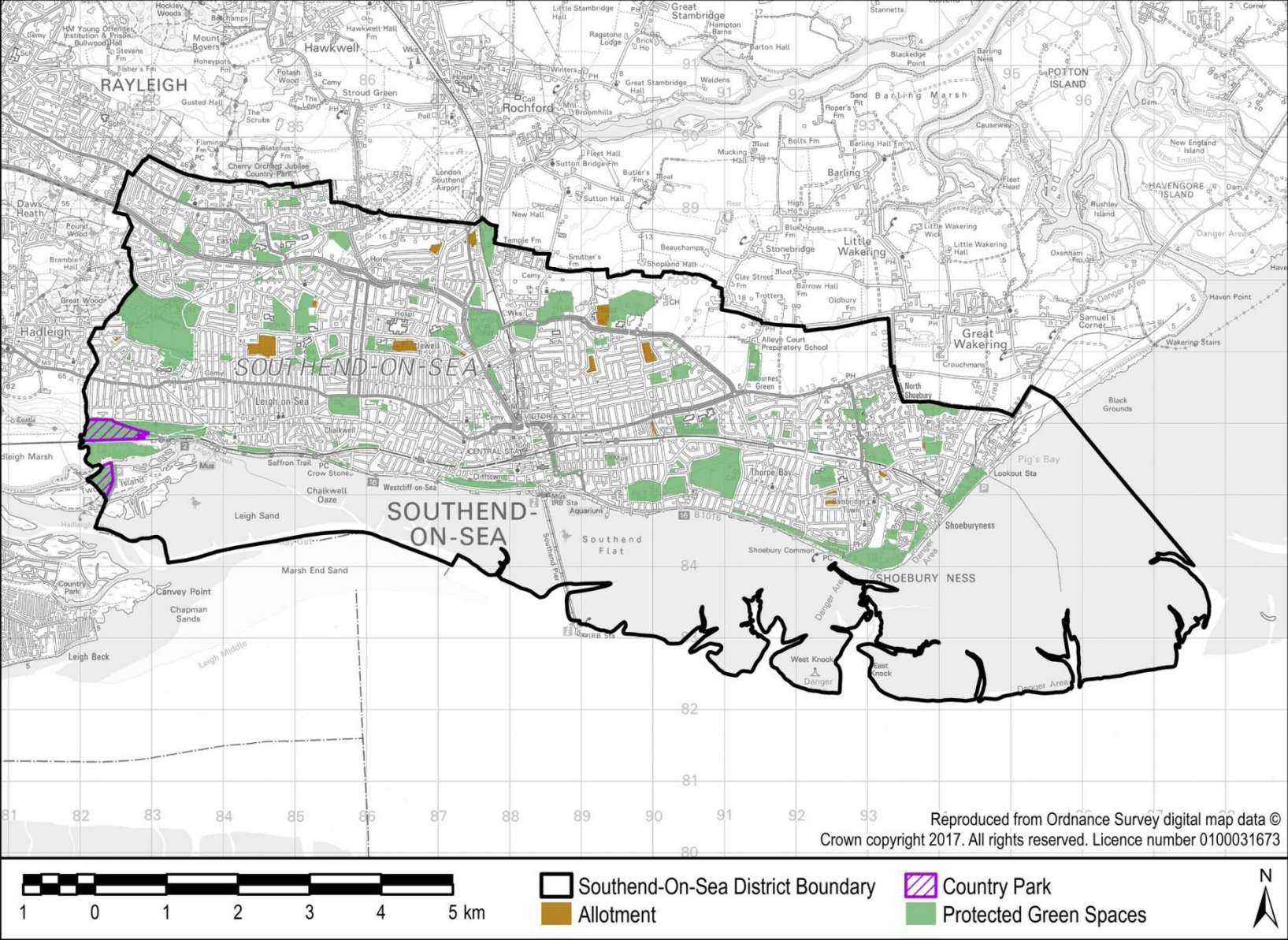
Cycle Southend' encourages cycling across the wider community, being supported by a £6.4 million grant from the Council and the Government. Cycle Southend is successful in increasing cycling in Southend, with the first 3 years of the project seeing an increase in cycling by 17%.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴³ Southend-on-Sea Core Strategy (2007)

¹⁴⁴ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Parks & Green Spaces Strategy [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3854/parks_and Greenspaces_strategy Accessed Oct 2017

¹⁴⁵ <http://www.cyclesouthend.co.uk/>

Figure 14: Open Space & Recreation



8.2.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Broadly speaking, the health of the population in Southend-on-Sea Borough is mixed. While in line with, and above, national averages in some instances (for example in relation to life expectancy), the Borough performs less well than national averages in others (for example in relation to violent crime rates and children in low income families).

Southend has an ageing population, and with a high proportion of single pensioner households, Southend faces potentially high levels of social isolation among older people, which can cause loneliness and may have resulting adverse effects on quality of life.¹⁴⁶

Obesity is seen as an increasing issue by health professionals, and one that will contribute to have significant health impacts on individuals, including increasing the risk of a range of diseases (heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancer). Adverse health impacts are also at risk of increasing as a result of the high percentage of the adult population smoking.

8.3 Key Issues

- The health of people in Southend Borough is mixed when compared to the national average.
- The Borough has a higher number of deaths attributable to smoking compared to the England average, and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Southend highlights that 20.5% of the adult population are smokers. If these trends continue there will be significant health impacts on individuals and increased pressure on healthcare services.
- Life expectancy in the Borough is 79.6 for men and 83.1 for women, which is slightly above the national average of 79.5 for men and slightly below the national average of 83.2 for women. It also highlights that life expectancy is 11.6 years lower for men and 10.7 years lower for women living in the most deprived areas of Southend-on-Sea Borough when compared to those living in the least deprived areas of the Borough.
- Around 21% (6,800) of children live in low income families.
- People aged 65 and over occupy almost two thirds of general and acute hospital beds and account for 50% of the recent growth in emergency admissions to hospitals in the Borough.¹⁴⁷
- Existing investment in the public realm, open spaces, sports facilities and walking and cycling infrastructure should be maintained and enhanced in order to encourage increased physical activity and reduce obesity levels.

¹⁴⁶ Age UK - Loneliness and Isolation Evidence Review [online] available at: <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/professional-resources-home/research/> Accessed Oct 2017

¹⁴⁷ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2013) Southend-on-Sea Health and Wellbeing Strategy

8.4 IIA Objectives

Table 14: IIA Objectives and assessment questions for Health and Wellbeing

IIA objective	Assessment questions
<p>Improve the health and wellbeing of Southend-on-Sea Borough's residents.</p> <p><i>Relevant SEA Topics:</i> <i>Population & human health</i></p> <p><i>Relevant NPPF Paragraphs:</i> 69 - 78</p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote accessibility to a range of leisure, health and community facilities for all age groups? • Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities? • Enhance multifunctional green infrastructure networks in the Borough? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to green infrastructure? • Improve access to the countryside for recreation?

9. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

9.1 Context Review

9.1.1 National

- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹⁴⁸:** These policies include:
 - To ‘boost significantly the supply of housing’, local planning authorities should meet the ‘full, objectively assessed need for market and affordable housing’ in their area. They should prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to assess their full housing needs, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to need over the plan period.
 - With a view to creating ‘sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities’ authorities should ensure provision of affordable housing onsite or externally where robustly justified.
 - The NPPF attaches great importance to the design of the built environment. It explains how good design is a key aspect in sustainable development, and how development should improve the quality of the area over its lifetime, not just in the short term. Good architecture and landscaping are important, with the use of design codes contributing to the delivery of high quality outcomes. Design should reinforce local distinctiveness, raise the standard more generally in the area and address the connections between people and places.
 - The social role of the planning system involves ‘supporting vibrant and healthy communities’.
 - The planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities.
 - Promote the retention and development of local services and community facilities such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.
 - Ensure that developments create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion. Places should contain clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public spaces, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
 - Ensuring that there is a ‘sufficient choice of school places’ is of ‘great importance’ and there is a need to take a ‘proactive, positive and collaborative approach’ to bringing forward ‘development that will widen choice in education’.
- **Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change report Ready for Ageing (2013)¹⁴⁹:** warns that society is underprepared for the ageing population. The report says that *‘longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises’*. The report says that the housing market is delivering much less specialist housing for older people than is needed. Central and local government, housing associations and house builders need urgently to plan how to ensure that the housing needs of the older population are better addressed and to give as much priority to promoting an adequate market and social housing for older people as is given to housing for younger people.

¹⁴⁸ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf Accessed Nov 2016.

¹⁴⁹ Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change (2013) Ready for Ageing? [online] available at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee/report-ready-for-ageing/> Accessed Nov 2016.

9.1.2 Local

- **Southend-on-Sea Core Strategy (adopted 2007)**¹⁵⁰: sets out the strategic goals and aspirations of the Borough, prioritising community infrastructure delivery and a quality environment (Policy CP6). Policy CP7 (Sport, Recreation and Green Space) further promotes community infrastructure, focusing on access to sport, recreational and green space, Local housing needs are addressed through Policy CP8 (Dwelling Provision), promoting the provision of housing for key workers.
- **Southend-on-Sea Development Management Plan (adopted 2015)**¹⁵¹: Seeks to help meet the housing, employment and infrastructure needs of communities within the Borough. This includes demonstrating the Council's ongoing commitment to equality, promoting cohesive communities in the Borough through area specific policy. Specific policies which address these commitments include DM7 (Dwelling Mix, Size and Type) and DM8 (Residential Standards). DM7 (Dwelling Mix, Size and Type) focuses on the Council's commitment to creating balanced and sustainable communities in the long term, providing dwellings of different types (including tenure) and sizes to help promote social inclusion. Policy DM8 (Residential Standards) aims to deliver good quality housing, ensuring that new developments contribute to a suitable and sustainable living environment now and for future generations. The policy further addresses the importance of standards and requirements, highlighting the NPPF as a key driver for the setting of standards locally.
- **Southend Central Area Action Plan (Current stage - examination)**¹⁵²: includes proposals for policy areas and opportunity sites aimed at strengthening and transporting Southend Town Centre as a successful retail and commercial destination, cultural hub, educational centre, leisure and tourist attraction and place to live.

9.2 Baseline Review

9.2.1 Summary of current baseline

The following baseline data has been broken down in relation to the protected characteristics of the Borough. No specific baseline data has been identified at this time for women who are pregnant or on maternity leave, and gender reassignment.

9.2.1.1 Age

The Population and Communities theme above (Section 7.21, Table 10) reveals that 10.3% of the Borough's population are aged 16-24 and 24.3% of the Borough's population are 60+. These figures are lower than the regional and national figures for the 16-24 age group, and higher than the regional and national figures for the 60+ age group.¹⁵³

The population of the Borough is predicted to grow 23% by 2039 reaching a total population of 214,000. The highest levels of growth are forecast the over 75 age ranges followed by the 60 to 74. The Borough is predicted to have a higher rate of growth compared to regional and national comparators in the 60 to 74 age ranges and lower rate of growth in the 75 over, particularly the 90 plus. It is forecast that the

¹⁵⁰ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2007) Core Strategy [online] available at:

http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1540/core_strategy_dpd1pdf Accessed Aug 2017

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Development management Document [online] available at:

http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3737/southend_development_management_document_adopted_version Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁵² Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2016) Southend Centre Area Action Plan [online] available at:

http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200420/development_plan_documents/391/southend_central_area_action_plan_scaap/4 Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁵³ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2013) Southend-on-Sea Local Economic Assessment Refresh (2013) [online] available at:

http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/2947/southend_on_sea_local_economic_assessment_2010 Accessed Aug 2017

Borough will also see a significant increase in the 25 to 29 age group (13%) compared to regional (7%) and national comparators (5%).¹⁵⁴

9.2.1.2 Carers

Approximately 10% (17,682 people) of the total population in the Borough provide some form of unpaid care with the majority providing 1 to 19 hours of unpaid care per week. Around 3.6% (6,270 people) of the total population provide unpaid care for over 20 hours per week. A higher proportion of the population providing unpaid care per week in the Borough are between the ages of 25 to 64 (7.2%), followed by 65 and over (2.4%) and a small proportion are under 24 (0.7%). Furthermore, of the total population providing unpaid care (17,682) around 58% are female and 42% are male.¹⁵⁵

9.2.1.3 Disability

Table 15 looks at the long-term health problem or disability status of residents in Southend-on-Sea Borough compared with regional and national comparators. Adapted from statistics compiled by the ONS, the data indicates the total persons within each status group, and the percentage of that group within the total population of each area.

Table 15: Long-term health problem or disability¹⁵⁶

Disability	Southend-on-Sea Borough	East	England
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	15,275 (8.8%)	434,168 (7.4%)	4,405,394 (8.3 %)
Day-to-day activities limited a little	16,841 (9.7%)	542,346 (9.3%)	4,947,192 (9.3%)
Day-to-day activities not limited	141,542 (81.5%)	4,870,451 (83.3%)	43,659,870 (82.4%)
Total	173,658 (100%)	5,846,965 (100%)	53,012,456 (100%)

As highlighted by the table above, the Borough has a higher proportion of individuals with long-term health problem or disability that limits day-to-day activities a lot, compared to national and regional averages, and a higher proportion of individuals with long-term health problem or disability that limits day-to-day activities a little, compared with all other comparators (9.7%). Those individuals with long-term health problems or disabilities whose activities are not limited, is however lower than the national and regional averages (81.5%).

The Essex Equality Strategy identifies that Colchester, Southend and Basildon have the highest number of people with a learning disability in Essex.¹⁵⁷

9.2.1.4 Marriage and civil partnership

Table 16 highlights the marital and civil partnership status of residents of Southend-on-Sea Borough compared with East of England and England. Adapted from statistics compiled by the ONS, the data indicates the total persons within each status group, and the percentage of that group within the total population of each area.

¹⁵⁴ ONS (2016) Subnational population projections for Local Authorities in England: Table 2 [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenlandtable2>

¹⁵⁵ ONS (2016) Number of carers in the UK [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyandgovernance/freedomofinformationfoi/numbersofcarersintheuk>

¹⁵⁶ ONS (2011) Long-term health problem or disability 2011 (QS303EW) [online] available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/QS303EW/view/2092957699?rows=c_disability&cols=rural_urban Accessed Sept 2017

¹⁵⁷ Essex County Council (2015) Essex County Council's Equalities Strategy 2015-2018 [online] available at: https://www.essex.gov.uk/Publications/Documents/EQUALITIES_POLICY.pdf

Table 16: Marital and civil partnership

Marital and civil partnership status	Southend on Sea Borough	East	England
Single	19,772 (26.5%)	531,442 (21.9%)	5,679,589 (25.7 %)
Married	30,597 (41%)	1,173,606 (48.4%)	9,907,599 (44.9%)
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	149 (0.2%)	4,305 (0.2%)	49,906 (0.2%)
Separated	3,350 (4.5%)	94,813 (3.2%)	910,503 (4.1%)
Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	12,007 (16.08%)	339,073 (14%)	3,013,163 (13.7%)
Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	8,803 (11.79%)	279,816 (11.5%)	2,484,608 (11.3%)
Total	74,678 (100%)	2,423,035 (100%)	22,063,368 (100%)

As highlighted by the above table, the Borough has a higher proportion of individuals that are single and a lower proportion of individuals that are married compared to national and regional averages. There is also a higher number of divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which are now legally dissolved compared to regional and national averages, comprising 16.8% of the population.

9.2.1.5 Race

Table 11 in Chapter 7 provides a breakdown of the ethnic diversity of Southend-on-Sea Borough compared to the East of England and England. It highlights that Southend-on-Sea has a lower ethnic diversity compared to the regional and national figures. 87% of Southend-on-Sea Borough is comprised of White English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British, which is slightly higher than the East of England (85.2%) and notably higher than England (79.5%).

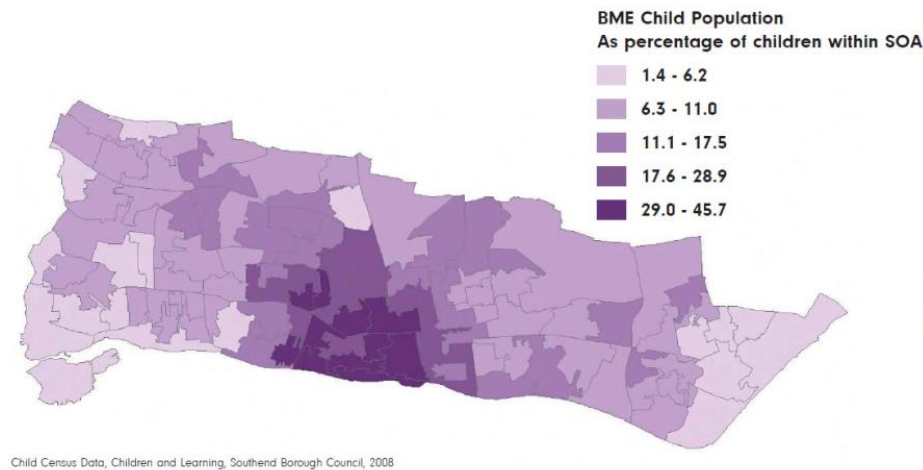
It should be noted that since 2011 there has been an increase in the number of National Insurance (NINo) number allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK and the Borough. It rose from 738 applications in 2012 to 1,251 in 2016.¹⁵⁸ This shows an increase in overseas adult migrants within the Borough during this period.

Figure 15 shows residencies of black, asian and minority ethnic (BAME) school age children in the Borough.¹⁵⁹ The highest proportion of BAME children live in the central wards of Milton, Victoria and Kursaal.

¹⁵⁸ Department for Work and Pensions (2013) National Insurance number allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-insurance-number-allocations-to-adult-overseas-nationals-entering-the-uk>

¹⁵⁹ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (201) Southend-on-Sea Local Economic Assessment [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/2947/southend_on_sea_local_economic_assessment_2010 Accessed Aug 2017

Figure 15: Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Population Density for School Age Children in Southend-on-Sea



9.2.1.6 Religion or belief

Table 17 identifies the religious diversity of Southend-on-Sea compared with East of England and England. Adapted from statistics compiled by the ONS, the data indicates the total persons within each religious group, and the percentage of that group within the total population of each area.

Table 17: Religion¹⁶⁰

Religion	Southend on Sea Borough	East	England
Christian	93,128 (56.6%)	3,367,709 (59.6%)	31,433,685 (59.4 %)
Buddhist	776 (0.5%)	21,921 (0.4%)	238,108 (0.4%)
Hindu	1,191 (0.72%)	55,357 (1%)	804,398 (1.5%)
Jewish	1,939 (1.2%)	30,581 (0.5%)	260,875 (0.5%)
Muslim	3,239 (2%)	149,067 (2.6%)	2,656,043 (5%)
Sikh	164 (0.1%)	18,057 (0.3%)	419,526 (0.8%)
Other religion	821 (0.5%)	24,440 (0.4%)	227,554 (0.4%)
No religion	50,256 (30.6%)	1,568,814 (27.8%)	13,098,950 (24.7%)
Religion not stated	12,859 (7.8%)	411,795 (7.3%)	3,797,911 (7.2%)
Total	164,373 (100%)	5,647,741 (100%)	52,937,050 (100%)

¹⁶⁰ ONS (2011) Religion 2011 (WD210EW) [online] available at:
<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/WD210EW/view/1946157203?cols=measures> Accessed Aug 2017

As highlighted by the above table, the Borough has a slightly lower proportion of individuals that are Christian compared to national and regional averages, with a higher proportion of people that are Jewish within the Borough compared to comparators. There are also a slightly higher number of people who are not religious compared to regional and national averages, comprising 30.6% of the population.

9.2.1.7 Socio-economic

Table 18 sets out the percentage of the population that fell within the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) in 2011.

Table 18: Percentage of the population by socio-economic classification in 2011¹⁶¹

Socio-economic classification	Southend	East	England
1. Higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations	13.7%	15.6%	14.5%
2. Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations	25%	25.6%	23.5%
3. Intermediate occupations	12%	10.9%	10%
4. Small employers and own account workers	14.1%	15.5%	13%
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	8.1%	8.3%	8.5%
6. Semi-routine occupations	12%	10.9%	12.4%
7. Routine occupations	10%	9.3%	11.4%
8. Never worked and long-term unemployed	4%	2.8%	4.3%

In 2011, there was a slightly lower proportion of people in higher managerial, administrative and professional and a slightly higher number of people in intermediate occupations compared to regional and national comparators.

Figure 10 in Section 7 illustrates the varied levels of deprivation across the Borough. Southend-on-Sea is one of Essex's most deprived areas, with some areas of persistent deprivation in the Borough being among the worst in the country¹⁶². Within the Borough areas of Prittlewell, Central Southend, northern Southchurch and parts of Shoeburyness fall within the poorest nationally¹⁶³.

By contrast, Southend also has some pockets of high affluence, including the western areas of Leigh, Chalkwell, Noble's Green and Thorpe Bay to the east of the Borough. The spread of deprivation reflects in the varied levels of child poverty and life expectancy across the Borough.

9.2.1.8 Gender

Table 19 provides a breakdown of the population by the sex for Southend-on-Sea Borough compared with East of England and England. The data shows that the Borough has a slightly higher proportion of females compared to national and regional averages, with a lower proportion of males. It is recognised however that this increase is marginal, with a less than 1% difference between that of the Borough and other comparators.

¹⁶¹ ONS (2011) NS-SeC of Household Reference Person (QS608UK) [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/2011censuskeystatisticsandquickstatisticsforlocalauthoritiesintheunitedkingdompart3> Accessed Sept 2017

¹⁶² Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2010) Economic Development & Tourism Strategy Refresh [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/2519/economic_development_and_tourism_strategy_refresh_2010 Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁶³ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (date unknown) Southend Character Study: Southend Today [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1684/southend_character_study_-_2_southend_today.pdf Accessed Aug 2017

Table 19: Gender

Sex	Southend on Sea Borough	East	England
Males	85,037 (49%)	2,875,807 (49.2%)	26,069,148 (49.2 %)
Females	88,621 (51%)	2,971,158 (50.8%)	26,943,308 (50.8%)
Total	173,658 (100%)	5,846,965 (100%)	53,012,456 (100%)

9.2.1.9 Sexual orientation

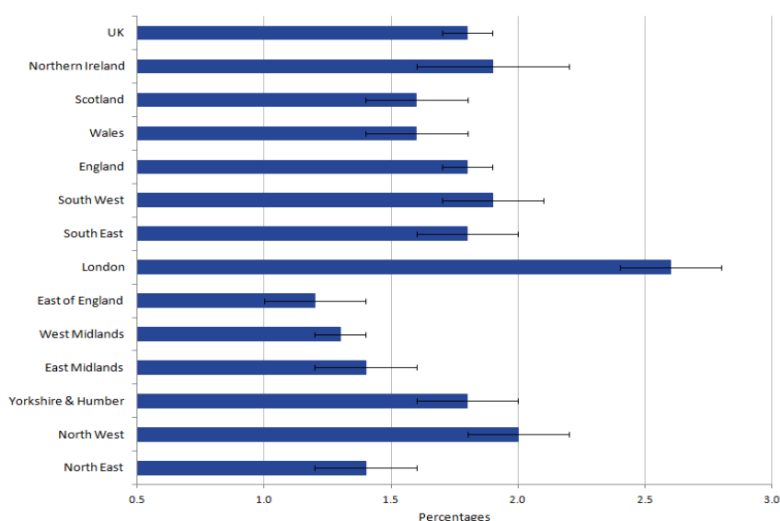
In 2015, 1.7% of the UK population identified themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB). More males (2.0%) than females (1.5%) identified themselves as LGB in 2015.¹⁶⁴

Figure 16 identifies the gay or lesbian and bisexual population by region. The figure highlights that the East of England has the lowest proportion of gay or lesbian and bisexual individuals compared to regional and national averages.

Figure 16: English Region and UK Country by gay or lesbian and bisexual population¹⁶⁵

Figure 4: English Region and UK Country by gay or lesbian and bisexual population, 2015

UK



9.2.2 Summary of future baseline

The Borough, in common with many other areas, is experiencing an ageing population. If this trend were to continue, there may be implications for health service provision and the provision of other services, facilities and amenities.

¹⁶⁴ ONS (2015) Sexual Identity, UK [online] available at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/bulletins/sexualidentityuk/2015> Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

Without the new Local Plan it will be more difficult to reduce inequalities across ethnic groups and areas of the Borough through the delivery of new housing, employment and infrastructure. The Borough's religious and LGBT diversity is narrow, and is expected to continue as such given the similar characteristics of the wider region.

9.3 Key Issues

- Slightly more women than men live in the Borough.
- The Borough has a higher proportion of individuals with long-term health problem or disability that limits day-to-day activities a lot, compared to national and regional averages. Including a significantly higher than average rate of people with learning disabilities.
- The East of England has the lowest proportion of gay or lesbian and bisexual individuals compared to regional and national averages.
- The highest proportion of BAME children live in the central wards of Milton, Victoria and Kursaal which contain some of the most deprived areas in England.
- The Borough has a higher proportion of individuals that are single and a lower proportion of people that are married compared to national and regional averages.
- The Borough has a slightly lower proportion of individuals that are Christian compared to national and regional averages and a higher proportion of people that are Jewish. There are also a higher number of people which are not religious compared to regional and national averages, comprising 30.6% of the local population.
- There are health inequalities within the Borough with life expectancy 11.6 years lower for men and 10.7 years lower for women living in the most deprived areas than the rest of the Borough.
- Around 21% (6,800) of children live in low income families.
- The Borough, in common with many other areas, is experiencing an ageing population.
- There is a high level of private renting in the Borough, and higher than national average house prices.
- Levels of deprivation vary across the Borough, with some areas being among the most deprived in the country and others within the least deprived.

9.4 IIA Objectives

Table 20: IIA Objectives and assessment questions for Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion

IIA objective	Assessment questions
Advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people in the Borough.	Will the option/proposal help to:
<i>Relevant SEA Topics:</i> <i>Population & human health</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the needs of all people in the Borough? • Encourage the integration and interaction of different people/communities? • Reduce inequalities? • Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics?
<i>Relevant NPPF Paragraphs:</i> 69 - 78	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to housing, employment, training, health and leisure opportunities?

10. Transport and Movement

10.1 Context Review

10.1.1 National

- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**¹⁶⁶:
 - Use technology to reduce the need to travel;
 - Encourage land use and transport development which support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduced congestion; and
 - Ensure that developments that generate significant traffic movements are located where the need to travel can be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes can be maximised.
- **National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)**¹⁶⁷:
 - It is important for local planning authorities to undertake an assessment of the transport implications in developing or reviewing their Local Plan so that a robust transport evidence base may be developed to support the preparation and/or review of that Plan.

10.1.2 Regional

- **South East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Growth Deal (2014)**¹⁶⁸: will include big investments in local roads and rail which will help open up major new sites for housing and business development. The deal will support a simpler, streamlined service for businesses to enable them to grow and prosper, as well as investment for colleges and training to boost the skills of local people to make them better able to take advantage of new career opportunities.

10.1.3 Local

- **Southend-on-Sea Core Strategy (adopted 2007)**¹⁶⁹: includes a range of policies that seek to improve accessibility to sustainable transport modes and reduce reliance on the private. Policy CP3 (Transport and Accessibility) in particular focuses on in the Borough's transport infrastructure; widening travel choices through improvements to the road and rail network, easing traffic flows and accessibility. Specific improvements include the A127/A1159 east-west strategic transport and freight corridor including junction improvements at Progress Road, Kent Elms, The Bell, Cuckoo Corner, Sutton Road, Fairfax Drive, East/West Street and Victoria Circus.
- **Southend-on-Sea Development Management Plan (adopted 2015)**¹⁷⁰: includes a policy (DM15) on Sustainable Transport Management which requires developments that generate significant amounts of movement to include a supporting Transport Statement or Transport Assessment. Policy DM4 requires that all tall and large building developments will be located in a sustainable area with frequent public transport links. Policy DM12 also requires visitor accommodation to relate well to strategic routes and the distributor road network and have good transport and accessibility, meeting the requirements of other planning policies.

¹⁶⁶ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁶⁷ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/> Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁶⁸ South East Local Enterprise Partnership (2014) Southend Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal Executive summary [online] available at: <http://www.southeastlep.com/growth-deal>

¹⁶⁹ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2007) Core Strategy [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1540/core_strategy_dpd1pdf Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁷⁰ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Development management Document [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3737/southend_development_management_document_adopted_version Accessed Aug 2017

- **Southend Central Area Action Plan (Current stage - examination)**¹⁷¹: includes a policy (DS5) which sets out principles to manage travel and access in the central area with a focus on more sustainable modes.
- **Southend Local Transport Plan 3 Strategy Document 2011-2026 (2015)**¹⁷²: Sets out the vision and objectives for a high quality, accessible and free flowing transport system that supports economic development and regeneration across the Borough. The implementation plan includes a range of actions for the Borough, including better networks and traffic management schemes.
- **Transport Asset Management Strategy (2016)**¹⁷³: is the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's primary transport asset planning tool to ensure the Council can manage the highway infrastructure and public realm sustainability. It sets out the contribution to the wider Local Transport Plan and other strategies at the local level, and identifies and quantifies long term planning risks that may affect the ability to deliver highway services in a sustainable fashion.

10.2 Baseline Review

10.2.1 Summary of Current Baseline

10.2.1.1 Road network and congestion

Connectivity to and from the Borough is restricted by its geography, being bound by the River Thames and North Sea to the east and south. There are no motorways within Southend-on-Sea Borough; however, there are good links via the A13 and A127 to the M25.

Much of the inter-urban network in the sub-region is acknowledged by the Essex Transport Plan¹⁷⁴ and the Southend-on-Sea Local Transport Plan 3¹⁷⁵ as being at or near capacity with particular problems for the A127 and A13 providing important links between the Thames Gateway centres and London. There are a number of congestion issues in the Borough mainly attributed to local journeys, school runs and commuting to London. Core Strategy Policy CP3 (Transport and Accessibility) focuses on improvements to the Borough's road network. Specific network locations undergoing improvements include the A127/A1159 east-west strategic transport and freight corridor, including junction improvements at Progress Road, Kent Elms, The Bell, Cuckoo Corner, Sutton Road, Fairfax Drive, East/West Street and Victoria Circus.

10.2.1.2 Rail network

Southend-on-Sea benefits from two mainline railway connections. The first is the line from London Fenchurch Street which terminates at Shoeburyness, and the second is from London Liverpool Street which terminates at Southend Victoria. Both offer services which make it practicable to commute to London and surrounding towns for employment and leisure. There are nine stations within the borough, two providing access to the Liverpool Street line and seven providing access to the Fenchurch Street line.

¹⁷¹ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2016) Southend Centre Area Action Plan [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200420/development_plan_documents/391/southend_central_area_action_plan_scaap/4 Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁷² Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Southend Local Transport Plan 3 Strategy Document 2011-2026 o[online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200242/transport_policies_and_traffic_regulation_orders/343/local_transport_plans Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁷³ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2016) Transport Asset Management: Guiding Principles and Action Plan for Development [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200242/transport_policies_and_traffic_regulation_orders/343/local_transport_plans Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁷⁴ Essex County Council (2012) Local Transport Plan [online] available at: <http://www.essexhighways.org/Highway-Schemes-and-Developments/Local-Transport-Plan.aspx> Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁷⁵ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Southend Local Transport Plan 3 Strategy Document 2011-2026 [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200242/transport_policies_and_traffic_regulation_orders/343/local_transport_plans Accessed Aug 2017

10.2.1.3 Walking and cycling network

Southend-on-Sea has a good cycle and walking opportunities, with the national and regional sustrans cycle network running throughout the Borough, including along the seafront.,

A series of 'greenways' have been proposed in the town to provide attractive routes for cycling and walking, contributing towards a 'Green Grid' of open spaces and linkages being developed throughout Essex Thames Gateway as part of the area's regeneration¹⁷⁶.

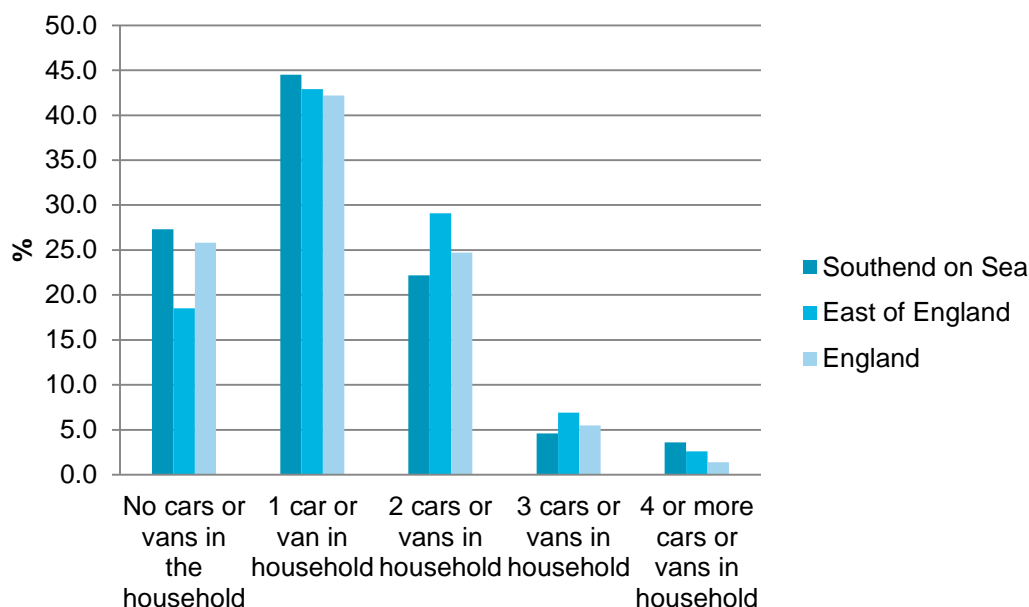
'Cycle Southend' encourages cycling across the wider community, being supported by a £6.4 million grant from the Council and the Government. Cycle Southend is successful in increasing cycling in Southend, with the first 3 years of the project seeing an increase in cycling by 17%.¹⁷⁷

10.2.1.4 Availability of cars and vans

Figure 17 highlights the availability of cars and vans in the Borough¹⁷⁸. The proportion of households with no access to a car/van is significantly higher than regional averages, and slightly higher than national averages, whilst the proportion of the population with two or more cars/vans is significantly lower than both regional and national averages. The proportion of households with three or more vehicles is also lower than all comparators. In contrast, the proportion of households with one car or van is higher than both the regional and national average.

The reasonably low car ownership reflects the Borough's urban nature and strong transport links.

Figure 17: Car and van ownership



10.2.1.5 Travel to work

Figure 18 shows the method of travel to work for residents in the Borough. As highlighted by the figure, the proportion of people who travel to work on foot is higher than regional and national comparators. A lower proportion of people travel to work by driving a car or van than all other comparable areas; however, this level is still significant for the Borough at 33.1%. Reflecting the region's good rail links and

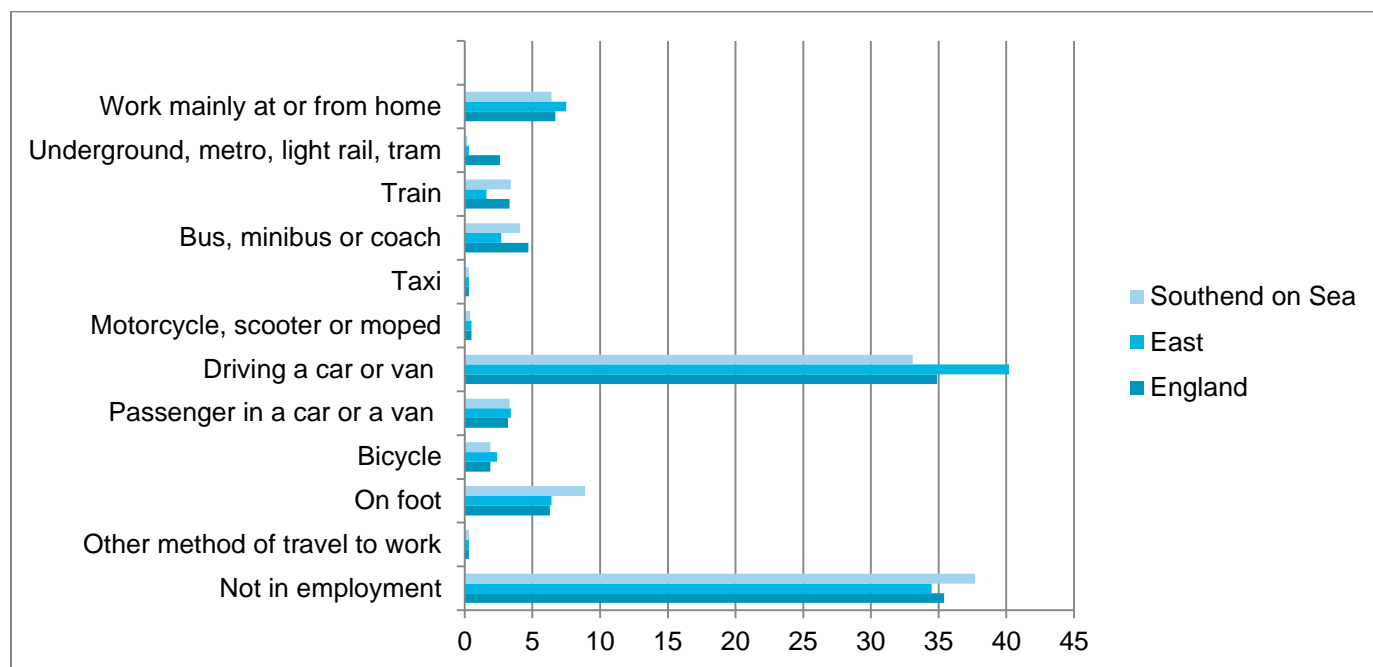
¹⁷⁶ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2007) Core Strategy [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1540/core_strategy_dpd1pdf Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁷⁷ <http://www.cyclesouthend.co.uk/>

¹⁷⁸ ONS (2011) Car or van availability [online] available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/qs416ew> Accessed Aug 2017

number of stations, a higher proportion of people travel to work by train within Southend and Essex compared with the regional average.

Figure 18: Method of travel to work



10.2.1.6 Airport

London Southend Airport lies to the north of the Borough in Rochford District. The airport is a key regional and European hub, serving business and leisure passengers flying within the UK, Europe and beyond. In April 2012, a proposed extension to the new terminal at London Southend Airport was given planning permission by Rochford Council. The extension was to accommodate the increasing numbers of passengers visiting the airport; these numbers are expected to increase to 2 million per year by 2020.¹⁷⁹

The London Southend Airport JAAP (2014) highlights the potential of the airport as a driver for the sub-regional economy, providing significant employment opportunities and ensuring a good quality of life for its residents and workers. Improvements to the airport will ensure it is able to accommodate the latest advances in medium sized passenger aeroplanes (100 to 150 seats). Passengers will travel to destinations in Europe and beyond from a modern terminal building linked to a mainline railway station and with good road access to the A127. The rail link to/from the airport is good, running at peak times with 8 trains per hour from Southend Airport Station to Central London. The journey time from London Liverpool Street Station is 53 minutes. The airport is also served well by the road network and can be reached by the A127, A12 or A13. It is noted that the road network surrounding the airport is at/near capacity, as highlighted in Section 10.2.1.1

10.2.2 Summary of Future Baseline

Reasonably low levels of car ownership reflects the Borough's predominately urban nature and strong transport links, suggesting that the car may not be the dominant form of transport in the Borough over the coming years. However, new housing and employment provision has the potential to increase traffic flows without appropriate mitigation. As such, congestion is likely to continue to be an issue for parts of the Borough. Whilst negative effects of new development on the transport network are likely to be mitigated to a degree, there will be a continuing need for development to be situated in accessible locations which limit the need to travel by private car.

¹⁷⁹ London Southend Airport Website [online] available at: <http://www.southendairport.com/about/about-us/> Accessed Aug 2017

Given the Borough's proximity to London, and good links available locally, travel by rail is likely to continue to be a dominant mode of travel for work purposes. Other sustainable transport trends are also expected to be utilised as a result of the existing high commuter levels when compared with regional and national averages. This includes walking and travel by bus, minibuss or coach, and cycling. The new secured Local Sustainable Transport Fund is expected to see further uptake of cycling by residents through the Cycle Southend scheme.

10.3 Key Issues & Objectives

- Reasonably low levels of car ownership in the Borough.
- There are existing capacity issues on the highway network, with particular traffic hotspots on A127 and A13.
- A higher proportion of people travel to work by train as well as other sustainable transport modes (bicycle or on foot) than regionally or nationally. This is likely due to schemes such as Cycle Southend.
- New development areas should be situated in sustainable locations which limit the need to travel by the private car.

10.4 IIA Objectives

Table 21: IIA Objectives and decision-aiding questions for Transport and Movement

IIA objective	Assessment questions
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	Will the option/proposal help to:
<i>Relevant SEA Topics:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development?
<i>Population, human health & material assets</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel? • Enable transport infrastructure improvements? • Facilitate working from home and remote working?
<i>Relevant NPPF Paragraphs:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide improvements to and/ or reduce congestion on the existing highway network?
29 - 41	

11. Economy

11.1 Context Review

11.1.1 National

- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹⁸⁰:**

- The planning system can make a contribution to building a strong, responsive economy by 'ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure'.
- Capitalise on 'inherent strengths', and to meet the 'twin challenges of global competition and of a low carbon future'.
- Support new and emerging business sectors, including positively planning for 'clusters or networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries'.
- Support competitive town centre environments.
- Edge of town developments should only be considered where they have good access. This should be followed with an impact assessment to ensure the town centre remains viable in the long term.
- Enhance and retain markets is also outlined.

Local Plans should:

- Set out a clear economic vision and strategy for their area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth
- Support existing business sectors
- Plan for new or emerging sectors
- Flexibility to accommodate needs not anticipated
- Identify priority areas for economic regeneration
- Facilitate flexible working practices
- Policies should avoid protecting land for employment where there is no reasonable prospect of a site being used for the allocated employment use

- **National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)¹⁸¹:**

- A positive vision or strategy for town centres, articulated through the Local Plan, is key to ensuring successful town centres which enable sustainable economic growth and provide a wide range of social and environmental benefits.

- **The Local Growth White Paper (2010)¹⁸²:** notes that government interventions should support investment that will have a long term impact on growth, working with markets rather than seeking to create artificial and unsustainable growth. The White Paper identifies that economic policy should be judged on the degree to which it delivers strong, sustainable and balanced growth of income and employment over the long-term. More specifically, growth should be: broad-based industrially and

¹⁸⁰ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Policy Framework [online] available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁸¹ Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) National Planning Practice Guidance [online] available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/> Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁸² Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, 2010, Local Growth: Realising Every Place's Potential [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-growth-realising-every-places-potential-hc-7961> Accessed Aug 2017

geographically, ensuring everyone has access to the opportunities that growth brings (including future generations), whilst also focused on businesses that compete with the best internationally.

11.1.2 Regional

- **The Greater Essex Integrated County Strategy (2010)**¹⁸³: provides a shared vision across all local authorities in Greater Essex, identifying the priorities needed to achieve increased economic growth. The broad strategic focus of the strategy is on the Thames Gateway, key towns and low carbon energy.
- **South East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Growth Deal (2014)**¹⁸⁴: will include big investments in local roads and rail which will help open up major new sites for housing and business development. The deal will support a simpler, streamlined service for businesses to enable them to grow and prosper, as well as investment for colleges and training to boost the skills of local people to make them better able to take advantage of new career opportunities.

11.1.3 Local

- **Southend-on-Sea Core Strategy (adopted 2007)**¹⁸⁵: includes a range of policies that seek to encourage development that enables economic growth and diversity. This includes policy CP1 that supports the creation and retention of a range of jobs, educational and re-skilling opportunities, making provision for not less than 6,500 net additional jobs by 2011, and not less than 13,000 net additional jobs by 2021, including distribution. Policy KP1 (Spatial Strategy) identifies the primary focus for regeneration and growth as Southend town centre and central area. In addition, appropriate regeneration and growth will be focussed at the seafront and at Shoeburyness.
- **Southend Cultural Strategy (2012)**¹⁸⁶: sets out a range of strategic objectives to take forward to ensure residents and tourists can benefit from the cultural opportunities in Southend. Objectives include raising the profile of Cultural Services of Southend-on-Sea by creating a thriving and creative regional centre where people want to live, work and visit.
- **Southend Local Economics Assessment (2013)**¹⁸⁷: provides an update on development milestones achieved in Southend-on-Sea and changes to the economic development policy and associated architecture in England. It also provides a detailed comparative review of the Southend-on-Sea economy, identifying the Borough as a mixed economy not wholly dependent on a smaller number of big employers or smaller sectors.
- **Southend-on-Sea Development Management Plan (adopted 2014)**¹⁸⁸: includes policies that support local regeneration objectives and improvements to local businesses.
- **Southend Central Area Action Plan (Current stage - examination)**¹⁸⁹: Policies set out measures to enhance the visitor economy through public realm, built environment and connectivity improvements within the Central Area. Further detail is included in relevant Policy Area policies, including for Victoria Avenue Office Area Opportunity Site (PA8.1), to promote small scale, flexible office space.

¹⁸³ Essex County Council (2014) Integrated County Strategy [online] available at: <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Your-Council/Strategies-Policies/Integrated-County-Strategy/Pages/Default.aspx> Accessed Nov 2016

¹⁸⁴ South East Local Enterprise Partnership (2014) Southend Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal Executive summary [online] available at: <http://www.southeastlep.com/growth-deal> Accessed Oct 2017

¹⁸⁵ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2007) Core Strategy [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/1540/core_strategy_dpd1pdf Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁸⁶ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2012) Southend Cultural Strategy Accessed Oct 2017

¹⁸⁷ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2013) Southend-on-Sea Local Economic Assessment [online] available at: Southend-on-Sea Local Economic Assessment Accessed Oct 2017

¹⁸⁸ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2015) Development management Document [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/file/3737/southend_development_management_document_adopted_version Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁸⁹ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2016) Southend Central Area Action Plan [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200420/development_plan_documents/391/southend_central_area_action_plan_scaap/4 Accessed Aug 2017

- **London Southend Airport and Environs Joint Area Action Plan (JAAP)**¹⁹⁰: includes several policies relating to employment. The creation of two new business parks is intended to open up new, significant opportunities for investment in the area and to act as a catalyst for the regeneration of the existing Aviation Way Industrial Estate.
- **South East Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan (2014)**¹⁹¹: provides a private/public partnership approach to planning and governance of the Local Enterprise Partnership, setting out a joint strategy and priorities for funding and providing governance. The Plan focuses on investment in growth corridors, sites and infrastructure.
- **Destination Southend-on-Sea - A Tourism Strategy and destination plan for the Borough of Southend (2017)**: presents an updated vision and supporting objectives based on the Borough's economy and its key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Key themes and objectives include communications & marketing, and destination development, with focus placed on Southend Pier, welcoming 1 million visitors by year by 2027 with a renewed offer at the shore.
- **Southend-on-Sea Economic Growth Strategy (2017)**¹⁹²: steers the activities undertaken by the Council in maximising the economic benefit to residents. It proposes a revised approach to developing the local economy, ensuring that the power of economic growth is harnessed to improve every aspect of life in Southend; from healthcare to educational attainment.

11.1.4 Summary of Current Baseline

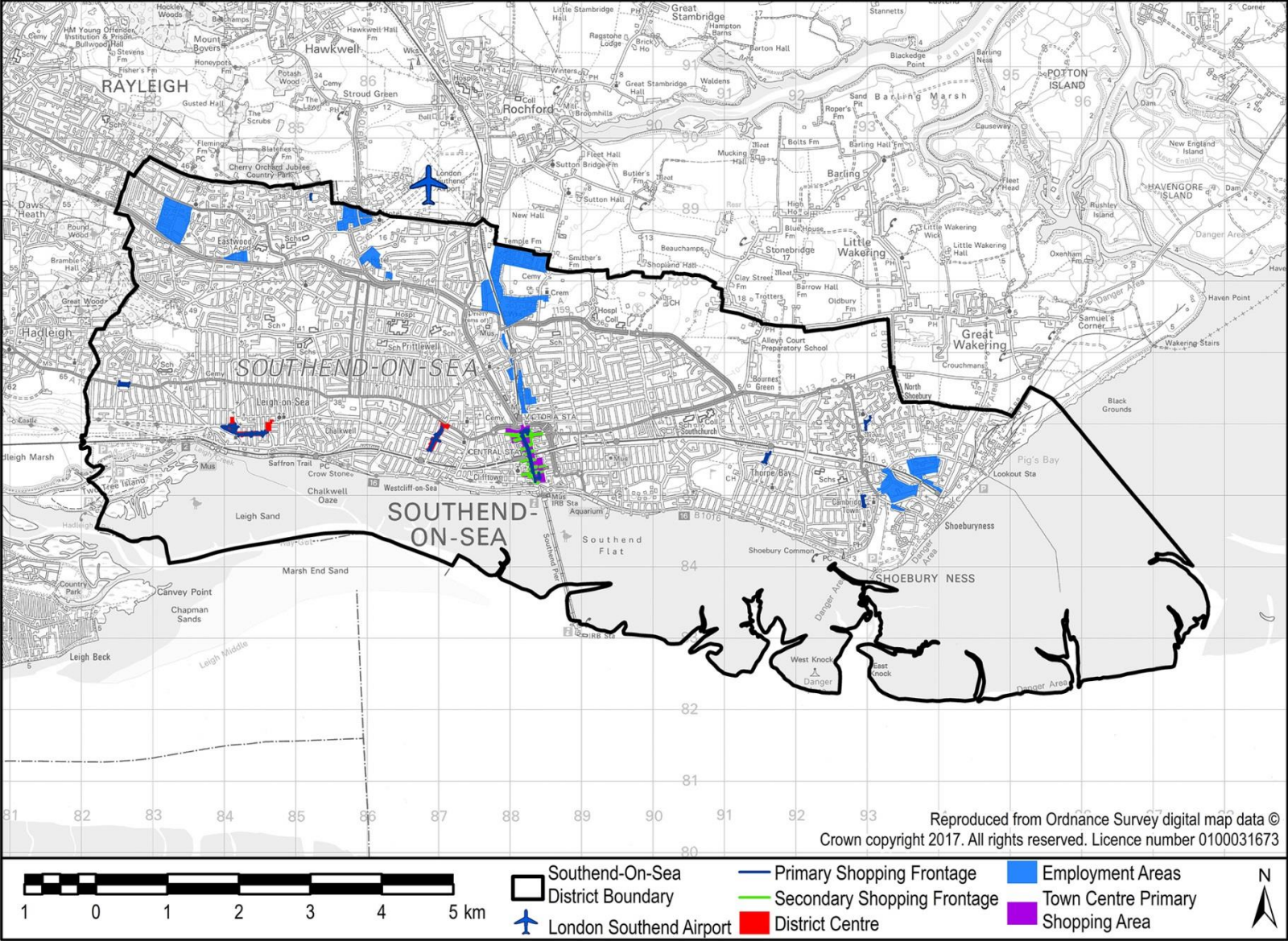
The Borough's economy is broad-based; the balance of employment is not skewed by one dominant sector or large employer. 86.6% of businesses in the Borough employ less than ten people, and 2.4% of companies in the Borough employ 50 people or more. **Figure 19** identifies existing employment and shopping areas as well as centres.

¹⁹⁰ Rochford District Council and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2014) London Southend Airport and Environs Joint Area Action Plan (JAAP) [online] available at: <https://www.rochford.gov.uk/london-southend-airport-and-environs-jaap-evidence-base-%E2%80%93-93-documents/london-southend-airport-and-environs-jaap-evidence-base-%E2%80%93-93-documents/> Accessed Oct 2017

¹⁹¹ South East Local Enterprise Partnership (2014) South East Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan [online] available at: <http://southeastlep.com/> Accessed Aug 2017

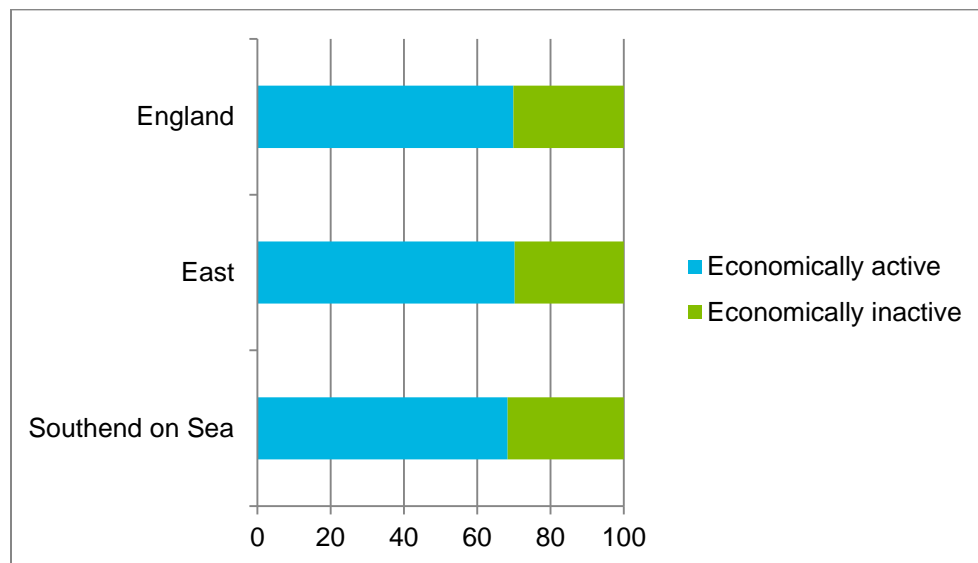
¹⁹² Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2017) Economic Growth Strategy [online] available at: https://www.southend.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/2519/economic_development_and_tourism_strategy_refresh_2010.pdf Accessed Oct 2017

Figure 19: Employment and shopping areas



As **Figure 20** illustrates below, economic activity rates are slightly lower than regional and national comparators.

Figure 20: Economic Activity Rates



Rates of full time employment in Southend-on-Sea (32.2%) are slightly lower than regional levels (37.7%) and national levels (38.6%). Rates of part-time employment in Southend-on-Sea are higher (16.8%) than regional (14.6%) and national (13.7%) levels.

The average unemployment rate in the Borough is also higher regional and national unemployment averages. According to the 2011 census data unemployment in the Borough was 5.4%, compared to 4.0% in the East and 4.4% for England.

The population of the Borough is generally less qualified compared to regional and national figures. In Southend only 20% of residents aged 16 and above having at least a Level 4 Qualification¹⁹³, as shown in **Figure 21**. This is lower than the regional (24.7%) and national (27.3%) comparators¹⁹⁴. There are slightly more people in the Borough that have no qualifications (26%) compared to the regional (23.3%) and national (22.5%) average.

¹⁹³ ONS (2011) Census 2011, Qualifications and Students (WD501EW) [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census> Accessed Aug 2017

¹⁹⁴ Ibid.

Figure 21: Highest level of qualification

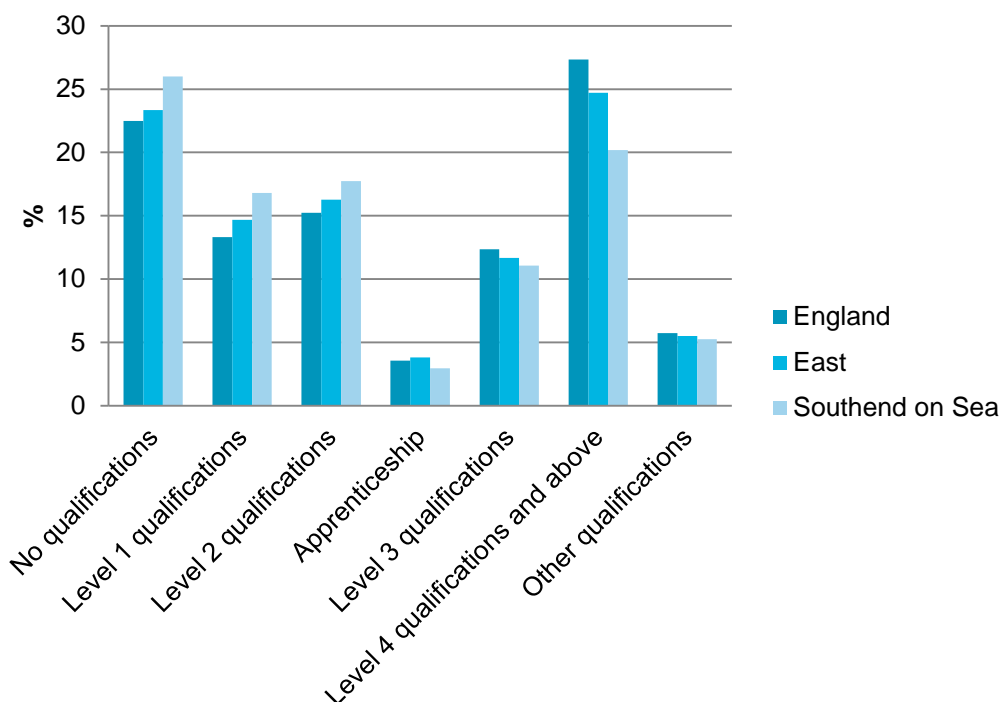
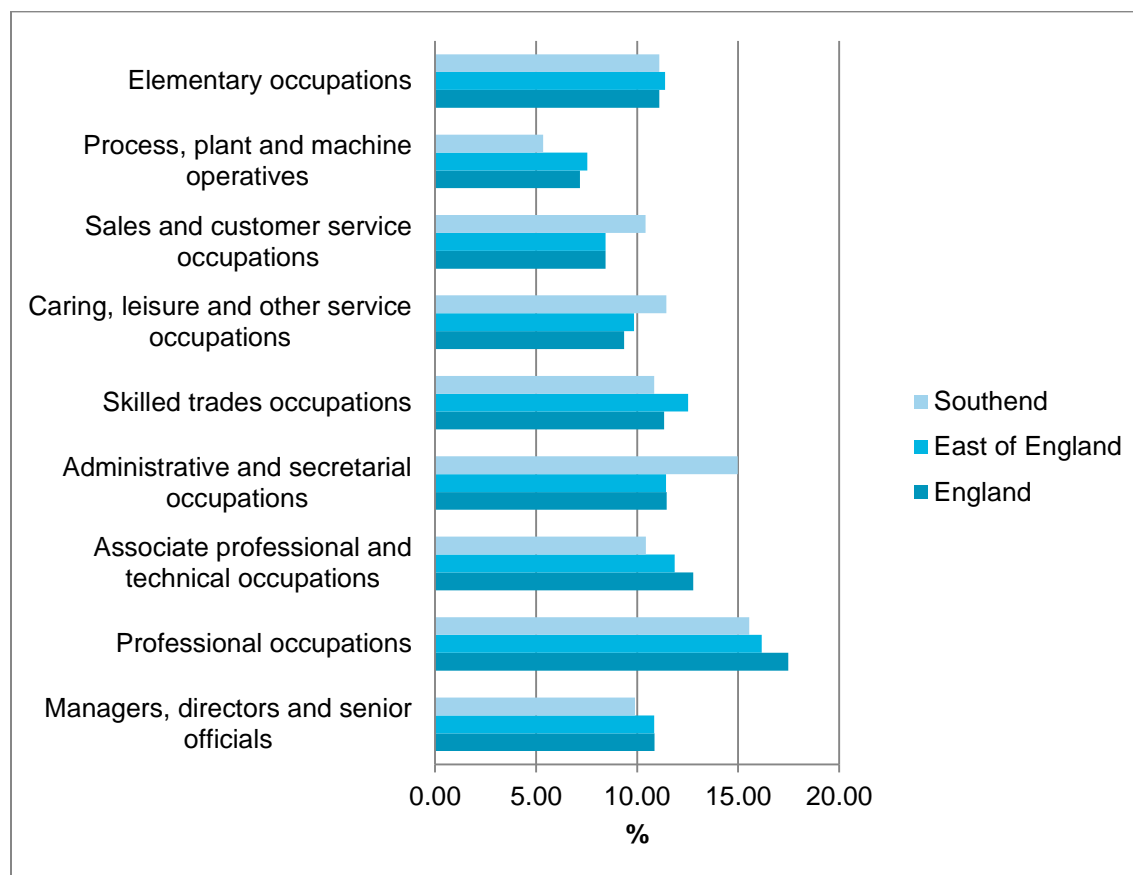


Figure 22 highlights the occupation of working-age residents¹⁹⁵. Overall, the occupation profile for Southend-on-Sea Borough is broadly aligned with regional and national averages, with some notable exceptions. The Borough has significantly larger proportions of people in 'administrative and secretarial' roles, and significantly fewer in 'process, plant and machine operatives' when compared to regional and national averages. This may be reflective of the types of employment available in the Borough.

¹⁹⁵ ONS (2011) Occupation 2011 (WD606EW) [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census> Accessed Aug 2017

Figure 22: The occupation of residents aged 16 to 74 in employment



11.1.5 Summary of Future Baseline

The population of the Borough is generally less qualified compared to regional and national figures. The Borough has significantly larger proportions of people in 'administrative and secretarial' roles, and significantly fewer in 'process, plant and machine operatives' when compared to regional and national averages; these trends are likely to continue in the absence of a major shift in the nature of the local economy.

The Borough has a higher unemployment level compared to the regional and national levels. If this trend were to continue this may lead to increased poverty and deprivation in the Borough. The Borough has an important tourism offer, which provides significant opportunities for the economy.

The London Southend Airport JAAP (2014) highlights the projected growth of the airport, concluding that there is the potential for passenger movement to increase to one million passengers by 2012 and up to two million passengers by 2030. In economic terms, it is considered that the airport will act as a driver for the local employment, providing direct employment as well as enhanced opportunities for wider aviation related and business employment.

The Medical Technologies (MedTech) sector is of growing importance to the Southend-on-Sea economy. A partnership between Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford City Council, Harlow District Council, and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council has proposed to create the world's largest health innovation space at the Anglia Riskin MedTech Campus. This unique development builds on the presence of key employers in Southend such as Olympus Keymed. The proposal will drive the development of this specialist cluster, providing a combined enterprise space of over 1.7millions square feet. Southend-on-Sea will eventually

host one of the three distinct campuses under the MedTech umbrella and provide for a significant percentage of the Borough's employment (increasing from 1.7% in 2012).¹⁹⁶

11.2 Key Issues

- Southend-on-Sea's economy is broad-based, with a high proportion of administrative and secretarial occupations.
- 86.6% of businesses in the Borough employ less than ten people, and only 2.4% of businesses employ 50 or more people.
- Unemployment levels in the Borough are higher than regional and national levels.
- It is considered that the airport improvement/expansion, as set out in the JAAP (2012) will act as a driver for the local employment, providing direct employment as well as enhanced opportunities for wider aviation related and business employment.
- The Medical Technologies sector is expected to increase as a result of the proposal to create the world's largest health innovation space at the Anglia Riskin MedTech Campus. The sector is expected to provide for a significant percentage of the Borough's employment (increasing from 1.7% in 2012).¹⁹⁷
- The tourism and visitor economy provides opportunities for growth, particularly in terms of increasing numbers of staying visitors, being responsible for 12.3% of all employment in the borough.¹⁹⁸

11.3 IIA Objectives

Table 22: IIA Objectives and assessment questions for the Economy

IIA objectives	Assessment questions
<p>Support a strong, diverse and resilient economy that provides opportunities for all.</p> <p><i>Relevant SEA Topics:</i> <i>Population & human health</i></p> <p><i>Relevant NPPF Paragraphs:</i> <i>18 - 22, 42 & 43</i></p>	<p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the provision of the right type of employment land in the right place? • Provide employment in the most deprived areas and stimulate regeneration? • Support the economic vitality and viability of the Borough's centres and shopping areas? • Create opportunities for a variety of businesses and people to flourish in the Borough? • Support the visitor economy? • Facilitate working from home, remote working and home-based businesses? • Support the growth of London Southend Airport? • Enhance educational opportunities?

¹⁹⁶ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2013) Southend-on-Sea Local Economic Assessment [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/download/397/southend_local_economic_assessment Accessed Oct 2017

¹⁹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁹⁸ Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (2013) Southend-on-Sea Local Economic Assessment. Figure 3.6 [online] available at: http://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/download/397/southend_local_economic_assessment Accessed Oct 2017

12. Next Steps

12.1 Subsequent stages for the IIA process

Scoping (the current stage) is the first stage in a five-stage IIA process (SA, EqIA and HIA):

- Scoping (NPPG Stage A)
- Appraise reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the draft plan, and subsequent assessment of the draft plan (NPPG Stage B)
- Prepare the IIA Report with a view to informing consultation (NPPG Stage C)
- Consultation on the IIA Report (NPPG Stage D)
- Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making/IIA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring') (NPPG Stage E)

The next stage will involve the development and assessment of reasonable alternatives for the Local Plan. An IIA Report will accompany a Local Plan Issues and Options Document for public consultation in due course.

12.2 Consultation on the Scoping Report

Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the IIA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public.

The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.

Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report, in particular the evidence base for the IIA, the identified key issues and the proposed IIA Framework.

All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the IIA where appropriate.

