

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

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

In summary – the key requirements of plan preparation are:

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

The Tests of Soundness at Examination

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

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

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

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

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

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

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements

Evidence Provided

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
<p><i>Vision and Objectives</i></p> <p>Has the LPA clearly identified what the issues are that the DPD is seeking to address? Have priorities been set so that it is clear what the DPD is seeking to achieve?</p> <p>Does the DPD contain clear vision(s) and objectives which are specific to the place? Is there a direct relationship between the identified issues, the vision(s) and the objectives?</p> <p>Is it clear how the policies will meet the objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD?</p> <p>Have reasonable alternatives to the quantum of development and overall spatial strategy been considered?</p> <p>Are the policies internally consistent?</p> <p>Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives?</p> <p>Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved?</p>	<p><u>Core Strategy</u></p> <p>Tables 3 and 4 of the adopted Core Strategy set out the strategic priorities for Hertsmere Borough, with Policy CS23 establishing the importance of preparing an Area Action Plan for the Elstree Way Corridor.</p> <p><u>EWCAAP:</u></p> <p>Section 1: ‘Introduction and Context’ -sets out the purpose of the EWCAAP.</p> <p>Section 2: ‘Strategic Vision ‘outlines a clear vision and set of objectives to meet core Policy CS23.</p> <p>Section 3: ‘Development framework’ sets out the key principles and development strategy within the EWC.</p> <p>Section 4: ‘ Land use strategy’ sets out the overall growth levels, which was expanded to the south along Manor Way.</p> <p>Section 7 ‘delivery and implementation’ sets out how the EWCAAP will be delivered and the proposed characteristics of the opportunity sites. This will be supported by the Councils emerging ‘Developer Contributions Framework’.</p> <p>Appendix 2 highlights the spatial options explored in developing the EWCAAP.</p> <p>The plan has been developed with the key delivery agency (Hertfordshire County Council) and all other key stakeholders were consulted through the regulation 18 and 19 stages. A statement on the Duty to Co-operate and consultation summary have been prepared and submitted with the EWCAAP.</p> <p>A sustainability appraisal was prepared for the regulation 18 and 19 versions of the plan with Section 4 considering alternative options for the EWCAAP.</p> <p>The policies within this Plan are consistent with the adopted Core Strategy for Hertsmere and the emerging Site Allocations and Development Management policies. The production of the EWCAAP is identified in the Council’s approved Local Development</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
<p><i>The presumption in favour of sustainable development (NPPF paras 6-17)</i></p> <p>Plans and decisions need to take local circumstances into account, so that they respond to the different opportunities for achieving sustainable development in different areas.</p> <p>Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or —specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted. 	<p>scheme (September 2013).</p> <p>The EWCAAP seeks to positively contribute towards implementing the vision and objectives of the Core Strategy. The EWCAAP seeks to deliver a significant proportion of the Council’s objectively assessed needs and make use of significant brownfield opportunities. Paragraphs 2.25 – 2.46 and 6.20 – 6.24 of the Core Strategy set out why the spatial option to redevelop the EWC was chosen.</p> <p>Appendix 1 of the EWCAAP sets out how the plan has been sufficiently flexible to respond to changing circumstances and site specific issues based on recent development activity.</p> <p>The EWCAAP will be monitored to ensure its effectiveness against a number of indicators via the Council’s ‘Authority Monitoring report’. Section 8 of the EWCAAP provides specific indicators that will be monitored and possible actions.</p>
<p>Policies in Local Plans should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development so that it is clear that development which is sustainable can be approved without delay. All plans should be based upon and reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide how the presumption should be applied locally.</p>	<p>The adopted Core Strategy policy SP2 sets out the Councils presumption in favour of sustainable development. The purpose of the EWCAAP is to guide the implementation of growth, with development in the EWC already built or under construction.</p>
<p><i>Objectively assessed needs</i></p> <p>The economic, social and environmental needs of the authority area addressed and clearly presented in a fashion which makes effective use of land and specifically promotes mixed use development, and take account of cross-boundary and strategic issues.</p> <p>Note: Meeting these needs should be subject to the caveats specified in Paragraph 14 of the NPPF (see above).</p>	<p>The Council’s objectively assessed the economic, social and environmental needs of the borough for the preparation of the adopted Core Strategy. The Sustainability Appraisal (Section 4) prepared for the EWC provides an updated analysis on these requirements.</p> <p>The Consultation report and statement on the duty to co-operate highlights that there are no cross boundary issues with regards to the EWCAAP.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
1. Building a strong, competitive economy (paras 18-22)	
Set out a clear economic vision and strategy for the area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth (21),	<p>The Council’s Economic strategy ‘Creative Hertsmere’ sets out the current economic objectives for the borough. The EWCAAP seeks to provide a greater link between the existing employment area, civic uses and the town centre, rather than focus on economic objectives.</p> <p>The LEP Strategic Economic Plan highlights the importance of delivering the EWC.</p>
Recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including poor environment or any lack of infrastructure, services or housing (21)	<p>The Adopted Core Strategy established that the EWC has an oversupply of employment sites, and the EWCAAP seeks to release some of this land for housing.</p> <p>The Council has prepared an Economic Development Strategy that seeks to provide an effective implementation framework to improve the potential of employment sites, focusing on the creative industries. The Council is consulting on a site Allocations and development Management Polices document that will identify any future requirement for employment sites.</p>
2. Ensuring the vitality of town centres (paras 23-37)	
Policies should be positive, promote competitive town centre environments, and set out policies for the management and growth of centres over the plan period (23)	<p>Section 2 of the adopted Core Strategy sets out the settlement hierarchy for the borough, Policy CS27 sets out town centre strategy.</p> <p>The EWCAAP strategic vision highlights that one of main benefits of development in EWC will be to help promote Borehamwood as an attractive and sustainable location for business and link the area to the town centre. This will be supported by Town Centre Improvement Strategies as outlined in the Council’s Economic Development Strategy.</p>
Allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community services and residential development needed in town centres	Provision for a number of supporting community uses are set out in the EWCAAP. The Council is also consulting on a Site Allocations and Development Management Polices

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
(23)	document that will seek to update the current boundaries of town centres and shopping frontages.
3. Supporting a prosperous rural economy (para 28)	
Support sustainable economic growth in rural areas. Planning strategies should promote a strong rural economy by taking a positive approach to new development. (28)	The EWCAAP does not cover any rural area in the borough. Core Strategy Policy CS13 sets out the Council’s approach to development opportunities in the Rural (green belt) area.
4. Promoting sustainable transport (paras 29-41)	
<p>Facilitate sustainable development whilst contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. (29)</p> <p>Balance the transport system in favour of sustainable transport modes and give people a real choice about how they travel whilst recognising that different policies will be required in different communities and opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas. (29)</p> <p>Encourage solutions which support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion (29) including supporting a pattern of development which, where reasonable to do so, facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport. (30)</p> <p>Local authorities should work with neighbouring authorities and transport providers to develop strategies for the provision of viable infrastructure necessary to support sustainable development. (31)</p> <p>Opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure. (32)</p> <p>Ensure that developments which generate significant movement are located where the need to travel will be</p>	<p>Policy EWC1 ‘development strategy’ stipulates the importance of public transport in the EWC, this is further defined in Section 5 ‘movement framework’.</p> <p>Core Strategy Policies CS24 ‘Development and accessibility to services and employment’, CS25 ‘Accessibility and Parking’ CS26 ‘Promoting alternatives to the Car’ set out the Council’s policy framework for sustainable transport.</p> <p>The Borehamwood and Elstree Urban Transport Plan sets out the specific transport policies for the area – and was prepared by Hertfordshire County Council in close consultation with Hertsmere Borough Council.</p> <p>The parking Standards in EWC as set out in policy EWC8, are a reduction on those set out in the Council’s Parking Standards SPD. This reflects the accessibility of the site to public transport nodes, proximity to the town centre and local services with improvements to enhance these linkages; the EWC area has formed part of Accessibility Zone 3 in the Council’s main Parking Standards SPD since 2008 and prior to that the Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Guidance (2003).</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
<p>minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes can be maximised (34)</p> <p>Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. (35)</p> <p>Policies should aim for a balance of land uses so that people can be encouraged to minimize journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities. (37)</p> <p>For larger scale residential developments in particular, planning policies should promote a mix of uses in order to provide opportunities to undertake day-to-day activities including work on site. Where practical, particularly within large-scale developments, key facilities such as primary schools and local shops should be located within walking distance of most properties. (38)</p> <p>The setting of car parking standards including provision for town centres. (39-40)</p> <p>Local planning authorities should identify and protect, where there is robust evidence, sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice. (41)</p>	
<p>5. Supporting high quality communications infrastructure (paras 42-46)</p>	
<p>Support the expansion of the electronic communications networks, including telecommunications’ masts and high speed broadband. (43)</p> <p>Local planning authorities should not impose a ban on new telecommunications development in certain areas, impose blanket Article 4 directions over a wide area or a wide range of telecommunications development or insist on minimum distances between new telecommunications development and</p>	<p>The EWCAAP does not have specific policies on communications infrastructure. The Council does not have any article 4 restrictions on the installation of telecommunications infrastructure.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
existing development. (44)	
6. Delivering a wide choice of high quality housing (paras 47-55)	
Identify and maintain a rolling supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against their housing requirements; this should include an additional buffer of 5% or 20% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. 20% buffer applies where there has been persistent under delivery of housing(47)	<p>The Council maintains a five year supply of deliverable residential sites as part of the Authority Monitoring Report.</p> <p>The EWC forms a significant component of the Council's future housing land supply, with some development already built or under construction.</p> <p>A draft Site Allocation and Development Management policies DPD was published earlier this year, containing further details of the Council's housing land supply and it is envisaged that it will be submitted for examination by early 2015.</p>
Identify a supply of developable sites or broad locations for years 6-10 and, where possible, years 11-15 (47).	<p>The Council's Authority Monitoring Report sets out land supply for 6 – 15 years.</p> <p>The EWC forms a significant component of the Council's future housing land supply, with development activity already taking place.</p> <p>A draft Site Allocation and Development Management policies DPD was published earlier this year and it is envisaged that it will be submitted for examination by early 2015.</p>
Illustrate the expected rate of housing delivery through a trajectory; and set out a housing implementation strategy describing how a five year supply will be maintained. (47)	<p>The Council's Authority Monitoring Report includes a housing trajectory, monitoring of permissions and completions.</p> <p>The Council's housing land supply was updated as part of the proposed Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD.</p>
Set out the authority's approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances (47).	The EWCAAP outlines the proposed housing density in policy EWC3, which was informed by a scoping exercise undertaken in the Colin Buchanan master plan.
Plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic and market trends, and needs of different groups	The EWCAAP outlines the mix of residential development in policy EWC3.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
<p>(50) and caters for housing demand and the scale of housing supply to meet this demand. (para 159)</p>	<p>The adopted Core Strategy was supported by a SHMA. An updated SHMA is currently being scoped on a cross-boundary basis with neighbouring authorities</p> <p>The Site Allocations and Development Management document will identify additional sites and the possible mix of housing that can be provided across the borough</p> <p>The Core Strategy Policy CS4 sets out the Council’s affordable housing requirement.</p> <p>An affordable housing policy SPD has been adopted and includes a method for collecting off-site contributions and commuted sums. The SPD is currently being reviewed with a draft scheduled to be considered by the Council’s Executive in July 2014.</p>
<p>In rural areas be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate (54).</p> <p>In rural areas housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.</p>	<p>The EWCAAP is wholly within the urban extent of Borehamwood. The Council sets out its approach to rural housing in Policy CS2 and CS5 of the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>7. Requiring good design (paras 56-68)</p>	
<p>Develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area (58).</p>	<p>The ‘Development Framework’ in Section 3 and Section 6 ‘design strategy’ of the EWCAAP outlines the Council’s commitment to high quality development - this includes the possibility of using a Design Review Panel.</p>
<p>8. Promoting healthy communities (paras 69-77)</p>	
<p>Policies should aim to design places which: promote community interaction, including through mixed-use development; are safe and accessible environments; and are accessible developments (69).</p>	<p>Policy CS20 of the Core Strategy outlines the Council’s commitment to achieving sustainable communities.</p> <p>The EWC seeks to establish improved townscape and communal open spaces within the design of new buildings in policy EWC1 & EWC6</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
<p>Policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services (70).</p>	<p>The EWCAAP Policy EWC4 outlines the community facilities that will be sought in the EWC.</p> <p>Policy CS19 of the adopted Core Strategy outlines the Council’s commitment to positively plan for key community facilities.</p>
<p>Identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities; and set locally derived standards to provide these (73).</p>	<p>The Council’s Open Space Strategy sets out the requirements for open space in the borough. This is supported by Policy CS18 & 19 of the adopted Core Strategy.</p> <p>Policy CS26 of the Core Strategy seeks to protect and enhance ‘greenways’ in the borough, which includes rights of way.</p>
<p>Enable local communities, through local and neighbourhood plans, to identify special protection green areas of particular importance to them – ‘Local Green Space’ (76-78).</p>	<p>The EWCAAP seeks to enhance the existing local spaces within the EWC (strategic vision) and General Development Principles.</p>
<p>9. Protecting Green Belt land (paras 79-92)</p>	
<p>Local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land. (81)</p> <p>Local planning authorities with Green Belts in their area should establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans which set the framework for Green Belt and settlement policy. (83)</p> <p>When drawing up or reviewing Green Belt boundaries local planning authorities should take account of the need to promote sustainable patterns of development. (84)</p> <p>Boundaries should be set using ‘physical features likely to be</p>	<p>The EWC is not within the green belt. The Core Strategy Policy CS13 sets out the Council’s approach to the control of development in the green belt</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
permanent' amongst other things (85)	
10. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change (paras 93-108)	
Adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations. (94)	<p>The Council is proposing (as per the Statement of Common Ground with the Environment Agency) to increase the reference to sustainable drainage in Policy EWC1.</p> <p>The adopted Core Strategy outlines its policy with regards to climate change in policies CS16.</p>
Help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy through a strategy, policies maximising renewable and low carbon energy, and identification of key energy sources. (97)	<p>The adopted Core Strategy outlines the Council's policy with regards to renewable energy and CO2 reductions in Policy CS17.</p>
Minimise vulnerability to climate change and manage the risk of flooding (99)	<p>The EWCAAP covers an existing built up area and not within a flood risk area. The Council is proposing (as per the Statement of common ground with the Environment Agency) to increase the reference to sustainable drainage.</p> <p>The Core strategy sets out the Council's policy of flood risk in Policy CS16.</p>
Take account of marine planning (105)	Not relevant to Hertsmere borough.
Manage risk from coastal change (106)	Not relevant to Hertsmere borough.
11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (paras 109-125)	
Protect valued landscapes (109)	Core Strategy Policy CS12 seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment
Prevent unacceptable risks from pollution and land instability (109)	Core Strategy Policy CS16 seeks to manage the environmental risks from development

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
<p>Planning policies should minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity (117)</p> <p>Planning policies should plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries (117)</p>	<p>Core Strategy Policy CS16 seeks to minimise the risk of contamination to soil and water from development. Policy CS12 seeks to enhance environmental assets and protect the highest quality agricultural land.</p>
<p>12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (paras 126-141)</p>	
<p>Include a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk (126)</p>	<p>The EWCAAP does not contain any designated heritage assets that would be at risk from development.</p> <p>Core Strategy Policy CS14 sets out the council’s approach to protecting historical assets.</p>
<p>13. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals (paras 142-149)</p>	
<p>It is important that there is a sufficient supply of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. However, since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, it is important to make best use of them to secure their long-term conservation (142)</p> <p>Minerals planning authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of industrial materials (146)</p>	<p>The EWC does not affect the supply of minerals.</p> <p>Hertfordshire County Council is the Planning Authority for minerals provision, which is set out in the HCC Minerals and Waste Development Framework.</p>
<p>Justified: <i>The plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence.</i></p> <p><i>To be ‘justified’ a DPD needs to be:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Founded on a robust and credible evidence base involving: research / fact finding demonstrating how the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts; and evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area.</i> • <i>The most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives.</i> 	
<p><i>Participation</i></p> <p><i>Has the consultation process allowed for effective engagement</i></p>	<p>(See Consultation Statement and Duty to Cooperate statement)</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
<i>of all interested parties?</i>	
<p><i>Research / fact finding</i></p> <p>Is the plan justified by a sound and credible evidence base? What are the sources of evidence? How up to date, and how convincing is it?</p> <p>What assumptions were made in preparing the DPD? Were they reasonable and justified?</p>	<p>The original master plan was prepared by Colin Buchanan in 2010. The principle of the development of the Elstree Way Corridor was established at the examination of the a Core Strategy (January 2013) including Policy CS23 .</p> <p>Further modelling for the Highways Improvements were undertaken by AECOM in 2013 and 2014.</p> <p>The viability to the EWC proposal was revised as part of the Council’s Community infrastructure Levy evidence base in July 2013 (Lambert Smith Hampton).</p> <p>The sustainability appraisal, prepared by ‘The Landscape Partnership’, was completed in January 2013 and revised for the proposed submission in January 2014.</p>
<p><i>Alternatives</i></p> <p>Can it be shown that the LPA’s chosen approach is the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives? Have the reasonable alternatives been considered and is there a clear audit trail showing how and why the preferred approach was arrived at? Where a balance had to be struck in taking decisions between competing alternatives, is it clear how and why the decisions were taken?</p> <p>Does the sustainability appraisal show how the different options perform and is it clear that sustainability considerations informed the content of the DPD from the start?</p>	<p>The EWCAAP was tested against three options with varying levels of development. This is summarised in Appendix 2 of the EWCAAP, and covered in greater depth in the Colin Buchanan viability appraisal. The sustainability appraisal further tested these options in Section 4 of the 2013 sustainability appraisal report.</p> <p>The proposed highway improvements have been tested against a number of possible designs, which were modelled individually. (DOC29 - 34)</p> <p>The principle of the redevelopment of EWC was found sound at the examination of the Council’s adopted Core Strategy, the alternative being green belt release. Alternative spatial strategies for growth beyond the period of the EWCAAP will be undertaken as part of the review of the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>Effective: <i>the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities.</i></p> <p>To be ‘effective’ a DPD needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be deliverable 	

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate sound infrastructure delivery planning • Have no regulatory or national planning barriers to its delivery • Have delivery partners who are signed up to it • Be coherent with the strategies of neighbouring authorities • Demonstrate how the Duty to Co-operate has been fulfilled • Be flexible • Be able to be monitored 	
<p><i>Deliverable and Coherent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it clear how the policies will meet the Plan’s vision and objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD? • Are the policies internally consistent? • Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives? • Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved? 	<p>The EWCAAP covers in Section 7 the ‘Delivery and implementation’ process, and in Section 9 of the adopted Core Strategy.</p> <p>Key delivery agencies were involved throughout the development of the EWC – (see Duty to Co-operate report) and the proposals have been adopted as a LEP priority.</p> <p>The policies within the EWCAAP are consistent with the adopted Core Strategy for Hertsmere, the emerging Site Allocations and Development Management policies and the Council’s approved Local Development Scheme.</p> <p>Given that the purpose of the EWCAAP is to implement the Core Strategy Policy CS23 (which specifically seeks to prepare the EWCAAP) a matrix was not prepared, however the Council will prepare one if requested by the inspector.</p>
<p><i>Infrastructure Delivery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the infrastructure implications of the policies clearly been identified? • Are the delivery mechanisms and timescales for implementation of the policies clearly identified? • Is it clear who is going to deliver the required infrastructure and does the timing of the provision complement the timescale of the policies? 	<p>The EWCAAP states the required infrastructure in Policy EWC4.</p> <p>The principle delivery agency for the infrastructure proposals will be Hertfordshire County Council and the NHS, both of whom have actively shaped the EWCAAP since its original inception in the Buchanan feasibility report. This is further defined in the statement on the Duty to Co-operate.</p> <p>It currently envisaged that the majority of the infrastructure proposals will be delivered on land already under public ownership.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
	<p>The viability of the proposals in the EWCAAP were test as part of the Colin Buchannan feasibility study (2010) and the CIL viability report (2013).</p>
<p><i>Co-ordinated Planning</i></p> <p>Does the DPD reflect the concept of spatial planning? Does it go beyond traditional land use planning by bringing together and integrating policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes from a variety of agencies / organisations that influence the nature of places and how they function?</p>	<p>While The EWCAAP does not overly report the linkages to strategies of other public sector bodies, it was developed with the cooperation of those organisations that will be directly involved in the implementation of the proposals. The objectives of those bodies were incorporated in to the EWCAAP objectives – such as working with the police and fire authorities for the re-provision of their services, with the NHS for the provision of a new facility, with Hertfordshire County Council for the provision of a new primary school.</p> <p>The statement on the consultation process, and the statement on the Duty to Co-operate, further cover these points.</p> <p>Table 2 of the adopted Core Strategy sets out how the Core Strategy is consistent with various public sector strategies and programmes.</p>
<p><i>Flexibility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the DPD flexible enough to respond to a variety of, or unexpected changes in, circumstances? • Does the DPD include the remedial actions that will be taken if the policies need adjustment? 	<p>The EWCAAP sets out in section 8 the actions the Council will take if certain policy targets are not met.</p>
<p><i>Co-operation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the Duty to Co-operate has been undertaken appropriately for the plan being examined? • Is it clear who is intended to implement each part of the DPD? Where the actions required are outside the direct control of the LPA, is there evidence that there is the necessary commitment from the relevant organisation to the implementation of the policies? 	<p>The Duty to Co-operate statement highlights how the plan was developed with the main service providers and relevant Duty to Co-operate bodies.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Evidence Provided
<p><i>Monitoring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the DPD contain targets, and milestones which relate to the delivery of the policies, (including housing trajectories where the DPD contains housing allocations)? • Is it clear how targets are to be measured (by when, how and by whom) and are these linked to the production of the annual monitoring report? • Is it clear how the significant effects identified in the sustainability appraisal report will be taken forward in the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the plan, through the annual monitoring report? 	<p>Policy EWC3 sets out the housing targets for the EWCAAP, while Appendix 1 highlights the development activity in the EWC.</p> <p>Section 8 covers the on-going monitoring arrangements, which will be captured in the AMR.</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal (Section 7 of the 2013 SA) set out which indicators can readily be monitored as part of the are AMR.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the DPD contain any policies or proposals which are not consistent with national policy and, if so, is there local justification? • Does the DPD contain policies that do not add anything to existing national guidance? If so, why have these been included? 	<p>The EWC seeks to encourage residential development on a range of sites, some of which are within an area designated for employment and no longer required for employment use. The EWCAAP also seeks high quality design, improvement of community facilities and proactive approach to development. The Council will outline costs associated with providing infrastructure via s106 alongside the borough wide CIL receipts, as part of the emerging Development Contributions Framework. The Council does not consider there to be any inconsistency with the NPPF.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Planning policy for traveller sites

Planning Policy for Traveller Sites was published in 23 March 2012 and came into effect on 27 March 2012. Circular 01/06: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites and Circular 04/07: Planning for Travelling Showpeople have been cancelled. Planning Policy for Traveller Sites should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework, including the implementation policies of that document.

The government's aim in relation to planning for traveller sites is:

'To ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic life of travellers whilst respecting the interests of the settled community'.

Government's aims in respect of traveller sites are:

- That local planning authorities (LPAs) make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning
- That LPAs work collaboratively, develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites
- Plan for sites over a reasonable timescale
- Plan-making should protect green belt land from inappropriate development
- Promote more private traveller site provision whilst recognising that there will always be those travellers who cannot provide their own sites
- Aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective.

In addition local planning authorities should:

- Include fair, realistic and inclusive policies
- Increase the number of traveller sites in appropriate locations with planning permission, to address under provision and maintain an appropriate level of supply
- Reduce tensions between settled and traveller communities in plan-making and decision-taking
- Enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure
- Have due regard to protection of local amenity and local environment

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Policy Expectations	Evidence Provided
Policy A: Using evidence to plan positively and manage development (para 6)	
Early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities.	The EWCAAP does not specially address Gypsy and Traveller issues. The Draft Site Allocations and Development Management Policies document seeks to allocate an amount of G&T sites consistent with the adopted Core Strategy.
Co-operate with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups, other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas.	
Policy B: Planning for traveller sites (paras 7-11)	A revised Gypsy and Traveller study is underway which will inform future requirements as part of the Core Strategy review.
Set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in your area, working collaboratively with neighbouring LPAs. Set criteria to guide land supply allocations where there is identified need. Ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.	
Policy C: Sites in rural areas and the countryside (para 12)	
When assessing the suitability of sites in rural or semi-rural settings LPAs should ensure that the scale of such sites do not dominate the nearest settled community.	The EWCAAP is wholly in the urban area.
Policy D: Rural exception sites (para 13)	

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Policy Expectations	Evidence Provided
<p>If there is a lack of affordable land to meet local traveller needs, LPAs in rural areas, where viable and practical, should consider allocating and releasing sites solely for affordable travellers' sites.</p>	
<p>Policy E: Traveller sites in Green Belt (paras 14-15)</p>	
<p>Traveller sites (both permanent and temporary) in the Green Belt are inappropriate development.</p> <p>Exceptional limited alteration to the defined Green Belt boundary (which might be to accommodate a site inset within the Green Belt) to meet a specific, identified need for a traveller site ... should be done only through the plan-making process.</p>	
<p>Policy F: Mixed planning use traveller sites (paras 16-18)</p>	
<p>Local planning authorities should consider, wherever possible, including traveller sites suitable for mixed residential and business uses, having regard to the safety and amenity of the occupants and neighbouring residents.</p>	<p>Development Management Policies document seeks to allocate an amount of Gypsy and Traveller sites consistent with the adopted Core Strategy.</p> <p>A revised Gypsy and Traveller study is underway which will inform future G&T requirements as part of the Core Strategy review.</p>
<p>Policy G: Major development projects (para 19)</p>	
<p>Local planning authorities should work with the planning applicant and the affected traveller community to identify a site or sites suitable for relocation of the community if a major development proposal requires the permanent or temporary relocation of a traveller site.</p>	<p>There are no current Gypsy and Traveller sites within the EWCAAP.</p>

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist

Integration of marine and terrestrial planning

As the UK marine area and marine plan area boundaries extend up to the level of mean high water spring tides while terrestrial planning boundaries generally extend to mean low water spring tides (including estuaries), the marine plan area will physically overlap with that of some terrestrial plan. Local authorities with any tidal frontage, even if far inland and not conventionally regarded as coastal, must therefore take full account of the MMO, the MPS and marine plans under S.58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act and the Duty to Co-operate in Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011. A full list of the local planning authorities whose areas overlap with the UK marine area appears in Appendix One.

Furthermore, the Duty to Co-Operate requires all local planning authorities, even if landlocked, to take account, where relevant, of the MMO's plans and activities when preparing their Local Plans. Finally, the NPPF requires LPAs to take the MPS into account under the tests of soundness (specifically, to test if an emerging DPD is consistent with national policy, which includes the MPS).

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (the Act) provided for the introduction of a marine planning system for England's inshore and offshore marine area, establishing the Secretary of State as the Marine Planning Authority for these areas. The Act also provided for the establishment of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and for the Secretary of State to delegate various planning functions. The planning functions including preparation and review were delegated to the MMO in 2010. The Act also provided for the adoption of the UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS). The MPS was adopted on 18 March 2011 and provides the policy framework for marine planning and for all decisions likely to affect the marine area.

There are eleven plan areas in English waters, for each of which a Marine Plan will be prepared by the MMO and adopted by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

In practical terms, all activities undertaken in the marine area require land based infrastructure, without which our ability to benefit economically and socially from activities in the marine area would be extremely limited.

The UK Government's vision for the marine environment, as articulated in the MPS, is:

'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas'.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

In the absence of a marine plan prepared by the MMO and adopted by the Secretary of State the MPS is the relevant marine policy document. Where a marine plan has been adopted both the MPS and the Marine Plan are relevant marine policy documents for the marine plan area.

As articulated in the Marine and Coastal Act and the MPS, the Government aims for the MPS and marine planning systems to sit alongside and interact with existing planning regimes across the UK. Specifically, s.58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act requires all¹ public bodies to:

- take authorisation or enforcement decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area in accordance with the MPS and relevant Marine Plans, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise
- state their reasons where authorisation or enforcement decisions are not taken in accordance with the MPS and relevant Marine Plans
- have regard to the MPS and relevant Marine Plans when taking decisions that affect or might affect the UK marine area which are not authorisation or enforcement decisions²

In addition, the MPS seeks integration of marine planning and the terrestrial planning system through:

- Consistency between marine and terrestrial policy documents and guidance
- Liaison between respective responsible authorities for terrestrial and marine planning, including in plan development, implementation and review stages
- Sharing the evidence base and data where relevant and appropriate so as to achieve consistency in the data used in plan making and decisions

These aims are further supported by footnote 36 in the NPPF.

¹ Like the Duty to Co-Operate, no distinction is made by the Marine and Coastal Access Act between public authorities with a tidal frontage and those without. Emphasis is placed on the likelihood of the decision being made affecting the marine area.

² For example, decisions about what representations they should make as a consultee or about what action they should carry out themselves.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Policy Expectations	Evidence Provided
Consistency between marine and terrestrial policy documents and guidance	Not relevant to Hertsmere BC
Liaison between respective authorities responsible for terrestrial and marine planning, including in plan development, implementation and review stages	
Sharing the evidence base and data where relevant and appropriate so as to achieve consistency in the data used in plan making and decisions	
Sections 2.1 -2.2: The UK vision for the marine environment	
The UK vision for the marine environment ('clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas')	
Achieving the vision through marine planning	
Section 2.4: Considering benefits and adverse effects in marine planning	
Consider benefits and adverse effects of plan policies	
Section 2.5: Economic, social and environmental considerations	
Contribute to the objectives of relevant EU Directives (Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Water Framework Directive)	
3.1 Marine Protected Areas	
Incorporate identified areas and features of importance for nature conservation	

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Policy Expectations	Evidence Provided
Activities or developments that may result in adverse impacts on biodiversity should be designed or located to avoid such impacts	
3.4 Ports and shipping	
Take into account and seek to minimise any negative impacts on shipping activity, freedom of navigation and navigational safety Protect the efficiency and resilience of continuing port operations	
3.8 Fisheries	
Consider potential economic, social and environmental impacts of other developments on fishing activity	
3.9 Aquaculture	
Consider the benefits of encouraging the development of efficient, competitive and sustainable aquaculture industries	
3.10 Surface water management and waste water treatment and disposal	
Maximise opportunities for co-existence of waste water infrastructure with other activities in the marine environment	
3.11 Tourism and recreation	
Consider the potential for tourism and recreation in the marine environment and the benefits this will bring to the economy and local communities	

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Appendix One

This is an alphabetical list of all local planning authorities in England whose area overlaps with the UK marine area.

Adur	City of Westminster	Havant	North Tyneside
Allerdale	Colchester	Havering	North York Moors National Park
Arun	Copeland	Horsham	Northumberland
Babergh	Cornwall	Hounslow	Norwich
Barking and Dagenham	County Durham	Huntingdonshire	Poole
Barrow-in-Furness	Dartford	Ipswich	Preston
Basildon	Doncaster	Isle of Wight	Purbeck
Bassetlaw	Dover	Isles of Scilly	Redcar and Cleveland
Bexley	East Cambridgeshire	Kensington and Chelsea	Richmond upon Thames
Blackpool	East Devon	King's Lynn and West Norfolk	Rochford
Boston	East Lindsey	Lake District National Park	Rother
Bournemouth	East Riding of Yorkshire	Lambeth	Scarborough
Broadland	Eastbourne	Lancaster	Sedgemoor
Broads Authority	Eastleigh	Lewes	Sefton
Canterbury	Exeter	Lewisham	Selby
Carlisle	Exmoor National Park	Liverpool	Shepway
Castle Point	Fareham	Maidstone	South Cambridgeshire
Chelmsford	Fenland	Maldon	South Downs National Park
Cheshire West and Chester	Fylde	Medway	South Gloucestershire
Chichester	Gateshead	Middlesbrough	South Hams
Chorley	Gloucester	New Forest	South Holland
Christchurch	Gosport	New Forest National Park	South Lakeland
City of London	Gravesham	Newark and Sherwood	South Norfolk
City of Brighton and Hove	Great Yarmouth	Newcastle upon Tyne	South Ribble
City of Bristol	Greenwich	Newham	South Somerset
City of Kingston upon Hull	Halton	North Devon	South Tyneside
City of Peterborough	Hambleton	North East Lincolnshire	Southend-on-Sea
City of Plymouth	Hammersmith and Fulham	North Lincolnshire	Southwark
City of Portsmouth	Hartlepool	North Norfolk	Stockton-on-Tees
City of Southampton	Hastings	North Somerset	

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (March 2014)

Stroud
Suffolk Coastal
Sunderland
Swale
Taunton Deane
Teignbridge
Tendring
Test Valley
Thanet
Thurrock
Tonbridge and Malling
Torbay
Torrige
Tower Hamlets
Wandsworth
Warrington
Waveney
Wealden
West Devon
West Dorset
West Lancashire
West Lindsey
West Somerset
Weymouth and Portland
Winchester
Wirral
Worthing
Wyre
York