

**EXAMINATION STATEMENT
ROCHFORD ALLOCATIONS SUBMISSIONS DOCUMENT**

VIEWS OF THE LOCAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY: ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

ISSUE 1 ix) *Has the overall impact on highway capacity across the District been adequately addressed?*

Essex County Council, as Highway Authority, is satisfied that the overall impact on highway capacity across the District has been adequately addressed. A major concern of both the Highway Authority and the District Council, has been to ensure that travel demands arising from future development in the District can be adequately accommodated.

The Highway Authority has worked in partnership with the District Council during all stages of preparation of the Allocations Document. Both authorities collaborated on a similar basis during preparation of the Core Strategy. Similar joint working arrangements are in place for preparation of the Area Action Plans for Hockley, Rochford and Rayleigh and the Joint Area Action Plan for Southend Airport and Environs (also in partnership with Southend Borough Council as the neighbouring local highway authority).

The view of the Highway Authority has been, and remains, that a District-wide transport model would not be the most appropriate tool for assessing the future development provision of the District. This is because of the comparatively low scale of total provision over the Plan period to 2025 and its distribution through a number of locations/sites across the District.

In these circumstances the Highway Authority's view is that a strategic transport model would not accurately identify necessary changes to the local network arising from the additional development. Rather, the use of individual junction models is preferred to assess the highway impact of proposed developments on relevant junctions. Each junction model is able to take account of the wider context of future development locations in more detail than could be undertaken in a strategic model.

In addition to modeling future development locations Transport Assessments use currently available data, guidance and advice produced by the Department for Transport. The Highway Authority also has benefit of the results of transport assessments, and modeling using SATURN, available from the preparation of the Southend Airport and Environs Joint Area Action Plan. Similarly, results of other transport studies in the Thames Gateway South East sub-region are available to inform the Highway Authority of the wider context.

The Highway Authority considers that the adopted approach provides a holistic assessment of future development proposals in Rochford District. It allows the overall impact of future development to be adequately assessed and, importantly in the context of the Allocations Document, it enables identification of specific possible mitigation measures to facilitate delivery of identified sites to the benefit of the highway user.

[End of Statement]