

The logo for 'place services' consists of the words 'place' and 'services' stacked vertically in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, set against a solid blue square background.

**Essex Replacement Minerals Local Plan: Pre-Submission Draft**

**Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**Environmental Report: Annex C – Sustainability Framework**

**November 2012**



## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1	Background .....	1
1.2	Sustainability Framework .....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>Sustainability Framework</b> .....	<b>3</b>

## List of Tables

Table 1:	Relationship of SA/SEA Objectives to Economic, Social and Environmental Factors .....	2
Table 2:	Sustainability Framework.....	4



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Essex County Council commissioned Place Services (formerly part of Essex County Council's Spatial Planning Group) to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA), on the proposed Replacement Minerals Local Plan: Pre-Submission Draft (MLP).

Place Services are acting as consultants for this work; therefore the content of the SA/SEA should not be interpreted or otherwise represented as the formal view of Essex County Council.

This document is Annex C to the Environmental Report and sets out the Sustainability Framework for the MLP.

## 1.2 Sustainability Framework

A Sustainability Framework is an important tool of the SA/SEA process that is developed during the scoping phase in line with the Planning Advisory Service's best practice guidance for Sustainability Appraisals. It provides the context against which the options and policies of the emerging Minerals Local Plan (MLP) can be assessed and sets out the sustainability objectives; the key questions that should be asked to decipher whether the MLP adheres to the principles of sustainability; and indicators which can monitor the impact of the documents.

The SA/SEA of the MLP will adopt an objectives based approach, with each objective combining to form the Sustainability Framework. The use of sustainability objectives to appraise a plan or programme is a theme of the Planning Advisory Service's best guidance practice for Sustainability Appraisal. It allows individual issues, policies and proposals within a plan or strategy to be appraised separately against each objective within the overall Sustainability Framework. In this way, beneficial or adverse impacts relating to each individual objective may be readily identified and reported. It also allows for alternatives and/or mitigation measures to be identified and subsequently appraised in similar fashion.

The sustainability objectives have been derived from the review of plans and programmes and a strategic analysis of the baseline information. Objectives are based on policy advice and guidance and related to the assessment of the current state of the plan area. The appraisal is then able to evaluate, in a clear and consistent manner, the nature and degree of impact and whether significant effects are likely to emerge from the plan's proposed policies. It also means that indicators established for use in the appraisal process itself can be carried forward into subsequent monitoring of the implementation and delivery of policies and proposals. Recognising which indicators can be used to assess the impact of policies being appraised is important and points towards the specific monitoring which will need to be carried out. Collection of this information over a period of time will result in data trends being established, which will show if the policies appraised have a positive or negative impact on the social, economic or environmental factors they influence.

The sustainability objectives identified for the appraisal of the MLP are tabulated below. The table presents each sustainability objective, together with its source and the sustainability topics to which it relates. The scope of the sustainability objectives has been derived from Annex 1(f) of the European SEA Directive, 2001/42/EC with other topics, of relevance to the document being appraised also included.

It is important to assess the impact of the SA/SEA objectives on social, environmental and economic factors. Table 1 shows how these three pillars of sustainability are integrated into the SA/SEA objectives.

**Table 1: Relationship of SA/SEA Objectives to Economic, Social and Environmental Factors**

	Economic	Social	Environment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity throughout Essex.			✓
2) To maintain and enhance water resources and quality.			✓
3) To minimise risk of flooding.			✓
4) To encourage the sustainable use of land and protection of soils, including the best and most versatile agricultural land.		✓	✓
5) To promote the minerals supply hierarchy and where mineral waste is produced, to promote the movement of minerals waste up the waste management hierarchy.			✓
6) To safeguard air quality.		✓	✓
7) To minimise the net emissions of greenhouse gases and increase adaptability to climate change.		✓	✓
8) To minimise the impact on the historic environment, both above and below ground.			✓
9) To protect and enhance the quality and character of the Metropolitan Green Belt (and the Essex landscape)			✓
10) To enable all sections of the community to participate fully at all stages of decision making in the Minerals Development Document and in determining planning applications.		✓	
11) To maximise opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from minerals activities.	✓		
12) To improve the sustainable use of minerals.	✓		✓
13) To achieve beneficial restoration and aftercare of all mineral sites.		✓	✓
14) To reduce transportation of minerals and road congestion, and promote more sustainable transport..	✓		✓
15) To protect and enhance human health and well being.		✓	
16) To minimise nuisances and impact on local amenity		✓	

## 2 Sustainability Framework

The Sustainability Appraisal Framework was produced from analysis of all the information obtained during the scoping phase and shows the relationship between:

- each of the SA/SEA objectives;
- where each of the objectives has been sourced from;
- which topics refer to each objective;
- what key questions have to be asked of each policy objective (in this instance separating between the policy options document and the site allocations document) to assess its relationship with each of the objectives; and,
- what data sources can be monitored to see if policies accord with the objectives.

Please note that those texts in bold have been added or modified following the receipt of comments from statutory consultees.

Table 2: Sustainability Framework

Sustainability Objective	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Indicators
<b>1) To protect and enhance biodiversity throughout Essex.</b>	- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEA Directive:</li> <li>- Biodiversity, fauna and flora</li> <li>- Landscape</li> <li>- Climatic Factors</li> <li>- Cultural Heritage</li> <li>- Soils, Minerals and Waste</li> <li>- Material Assets (Flooding)</li> <li>- Other relevant issues:</li> <li>- Water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the MLP protect and/or enhance biodiversity and geo-diversity across Essex?</li> <li>- Will the MLP protect and/or enhance areas designated as important for ecological and geological reasons at a local, regional, national and international level?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distance from site to the nearest:</li> <li>- SSSIs</li> <li>- Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows</li> <li>- A Green Lane</li> <li>- Ancient Woodland</li> <li>- Cereal Field margins</li> <li>- Heathland</li> <li>- Old Orchards</li> <li>- Ramsar sites</li> <li>- SPAs</li> <li>- SACs</li> <li>- cSACs</li> <li>- LNR</li> <li>- NNR</li> <li>- LoWS</li> <li>- Condition of the nearest sensitive receptors (where viable).</li> <li>- Condition of SSSIs.</li> <li>- Changes in woodland and</li> </ul>

Sustainability Objective	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Indicators
				farmland bird species. - Site visit surveys on typical abundance and frequency of habitats (DAFOR scale). - Ecological potential assessments. - Mitigation measures of Essex rivers that have defined ecological potential.
<b>2) To maintain and enhance water resources and quality.</b>	- Water Framework Directive (England and Wales) Regulations 2000/60/EC.	- SEA Directive: - Climatic Factors - Population and Human health - Other relevant issues: - Water - Flooding	- Will the MLP have an adverse impact upon water resources? - Will the MLP enhance water resources? - Will the MLP have an adverse impact upon water quality?	- Ecological status of rivers. - Chemical status of rivers. - Resource availability status for units of groundwater in Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Areas. - Resource availability status at low flows for units of surface water

Sustainability Objective	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Indicators
				and / or surface water combined with groundwater, in Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Areas. - Condition of water bodies (Water Framework Directive).
<b>3) To minimise risk of flooding.</b>	- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	- SEA Directive: - Material Assets (Flooding)	- Will the MLP increase the risk of flooding? - Will the MLP have an adverse effect on the impact of flooding? - Will the MLP help to alleviate flood risk or the impact of flooding?	- Distance of site to floodplains. - SFRA results. - Incidences of flood warnings in site area. - Distance to 'Areas susceptible to surface water flooding' – EA Maps - On site and nearby topography via ordnance survey mapping. - Extent of vegetation on site.

Sustainability Objective	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Indicators
<b>4) To encourage the sustainable use of land and protection of soils, including the best and most versatile agricultural land.</b>	- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEA Directive:</li> <li>- Biodiversity, fauna and flora</li> <li>- Landscape</li> <li>- Climatic Factors</li> <li>- Cultural Heritage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the MLP have an adverse impact upon areas of good quality soil?</li> <li>- Will the MLP have an adverse impact upon the best and most versatile agricultural land?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sites built on Grade 1, 2 and 3 soils</li> </ul>
<b>5) To promote the minerals supply hierarchy and where mineral waste is produced, to promote the movement of minerals waste up the waste management hierarchy.</b>	- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEA Directive:</li> <li>- Soil/Minerals &amp; Waste</li> <li>- Population &amp; Human health</li> <li>- Other relevant issues:</li> <li>- Transport</li> <li>- Social</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the MLP minimise minerals use in accordance with the minerals supply hierarchy?</li> <li>- Will the MLP promote the use of recycled and secondary aggregates in accordance with the minerals supply hierarchy?</li> <li>- Will the MLP increase waste arisings within the county?</li> <li>- Will the MLP encourage prevention, re-use and recycling of waste?</li> <li>- Will the MLP enable an adequate supply of mineral products to meet the needs of the local and regional economy</li> <li>- Will the MLP help to safeguard key mineral resources &amp;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tonnage recycled.</li> <li>- Tonnage composted.</li> <li>- Tonnage landfilled.</li> <li>- Tonnage imported</li> </ul>

Sustainability Objective	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Indicators
			infrastructure?	
<b>6) To safeguard air quality.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EU Air Quality Framework Directive (1996/62/EC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEA Directive:</li> <li>- Air Quality</li> <li>- Population and Human health</li> <li>- Climatic Factors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the MLP have an adverse impact upon local air quality?</li> <li>- Will the MLP have an impact upon air quality in Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within Essex?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Location and extent of AQMAs in relation to infrastructure requirements and likely routes.</li> <li>- Location and extent of potentially significant junctions in relation to infrastructure requirements.</li> <li>- Location of rail links.</li> </ul>
<b>7) To minimise the net emissions of greenhouse gases and increase adaptability to climate change.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEA Directive:</li> <li>- Air Quality</li> <li>- Climatic Factors</li> <li>- Soils, Minerals &amp; Waste</li> <li>- Material Assets (Flooding)</li> <li>- Other relevant issues:</li> <li>- Water Quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the MLP increase emissions (both direct and indirect) of greenhouse gases?</li> <li>- Does the MLP encourage the use of renewable energy sources for minerals activity?</li> <li>- Will the MLP have any impact upon the county's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of vehicle movements generated by site operation.</li> <li>- Congestion ratios of relevant routes.</li> <li>- Tonnage transported by means other than road.</li> </ul>

Sustainability Objective	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Indicators
<b>8) To minimise the impact on the historic environment, both above and below ground.</b>	- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEA Directive:</li> <li>- Landscape</li> <li>- Cultural Heritage</li> <li>- Other relevant issues:</li> <li>- Townscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the MLP have an adverse impact upon local historic assets, including archaeological deposits, historic buildings and battlegrounds?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proximity to nearest (including its setting):</li> <li>- World Heritage Site?</li> <li>- Scheduled Monument?</li> <li>- Listed Building?</li> <li>- Conservation Area?</li> <li>- Historic Park or Garden?</li> <li>- Historic Battlefield?</li> <li>- Site identified in the Historic Environment Record?</li> <li>- Building of local interest?</li> <li>- Other historic park or garden?</li> <li>- Proximity to Conservation Areas</li> </ul>
<b>9) To protect and enhance the quality and character of the Metropolitan Green Belt (and the Essex landscape)</b>	- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEA Directive</li> <li>- Landscape</li> <li>- Biodiversity, fauna and flora</li> <li>- Water quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the MLP have an adverse impact upon local landscape character</li> <li>- Will the MLP improve areas of poor landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is the proposed development intended to be located within the Metropolitan Greenbelt.</li> </ul>

Sustainability Objective	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Indicators
			quality? - Does the MLP protect designated and other valuable landscape areas?	- Is the proposed development intended to be located within landscapes with a high sensitivity
<b>10) To enable all sections of the community to participate fully at all stages of decision making in the Minerals Development Document and in determining planning applications.</b>	- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	- SEA Directive - Social	- Does the MLP facilitate public participation in all aspects of decision making?	- Number of representations made to consultation of policy documents and individual planning applications. - Register of stakeholders making representations.
<b>11) To maximise opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from minerals activities.</b>	- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	- SEA Directive: - Economy	- Will the MLP facilitate an increase in employment? - Will the MLP facilitate wider economic development?	- Percentage change and comparison in the total number of VAT registered businesses in the area. - Travel to work flows - Employment status by residents and job type - Job densities

Sustainability Objective	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Indicators
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic activity of residents</li> <li>- Average Gross weekly pay</li> <li>- Amount of vacant industrial floorspace</li> <li>- Travel to work flows</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
<b>12) To improve the sustainable use of minerals.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEA Directive:</li> <li>- Biodiversity, fauna and flora</li> <li>- Landscape</li> <li>- Population and Human health</li> <li>- Other relevant issues:</li> <li>- Social</li> <li>- Water Quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the MLP promote the use of sustainable construction techniques?</li> <li>- Will the MLP maximise the quality of primary mineral resources extracted?</li> <li>- Will the MLP maximise the quality of secondary mineral resources produced?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- - capacity of secondary processing / recycling facilities?</li> <li>- - amount of recycled material utilised?</li> </ul>
<b>13) To achieve beneficial restoration and aftercare of all mineral sites.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEA Directive:</li> <li>- Biodiversity, fauna and flora</li> <li>- Landscape</li> <li>- Population and Human health</li> <li>- Water Quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the MLP promote beneficial site restoration?</li> <li>- Will the MLP promote beneficial aftercare of sites?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of permissions with an associated site restoration plan.</li> <li>- State of the site prior and post extraction</li> </ul>
<b>14) To reduce transportation of minerals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEA Directive:</li> <li>- Population and Human</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the MLP reduce transportation of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of developments</li> </ul>

Sustainability Objective	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Indicators
<p><b>and road congestion, and promote more sustainable transport..</b></p>		<p>health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Air Quality</li> <li>- Climatic Factors</li> <li>- Cultural Heritage</li> <li>- Other relevant issues:</li> <li>- Transport</li> <li>- Economy</li> <li>- Housing</li> </ul>	<p>minerals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the MLP promote non-road transportation of minerals?</li> <li>- Will the MLP have an impact upon road congestion?</li> <li>- Will the MLP result in minerals activities that are connected to the main highway network?</li> </ul>	<p>where a green travel plan is submitted as a condition of development..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of vehicle movements generated by site operation.</li> <li>- Congestion ratios of relevant routes.</li> <li>- Tonnage transported by means other than road.</li> </ul>
<p><b>15) To protect and enhance human health and well being.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEA Directive:</li> <li>- Air</li> <li>- Soil/Minerals &amp; Waste</li> <li>- Population &amp; Human health</li> <li>- Other relevant issues:</li> <li>- Transport</li> <li>- Water Quality</li> <li>- Social</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the MLP have an adverse impact upon human health?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complaints regarding dust (Environmental Health and ECC).</li> <li>- Complaints regarding noise (Environmental Health and ECC).</li> <li>- Conditions to planning applications regarding hours of operation, emission/release parameters, and</li> </ul>

Sustainability Objective	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Indicators
				transport agreements etc. - Traffic volumes in key locations. - Location of Strategic Lorry Routes.
<b>16) To minimise nuisances and impact on local amenity</b>	- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)	- SEA Directive: - Population and Human health	- Will the MLP increase the level of nuisance (including dust, particulate emissions, noise, vibration, odour, visual, vermin, light, litter)? - Does the MLP encourage operators to establish good environmental management practices? - Does the MLP adversely impact upon access to land for recreation?	- Are facilities within 100metres of residential areas? - Will any harmful emissions be controlled/reduced through the use of managed equipment and vehicles? - Will residential developments be within 100metres of sources of noise and vibration? - Will the location of mineral facilities cause a bird strike hazard to aircraft in low flying areas? - Is there potential for adverse

Sustainability Objective	Source	Topics	Key Questions	Indicators
				impacts to be adequately mitigated? - What are the existing and potential options for access arrangements?



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