

Rochford District Council

Strategic Environmental Assessment Baseline Information Profile

2007-2008

Prepared for
Rochford District Council
by
Essex County Council

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1 SUMMARY OF BASELINE REPORT

1.1 INTRODUCTION

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been defined as, 'The formalised, systematic and comprehensive process of evaluating the environmental impacts of a policy, plan or programme and its alternatives, including the preparation of a written report on the findings of that evaluation, and using the findings in publicly accountable decision making.' (Therival et al, 1992)

The European Directive on SEA (2001/42/EC) was adopted by the European Union in July 2001. It was transposed into English law in 2004 by the adoption of 'The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, 2004 (SI 2004 No. 1633 Environmental Protection)'. The SEA Directive was introduced to ensure that the environmental impacts of certain plans and programmes are recognised and assessed before plan implementation. The SEA Directive requires that all local authorities collect and maintain an environmental baseline dataset.

This report has been prepared for Rochford District Council by Essex County Council. The County Council has entered into an agreement with several local authorities in Essex to collect and maintain the baseline information to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.

The purpose of this report is to ensure that Rochford District Council is in an informed position, with regard to environmental issues and policy making, in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive. The report presents the SEA Baseline Information Profile for Rochford District Council for 2007-2008. It draws together national, regional and local data to enable assessment of the current situation within the Borough. Targets and standards at international, national and local level are also reviewed to provide the necessary context and to facilitate the focussing of resources into areas of non-compliance or significant failure. The report also examines limitations in the data collected.

The baseline data are collated from a variety of sources, both internal and external to Essex County Council and Rochford District Council. The data are presented with analysis and interpretation. Monitoring arrangements are in place for the data to be updated on an annual basis.

The baseline information is organised into the following topic areas, covered by the SEA Directive. The report is divided into two parts. Part I deals with the Natural Environment, including the topics of,

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
- Landscape
- Air Quality
- Climatic Factors
- Water Quality
- Flooding
- Soils, Minerals and Waste

Part II of the report deals with the Built Environment, and the following topics of,

- Cultural Heritage and Townscape
- Health

- Population and Social
- Economy
- Housing
- Transport

Each topic is presented in a separate chapter, with each chapter divided into 4 sections,

- Introduction
- Policy Context – with sub-sections, as appropriate, on International, National, Regional, County and Rochford context;
- Current Baseline Information – with sub-sections defined by the subject matter, including contextual and comparative information for broader geographic areas as appropriate and where possible;
- Summary

The information contained in the summaries for each chapter have been collated and are presented in an executive summary contained in the first few pages of this report.

A Bibliography, listing references, is included at the end of the report.

The document also includes hyperlinks to both the references and the sources of the information used in compiling the monitoring report. All of the information and links used were accurate at the time the information in this report was compiled, that is to say by the 31st December 2007.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The baseline information is collected into the topic areas, firstly dealing with the Natural Environment and secondly the Built Environment. At the end of each topic area a summary of the proceeding chapter is provided. These summaries are repeated here for ease of reference:

A. Biodiversity

- The Greengrid Partnership provides opportunities to enhance and restore various Biodiversity issues.
- Within the Rochford District listed in the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan are:
 - One plant Species,
 - Four Mammal Species,
 - Three Bird Species
 - One Invertebrate Species
 - Great Crested Newts and Shads
 - Eight Habitats
- Within the East of England overall bird species and woodland bird species have remained stable between 1994 and 2003, but farmland bird species have shown some declines.
- There are two areas (Foulness and the Crouch and Roach Estuaries) designated as Ramsar sites within the Rochford District, as part of the wider Mid Essex Coast Ramsar site. The same sites are also designated as SPAs, under the Natura 2000 network.
- An Appropriate Assessment to assess the impact of the policies and plans within any LDF proposals on these sites would be needed.
- Within the Rochford District, there is part of the Essex Estuaries SAC designated in 1996.
- There are three SSSIs within the Rochford District, Hockley Woods, Foulness and the Crouch and Roach Estuaries.
- Only Hockley Woods is currently meeting the PSA targets of 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites to be brought into a favourable condition by 2010. Only 87.5% of Foulness is meeting this target, and the Crouch & Roach Estuaries is in poor condition as it is unfavourable no change, or unfavourable declining condition.
- Rochford District has no NNRs.
- Rochford District has a total of four LNRs, Hockley Woods, Hullbridge Foreshore Marylands and Magnolia Fields.
- Rochford District contains 39 LoWSs. These are predominantly woodland, but there are also significant areas of grassland, mosaic coastal and freshwater habitat types.

B. Landscape

- There are three Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) located within the District, namely Hockley woods, Upper Crouch and the Crouch and Roach Marshes.
- Within the Rochford District there are three Landscape Character Areas (LCAs).
- Two of the three LCAs are highly sensitive to development, namely the Dengie and Foulness Coast and the Crouch and Roach Farmland.

- The main approaches to protecting the sensitive LCAs are to use opportunities for managed coastal realignment, and restoring natural features such as salt and grazing marshes. Additionally areas where traditional landscape character survives well, there needs to be particular protection from landscape or development change.
- Rochford District has 14 areas designated as ancient woodland
- There is one special verge along a portion of the A127.
- The Greengrid Partnership provides opportunities to enhance and restore various aspects of the landscape.

C. Air Quality

- The 2005 diffusion tube monitoring results indicate that 2005 concentrations exceeded the annual mean objective at sites with relevant exposure: Rochford Market Square and the junction of Rayleigh High Street and Eastwood Road. As a result a Detailed Assessment for NO₂ will be required for these two areas.
- Results for Carbon Monoxide, Benzene, 1,3 Butadiene, Lead and Sulphur Dioxide all indicate that the current targets will not be exceeded in the near future and that a detailed assessment is unnecessary at this point.
- With regards to PM₁₀ results, the Council is carrying out additional monitoring at the Rawreth Industrial Estate in Rayleigh as a result of dust complaints. Detailed Assessments should also be considered at the other sites where dust complaints have arisen, including at the Purdeys Industrial Estate in Rochford and in Great Wakering.

D. Climatic Factors

- In Rochford District the greatest consumer of energy is domestic (52%), consuming 855.9 Giga watts per hour (Gwh) and the smallest consumer is industry and commercial (23%).
- 49% of the total energy consumed in Rochford in 2004 is from natural gas (68.7Gwh). The second largest type consumed is petroleum products (1,291.1Gwh). There was no consumed energy resulting from manufactured fuels generation and only 0.1% resulting from renewables and waste generation.
- Rochford is the 10th largest consumer of energy within the County out of 12 Districts/Boroughs.
- The largest producer of consumed energy is from natural gas, whilst the lowest is from manufactured fuels.
- Rochford District consumes the third lowest amount of energy produced from renewable sources and waste in the County at 0.1%.

E. Water Quality

- There are no major aquifers present in Rochford District. These are mainly concentrated in North Braintree and North Uttlesford
- 9.43% of sampled stretches failed their RE target in 2006 within the District. This is the lowest amount since 1997, the first year for which information was received.
- There has been an absence of river stretches with a Chemical GQA result of 'Good' or above since 2000. 2005 was the year where chemical quality was recorded at its highest. 84.41% of river stretches were graded as 'Fairly Good'. In 2006, the proportion of river stretches graded as 'Fairly Good' decreased to 63.21%. Chemical water quality can be seen to be better across Essex and the East of England, with 'Very Good' and 'Good' quality waters comprising 43.02% and 43.95% of total sampled waters respectively.

- In 2006, biological water quality was recorded as being the highest in the District since 2004. The proportion of 'Fairly Good' waters, at 47.46%, is the highest across the study and more than double that reported in 2005. Again, Rochford District lacks water of 'Very Good' or 'Good' grades whereas in Essex and the East of England they comprise 43.95% and 68.61% respectively.

F. Flooding

- Both Essex Flood Zones 2 and 3 basically cover the same area and are more susceptible to flooding from the coast and the Crouch estuary.
- In the District of Rochford between the dates of 1/04/06 and 31/03/07, 1 barn conversion and 23 detached dwellings have been given planning consent irrespective of Environment Agency objections.

G. Soils, Minerals and Waste

- The majority of agricultural land within Essex can be broadly classified as Grade 2 in the north and Grade 3 to the south. Within Rochford District, 13.8% (2,352 hectares) of agricultural land is classified as Grade 1, 14.2% (2,417 hectares) as Grade 2, and 55.6% (9,488 hectares) is classified as Grade 3.
- The amount of landfilled waste has decreased in the District between 1999 and 2007. Rochford District sent 90.39% of its total landfilled waste in 1999 – 2000 to landfill in 2006 – 2007.
- From each dwelling in Rochford, 1.01 tonnes of waste was collected in 2006 – 2007. This is the 6th lowest in the County. 0.83 tonnes of this went to landfill, again the 6th lowest amount in the County
- Rochford residents sent 0.32 tonnes of waste per dwelling to a recycling centre in 2006 – 2007. This was the 7th lowest amount in the County.
- 17.18% of Rochford District's household waste was recycled or composted in 2006 – 2007. This was the lowest amount in the County, which had an average score of 29.99%.
- Since 2002 – 2003, Rochford District residents have sent less waste tonnage to landfill per dwelling than the Essex Average.
- Residents across all of Essex have consistently sent less waste to Household Waste Recycling Centres per dwelling than those in Rochford District.
- Since 2003 – 2004, the amount of District waste recycled has risen at a faster rate in the County than the District despite the total amount of waste per dwelling being similar at County and District level across these years.
- Rochford District has not met its BVPI82a or BVPI82b target since 2005 – 2006. Performance under these two indicators can however be seen to be improving between 2005 – 2006 and 2006 – 2007.
- 4 mineral and waste applications were submitted between January and December 2007 which had a decision made by 1st February 2008. All these have been approved.

H. Cultural Heritage and Townscape

- Rochford District holds 330 of Essex's total of 13,993 listed buildings. Of these 330, 2 are Grade 1 and 18 are Grade II*.
- In 2007, there were eight listed buildings on the Buildings at Risk register
- There was one listed building classed as newly at risk and no listed buildings removed from the register
- There are currently ten conservation areas in Rochford District.
- There are five Scheduled Monuments within the District
- Rochford District contains no registered village greens or commons.

I. Health

- Between 1993 and 2005 the rate of mortality for people of all ages caused by coronary heart disease has decreased in the District, from 173.79 to 90.4 per 100,000 people. This decrease follows the trend witnessed in England, the East of England and Essex. The coronary heart disease mortality rate in people under 75 has also decreased between 1993 and 2005 in the District, from 88.49 to 34.89 per 100,000 people.
- Mortality caused by all cancers has fallen in the District, Region and nation in both people of all ages and those under 75. In 2005, the mortality rate for both all ages (156.29) and for those under 75 (101.4) in the District is above that seen regionally and nationally.
- Life expectancy has increased within the District between 1991 and 2005, from 77.4 years in 1991 – 1993 to 81 years in 2003 – 2005. This is 1.97 years above the average life expectancy in the country, and 1.1 years below that seen regionally.
- At 22.4 conceptions per 1,000 females aged 15 – 17, the rate of teenage conception in Rochford District is below that seen in England, the East of England and Essex County. The conception rate is the third lowest in the County.
- 3.98% of Rochford District residents are receiving benefits. This is below both the East of England and England proportions, at 5.13% and 6.74% respectively. 8.23% of claimants have been claiming for 6 months or less, a figure below the regional and national average. All geographical hierarchies are seeing an increase in the number of people on benefit for more than 5 years. Rochford has the highest proportion of claimants in this bracket at 54.86%.
- 19.9% of Rochford District residents engage in at least 30mins of sporting activity 3 days a week. This is below the Essex average of 20% and is the 5th lowest in Essex.
- 6.95% of Rochford District residents live within 20 minutes of at 3 different leisure facilities, of which at least one has received a quality mark. This is the 4th lowest in the County and below the Essex average.
- 3100m² of D2 floorspace was completed on greenfield land in Downhall & Rawreth Ward between May 2006 and April 2007. Planning permission has been granted for a further 1000m² of D2 floorspace to be developed on previously developed land in Rochford Civil Parish.
- 74.7% of Rochford District residents were satisfied or very satisfied with sports provision in their local area. This is above the Essex average of 71%. 90.29% of Rochford District residents felt that parks and open spaces had improved or stayed the same whilst 54.26% felt that activities for teenagers had got better or stayed the same. The former is above the Essex average of 88.6% whilst the latter is below the Essex average of 56.72%.

J. Population and Social Summary

- ONS Mid-year estimates for Rochford District between the 2001 and 2006, Essex and regionally and nationally show that population growth in Rochford at 3.05% is slightly less than that of the county and the east of England region at 3.70% and 3.82% respectively but larger than the national figure of 2.66%.
- Rochford District has a lower proportion of the population aged 15-44 than the East of England average and national figures. There is a slightly higher percentage of people aged 45 – 64 in the District than seen regionally and nationally.

- The Rochford District population will rise by 10.55% to 87,000 in 2021. This percentage increase is lower than the county average of 14.64% and the regional average at 15.19%, but slightly higher than the nationwide average of 10.42%.
- With the adoption of Policy H1 from the Draft RSS, Rochford's population would rise to 81,400, an increase of 3.83%. Essex's overall population is expected to rise by 6.20% to 1,392,500 and the regional population by 10.61% to 5,973,100.
- The ONS figures indicate a higher District population in Rochford than the Chelmer figures across all ages with the exception of those of retirement age. In the County as a whole, the Chelmer figures forecast a higher population than the ONS figures project across all ages, particularly in the 45-64 year old category with a difference of approximately 52,000. Regionally, the ONS data projects a higher population in 2021 than the Chelmer figures forecast.
- The number of those attending primary schools has steadily decreased over the period 2003-2007 by 558 pupils. The numbers attending secondary schools have risen annually between 2003 and 2006 by 251 pupils but decreased by 30 pupils between 2006 and 2007.
- Capacity figures for 2007 indicate that on a District wide basis there are enough primary school places for the current year, however there is a shortfall of 20 pupils for secondary schools.
- The number of those taking GCSEs in the District had risen between 2003/04-2005/06, a trend matched regionally and nationally.
- The District is performing above the East of England region and nationally in the attainment of 5+ A*-C grades and most notably significantly above the regional and national percentage increases between 2003/04-2005/06.
- Offences per 1000 population in the District are lower than the national average for all of the offences listed.
- Rochford is the third best ranked District out of the 12 in the County in the IMD2007.
- The District performs well in the Environment indoor sub-domain at 5.72 which is below the County average of 8.28.
- The District performs poorly in the Environment outdoor sub-domain at 14.12 and above the County average of 12.68 making Rochford the fourth most deprived district/borough in the county.
- Poor performance can be seen in the Geographical Barriers to Small Services Sub Domain where the District performs below the mean county score and is the joint fourth worst District / Borough in the County.

K. Economy

- The number of VAT based local units registered within Rochford District was recorded as 2,660 VAT in March 2007 by the Office for National Statistics.
- The composition of Rochford District's industry in 2006 was broadly similar to both the Regional and National composition. Property and business services were the most prevalent. The major differences are that Rochford District has an agricultural sector proportionately just over half of that seen regionally and nationally, and a larger proportion of businesses involved in Construction.
- Factories and warehouses account for the majority of industrial floorspace at all geographical hierarchies in 2007. The single largest floorspace allocation is to factories at 37.24% of total floorspace. Commercial office floorspace shows the greatest under-representation, being recorded at 7% in Rochford, 12.42% in the East of England and 14.27% in England.

- The percentage of commercial and industrial land vacant in the District has remained stable between April 1999 and March 2005 at 6%. This is 2% below the regional figure and 3% below the national figure recorded between April 2004 and March 2005. 6.55ha of land is currently earmarked in employment areas for non-residential uses.
- In Rochford District, businesses which employ between 0 and 4 people accounted for 79.2% of all VAT registered local units in 2007. This compares to 68.71% regionally and 67.12% nationally.
- Job Density within Rochford District has been below that seen in the East of England and England between 2000 and 2005. Job Density peaked in the District at 0.58 in 2003. In 2006 it was recorded at 0.53. Job Density in Great Britain was recorded as 0.84 in 2005.
- Rochford had a higher proportion of people employed in the Manufacturing and Construction sectors in 2006. There is a slight deficit in most services, specifically finance and IT. The ratio of full time to part time jobs, at 2:1, is in line with regional and national averages.
- In April 2006 – March 2007, 33.2% of District employees could be found within SOC Major Group 4-5 (administrative & secretarial and skilled trade occupations), compared to 23.3% regionally and 22.9% nationally. The District is relatively underrepresented in all other major SOC groupings between April 2006 and March 2007.
- Between April 2006 and March 2007, 77.3% of Rochford District residents were economically active, a lower figure than that found in the Eastern Region (80.4%) and Great Britain (78.5%). There are also a lower proportion of people being employed within the District, although the proportion of people who are self-employed is higher than that regionally and nationally.
- The proportion of economically inactive residents who are looking for a job in Rochford District (7.4%) between October 2005 and September 2006 was higher than that reported regionally (5.1%) and nationally (5.4%)
- Average full time weekly pay received by Rochford residents was reported as £545.60 in 2007. This is above the £479.10 and £459.00 reported regionally and nationally. Rochford District is ranked 8th of the 48 Local Authorities covered by the regional analysis.
- The majority of A1 – A2 development implemented or outstanding within Rochford District is scheduled to occur in Rochford Civil Parish. Whitehouse Ward is the only ward in the District where B1 development is either implemented or scheduled. The majority of B1 – B8 development implemented between April 2006 and March 2007 took place on existing B1 – B8 development and as such only a relatively small net gain was made. A further 10,534m² of B1 – B8 development is planned, with 7524m² scheduled for Rochford Civil Parish.

L. Housing

- As of 26th September 2007, Rochford Housing Association became responsible for all housing previously owned by Rochford District Council.
- 82.8% of tenants were in favour of this.
- As of 18th December 2007, Rochford Housing Association was in control of 1738 dwellings.
- 89% of these meet the Decent Homes Standard.
- Between 2001/02 and 2004/05 there were 11 affordable dwellings completed.
- In 2004/05 the percentage of affordable dwellings completed in developments of 25 dwellings or more was 19.23%, which met the 15% target set within Policy HP8 of the Local Plan.

- There were 1401 housing sales in Rochford in 2005. There were 415 transactions of detached dwellings in 2005, 129 transactions of flats, and 677 transactions of semi-detached houses.
- The average price of a detached dwelling in Rochford in 2007 was £319,790, slightly below the average detached dwelling price in Essex and slightly higher than in Southend-on-Sea. The average cost of a semi-detached dwelling in Rochford was £200,064, slightly lower than nationally and regionally.
- Of the 33,680 houses in Rochford District in March 2006, 33.44% were in council tax band C. 29.77% were in council tax band D. These figures are higher than that seen regionally and nationally. The majority of dwellings nationally are in tax band A.
- The number of homelessness applications has decreased to a total of 57 in 2005/06. The number of homelessness acceptances has also decreased to 41 in 2005/06, a similar level to that seen in 2000/01.
- Rochford and Southend-on-Sea have seen no authorised gypsy sites with socially rented caravans in the last two years. The number of privately rented caravans on authorised gypsy and traveller sites had increased to 6 in July 2007.
- There are 15 “not tolerated” caravans in Rochford on land owned by gypsies.
- There are 5 caravans that are not tolerated on land not owned by gypsies as of July 2007.
- As of 18th January 2007 there were no gypsy sites provided in Rochford District, although there were 164 pitches provided throughout Essex with the capacity to support 285 caravans.

M. Transport

- 43% of the English population own 1 car or van
- 44% of the residents in the East of England own 1 car or van
- 43% of people living in Essex own 1 car or van
- 42% of people residing in Rochford own 1 car or van
- In 2001, there were 65.2% more workers living in Rochford than there were jobs available
- 22.8% of Rochford residents work in Southend
- 17.9% of Rochford residents travel to London to work
- 19% of people working in Rochford live in Southend
- 5.92% of the residential population of Rochford work at home
- 38.97% of Rochford residents travel to work by car or van
- 10.15% of the population use the train to get to work
- Most of Rochford is located within 30 minutes of businesses by public transport
- Rochford is within 60 minutes of a hospital by public transport
- Rochford is within 60 minutes of a place of further education by public transport
- The A130, A127, and A127 are the major routes near to Rochford
- The A13 and the A127 show heavy congestion, while the A130 is not shown to suffer from heavy traffic.
- The A132 is also shown to have heavy congestion
- There have been on average 2 Killed or Seriously Injured Accidents involving children in the last 2 years in Rochford

PART ONE: Natural Environment

3 BIODIVERSITY, FLORA AND FAUNA

3.1 Introduction

The term biodiversity simply describes the variety of all living things and their habitats. This can be as general to cover the diversity of plant and animal species (and their genetic variation) globally, or more detailed to cover single ecosystems. Biodiversity is important because it provides us with many of the things that sustain our lives. It is essential that biodiversity and the 'natural balance' of ecosystems are protected because it is necessary to maintain the current quality of life and standard of living.

However, in the UK over 100 species have been lost during the last century as a result of human activity. On a global scale, the rate of loss is now recognised as a serious concern, requiring intensive international action to prevent continued loss of biodiversity.

3.2 POLICY CONTEXT

A. International Context

At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (1992), over 150 countries (including the UK) signed The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and agreed to restore the richness of the natural world.

In 1993 the Government published the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The UK BAP describes the UK's biological resources and has 391 Species Action Plans, 45 Habitat Action Plans and 162 Local Biodiversity Action Plans (of which one is called the Essex Biodiversity Plan) with targeted actions. Due to the scale of the project nationally, county level action plans were needed. Therefore the Essex Biodiversity Project was formed in 1999 with specific and focused objectives concentrating on those species and habitats that are confined to, or are characteristic of Essex.

Further information on the UK BAP can be found at

<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/>.

B. National Contexts

i) Planning Policy Guidance and Planning Policy Statements

National planning policies are published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in Planning Policy Statements (PPS), which are gradually replacing Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG). In respect of biodiversity, national guidance is presented in two documents:

- PPS 1 Delivering Sustainable Development (2005) states that sustainable development is the core principle underpinning planning and the protection of the environment is an integral part of this goal

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicystatement>

- PPS 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation sets out planning policies on protection of biodiversity and geological conservation through the planning system

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicystatement12>

C. Regional / County Context

i) Draft East of England Plan

The Draft East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy), prepared by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), was submitted to Government in December 2004. Following a period of public consultation the Plan was subject of an Examination in Public (EiP) between November 2005 and March 2006. The Report of the EiP Panel was published in June 2006. In December 2006 the Secretary of State published Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for a period of public consultation to March 2007. Following consideration of the consultation response, the Secretary of State issued some Further Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for public consultation between October-December 2007. These Changes incorporate the recommendations of an additional Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Secretary of State's publication of the final version of the East of England Plan is expected during the first quarter of 2008.

Relevant policies to Biodiversity include:

- Policy ENV1: Environmental Infrastructure seeks to identify environmental infrastructure, developed and implemented ensuring a healthy and enhanced environment
- Policy ENV3: Biodiversity And Earth Heritage this is to ensure that the internationally and nationally designated sites in the region are given the strongest level of protection. The region's biodiversity, earth heritage and natural resources will be protected and enriched through conservation, restoration and re-establishment of key resources
- Policy C5: Recreation And Natural Resources seeks to ensure clear strategies will be developed for improving opportunities for informal recreation and making adequate provision for formal recreational activities which rely on the use of natural and manmade features.

For the full document go to:

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=120>

ii) Essex Biodiversity Action Plan

The Essex Biodiversity Action Plan (EBAP) currently contains action plans for the 25 species and 10 habitats and seeks to provide expert advice to Local Authorities when making decisions on planning matters.

A sub-group of the Essex Biodiversity Project formed in May 2006 is to review the species and habitats in the EBAP. This document will include targets and actions at a district level, where appropriate. The work of this group is on-going.

Further information can be found at

<http://www.essexbiodiversity.org.uk/Default.aspx?pageindex=4&pageid=47>.

iii) Thames Gateway South Essex Greengrid

The TGSE Greengrid is a long-term project (over the next 20 to 30 years) to encourage the development of a network of open spaces and green links throughout the Thames Gateway in South Essex. It is influenced by PPG 17: Open Space Sports and Recreation.

The Greengrid is an area of over 400 sq km broadly to the south of the A127. A number of wider linked benefits include health, transport, recreation, air quality and quality of life.

There are a number of community based projects which seek to:

- create (and enhance existing) connecting greenways to improve 'access for all'
- improve marshland areas bordering with London and south Basildon
- improve access and landscape to riverside military and industrial sites
- improve the country park
- conserve wildlife and open spaces

The Greengrid is a partnership project that includes the five local authorities of south Essex, Essex County Council and many government agencies and local environmental organisations. The partnership encourages active involvement from local people and community groups

For more information on the South Essex Green Grid go to:

<http://www.greengrid.co.uk/>

D. District Context

i) Rochford District Replacement Local Plan Adopted 16th June 2006

Relevant policies relating to Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna are:

- Policy CS2: part of the core strategy, highlighting the importance of protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment.
- Policy NR4: Biodiversity on Development Sites
- Policy NR5: European and International Sites
- Policy NR6: Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Policy NR7: Local Nature Reserves & Wildlife Sites
- Policy NR9: Species Protection

Further information about Rochford's Adopted Local Plan can be found at:

http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/pdf/planning_replacement_local_plan_small.pdf

ii) Rochford District Core Strategy, Regulation 25 Draft, September 2006

This is part of the LDF implementation and so as the incoming policy it is important to note that there are several areas where Rochford District Council considers the following options probable:

Protection and Enhancement of Special Landscapes, Habitats and Species

- Protection of the undeveloped coast
- Protection of wildlife sites and LNRs
- BAP Species and Habitat Protection

Further information about this core strategy document can be found on Rochford's website at

http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/PDF/planning_regulation_25_core_strategy.pdf

3.3 CURRENT BASELINE INFORMATION

A. Indigenous Flagship Species

The EBAP contains action plans for 25 species and 10 habitats throughout Essex. Therefore to ensure that current and future planning policy appropriately addresses issues related to biodiversity and the natural environment that planning officers are aware of the biological factors evident in the local area. The section below illustrates the species and habitats native within the administrative boundary of Rochford District Council outlined in the BAP, the current status, factors causing loss or decline in the species and relevant policy actions that may be taken to protect and enhance the species.

All species receive extra protection if they are within a designated area, such as a SSSI or other nature or landscape designation.

i) Plants

Native Black Poplar (*Populus Nigra* subspecies *Betulifolia*)

Habitat:

Near fresh water or in a floodplain

Description:

A Deciduous fast growing tree. It has a spreading canopy and is densely leaved, growing up to 30m. Rugged blackish bark with large bosses on the trunk

Now very scarce because female trees (research has suggested that there are only 10 female trees in Essex) have been unpopular because they produce so many seedlings. Also the 'floodplain forests' (their Native Habitat) are limited, restricting reproduction.

STATUS: VERY SCARCE

Legal Protection:

Black poplars receive no specific protection. It is protected as a wild plant through:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981
- Forestry Act 1967
- Tree Preservation Orders

ii) Mammals

Brown Hare (*Lepus Europaeus*)

Habitat:

grassland, open woodland. They graze on grasses and leaves; in winter also eat buds and tree bark.

Description:

Our native hare, looking like a long-legged, long-eared rabbit. It is sandy brown with white underside; long black-tipped ears; short tail black above and white below.

Males fight for partners in the breeding season, rearing up on their hind legs and boxing.

STATUS: DECLINING IN ESSEX

Legal Protection:

The brown hare is a game species so receives no specific legal protection; however it is protected through:

- Ground Game Act (1880)
- Ground Game Act (1880)
- Hares Preservation Act (1892)
- Hare Protection Act (1911).
- Protection of Animals Act (1911)
- Hunting Act (2004):

Under this protection it is an offence to:

- To use any firearm or gun of any description at night for the purpose of killing game. This is an additional offence to night poaching where game is being shot during the night, which begins one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.
- Sell or expose for sale any hare or leveret between 1st March and 31st July, but does not apply to imported foreign hares.
- set any spring to catch hares
- hunt a wild mammal with a dog, unless the activity is specifically exempted
- course hares

Dormouse (*Muscardinus Avellanarius*)

Habitat:

broadleaved or mixed woodland, prefers coppiced woodland and with hazel and honeysuckle. Native of southern but limited sites in Essex

Britain and Western Europe, but now only a handful of sites in Essex

Description:

Rich orange-brown with a furry tail; head/body 6–8.5cm, tail as long again. Strictly nocturnal and rarely leaves the trees. Eats nuts, seeds, fruit and some insects; leaves hazel nuts with a characteristic hole gnawed in the side

STATUS: FEW HABITAT SITES, VERY SCARCE

Legal Protection:

- Appendix 3 of the Bonn Convention
- Annex IV of the EC Habitats Directive
- Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981)
- Schedule 2 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994

Taken together, these make it an offence to:

- intentionally capture, kill or injure a dormouse;
- deliberately disturb a dormouse or damage or destroy a dormouse breeding site or resting place
- possess or transport a dormouse or any part of a dormouse;
- Sell, barter or exchange dormice or parts of dormice.
- Also, a licence must be obtained from the Nature Conservancy Council before examination of nest boxes can be permitted.

Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena Phocoena*)

Habitat

Porpoises are most often seen in small groups or individually within 10 km of the shore.

Description

The harbour porpoise is the only species of true porpoise found in Europe.

It never reaches more than 2m in length. It has a dark grey back and is paler below, a small round body and small head with no beak. The dorsal fin is triangular and placed in the middle of the back.

STATUS: DECLINING

Legal Protection:

- Appendix II of CITES
- Appendix of the Bern Convention
- Annex II and IV of EC Habitats Directive
- Appendix 2 of the Bonn Convention
- covered by the terms of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)
- a regional agreement under the Bonn Convention
- Protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

A combination of this legislation means it is an offence to:

- commercial trade of Harbour Porpoises
- deliberately capture or kill,
- Deliberate disturbance, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing hibernation and migration.
- Deliberately destroy breeding sites

Pipistrelle Bats (*Pipistrellus Pipistrellus* and *Pipistrellus Pygmaeus*)

Habitat:

Often roost and nest in the roof space of houses and in old trees. The most widespread in Essex

Description:

The smallest European bat, typically weighing 6 or 7g. It has brown or reddish brown fur with small triangular ears. Usually fly at or just above head height, zigzagging from side to side in search of prey at dusk.

STATUS: MASSIVE DECLINE

Legal Protection:

- listed on Appendix III of the Bern Convention
- Annex IV of the EC Habitats Directive
- Appendix II of the Bonn Convention
- Agreement on the Conservation of bats in Europe.
- Schedule 2 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994
- Schedules 5 and 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

Under this protection it is an offence to harm or disturb any bat species or bat roost. Also only people licence can handle a bat.

iii) Birds

Grey Partridge (*Perdix Perdix*)

Habitat:

heaths and open agricultural fields with hedgerows

Description:

Small and stocky game bird, streaked brown back, grey breast, red face and chestnut horseshoe shaped mark on belly. Often in small flocks (coveys) on fields where they feeds on insects, leaves and seeds.

STATUS: DRAMATIC RECENT DECLINE

Legal Protection:

- is listed under Appendix III/1 of EC Birds Directive
- appendix III of the Bern Convention
- the Game Acts

From this legislation:

Shooting of grey partridge can continue, only a maximum of 25% of the population can be shot, in the open season which is between the 1st September and the 1st February and only when the partridge population can sustain it.

Skylark (*Alauda Arvensis*)**Habitat:**

large open fields with short vegetation, also salt marsh and wasteland

Description:

Heavily streaked brown bird with small crest and white outer tail. It is a ground-nesting bird well known for its song. Its main food is grain and weed seeds, but also insects.

STATUS: DRAMATIC RECENT DECLINE

Legal Protection:

- 1979 EC Birds Directive
- wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (general protection in Sections 1-8)
- registered UK Red listed species

From this legislation it is an offence to:

- Deliberately kill or injure the bird, take it from the wild,
- Damage its nest or take its eggs.

However, under schedule 3 part 1 of the 1981 Act it is identified as a species which may be sold alive at all times or shown competitively if ringed and bred in captivity.

Song Thrush (*Turdus Philomelus*)**Habitat:**

gardens, woods, heaths, fields, hedges

Description:

Brown bird with speckled front, 22–24 cm in length. It perches openly and eats worms, insects, seeds, berries, and snails when other food is scarce.

STATUS: DRAMATIC RECENT DECLINE

Legal Protection:

- EC Birds Directive
- Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (general protection under Sections 1-8)

Through a combination of this protection it is an offence to:

- intentionally to kill, injure or take any wild bird
- Intentionally to take, damage or destroy the eggs, young or nest of a Song Thrush while it is being built or in use. It is therefore essential to ensure that nests are not destroyed by inappropriate hedge trimming or tree felling during the breeding season

iv) Invertebrates

Heath Fritillary (*Mellicta Athalia*)

Habitat:

Mainly ancient woodland and coppiced areas. Its main food plants include Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*), Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and Germander speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*).

Description:

a small butterfly with distinct dusky wing colours and pattern

STATUS: REINTRODUCED IN TO ESSEX

Legal Protection:

- listed as vulnerable on the GB Red List (RDB 2)
- schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Under a combination of this legislation it is an offence to:

- Intentionally kill, injures or takes a specimen from the wild (this, in effect prohibits collecting for any purpose). This includes any ova, larva and pupa as well as mature insects
- Has in their possession any live or dead wild specimen or any part of or anything derived from such specimen.
- Trade in specimens

v) Other

Great Crested Newt (*Triturus Cristatus*)

Habitat:

Lowland ponds

Description:

the largest of the three newt species occurring in Britain

STATUS: QUITE WIDESPRED IN BRITAIN THOUGH DECLINING

Legal Protection:

- Annexes II and IV of the EC Habitats Directive

- Appendix II of the Bern Convention
- Schedule 2 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations, 1994, (Regulation 38)
- Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

From these various levels of protection it is an offence to:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill a great crested newt
- Possess or control any live or dead specimen or anything derived from a great crested newt
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a great crested newt
- Deliberately, intentionally or recklessly disturb a great crested newt while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose
- Deliberately take or destroy the eggs of a great crested newt

Allis Shad (*Alosa Alosa*) and Twaite Shad (*Alosa Fallax*)

Habitat

Both species are recorded in coastal waters and estuaries throughout the year

Description

Twaite and Allis shad are anadromous (they reproduce in fresh water and grow in the sea). They are covered with distinctive large, circular scales which form a toothed edge under the belly. The head has large eyes. The body has small fins and a tail with two pointed areas of scales almost reaching a fork. The allis shad is the larger of the two species (30-50 cm in length) the Twaite shad rarely reaching over 40 cm.

STATUS: Twaite shad are caught offshore and are found within the Blackwater and Thames Estuary. There are no records of allis shad

Legal Protection

- Both Species are included in Appendix III of the Bern Convention (1979)
- Both Species are included in Annex II and V of the EC Habitats Directive
- Allis shad are already protected under Schedule 5 in relation to Section 9(1) killing, injuring and taking
- It is proposed to add both species to Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act in relation to Section 9(4) (a). This will make it an offence to obstruct access to spawning areas, or to damage or destroy gravels used for spawning.

From a combination of this legislation it is an offence to:

- Intentionally obstruct access to spawning areas, or to damage or destroy gravels used for spawning.

Further information on the species listed above can be found at

<http://www.essexwt.org.uk/main/welcome.htm> or <http://www.essexbiodiversity.org.uk/>.

B. Native Habitats

There are a number of habitat types which are native to the Rochford district. These are:

i) Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows and Green Lanes

A hedgerow is a boundary structure that shares characteristics of both woodland edge and scrub habitats. Green Lanes are old tracks that evolved before the formal road system which remain unmodified and still retain some of their physical, biological or archaeological features.

Although some hedgerows date from Roman times, most were established between the Middle Ages through to the 1860 enclosure movements.

Hedgerows growing along parish boundaries, farm and drove roads may include remnants of the ancient wildwood. Trees and shrubs in ancient hedgerows may be important in maintaining genetic diversity.

Hedgerows and Green Lanes support the greatest diversity of plants and animals, and are defined legally in the Hedgerow Regulations as being those which were in existence before the Enclosure Acts, and specifically before 1875. They provide valuable wildlife corridors and habitats for many species.

The following EBAP species can be present in hedgerows and green lanes; Pipistrelle bat, grey partridge, song thrush, and dormouse.

Legal Status:

- Article 10 of the European Community Habitats Directive
- Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 1994
- the Hedgerow Regulations 1997
- Forestry Act 1967

A combination of these Regulations mean:

- It is illegal to destroy hedgerows which fall within the scope of the Regulations without first notifying the local authority who must the hedgerow
- a landowner must have a Felling Licence from the Forestry Commission to fell trees
- there is a commitment to improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network

ii) Ancient Woodland

Ancient woodlands usually support the greatest diversity of plants and animals compared to other types of woods, so long as they have been managed sympathetically over time. They have also significant value for their historical, cultural and landscape importance.

Ancient woodlands are those which have been in continuous existence since before 1600 AD. Most are likely to have existed since the end of the last Ice Age (primary) although some were cleared and then re-established before 1600 AD (ancient secondary). Ancient woodlands are important because they can contain a wide range of flora and fauna, much of which are confined to ancient woods because they are unable spread between sites by natural means. The following species occur in appropriately managed ancient woodland in Essex, and are included on the UK priority list.

The following EBAP species can be present ancient woodland; Dormouse, Pipistrelle bat, stag beetle, oxlip, brown hare

Legal Status:

- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs),
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (where ancient woods are SSSIs)

This legislation means

- It is a criminal offence to cut any live wood on a protected tree.
- A Felling Licence is required from the Forestry Authority for mass tree felling.

iii) Cereal Field Margins

Cereal field margins are strips of land lying between cereal crops and the field boundary. They can extend for a limited distance into the crop, which is deliberately managed to create conditions which benefit key farmland species, without having serious detrimental effects on the remaining cropped area.

Sensitively managed field margins provide nesting and feeding sites for game birds and other bird species. Many species of butterflies, grasshoppers, insects and invertebrates are associated with such sites.

Even more dependent on cereal field margins are the rare and important arable flowers. These are of conservation concern because of an enormous national decline in their distribution and abundance.

The following EBAP species can be present in cereal field margins Brown hare, grey partridge, skylark, Pipistrelle bat

Legal Status:

- Food and Environment Protection Act 1985
- Environment Act 1995
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997

This legislation means:

- it is illegal to spray pesticides into hedge bases, unless otherwise specified
- It is illegal to destroy hedgerows which fall within the scope of the Regulations without first notifying the local authority, which will then assess the hedge.

iv) Coastal Grazing Marsh

Coastal grazing marsh is in the low lying coastal belt (usually just behind sea walls) which are periodically inundated pasture or meadow with ditches maintaining the water level and contain standing water. These are created by enclosing the salt marshes. Almost all are grazed and some are cut for hay or silage.

Coastal grazing marshes are particularly important for many species of plants and animal, in particular breeding birds. Winter migrants feed and roost on the marshes.

The following EBAP species can be present in coastal grazing marsh are Brown hare, skylark, water vole, shining ramshorn snail.

Legal Status:

- Most are within other designations such as SSSI, Ramsar or SPA, so are protected under these designations

v) Saline Lagoons

Lagoons are bodies of saline water partially separated from the adjacent sea. They retain a proportion of their water at low tide, and may develop as brackish, fully saline or hyper saline (water with excessive or supersaturated salt content) habitats.

The flora and fauna of the lagoonal habitat is very specialised, reflecting the distinctive water chemistry. Most of the larger sites are protected by being designated as a SSSI SACs, or a priority habitat on the EC Habitats Directive. However, there are no lagoons considered sufficiently important in Essex on a national scale. The definition given in the UK BAP can accommodate numerous, often small sites such as those in Essex.

The following EBAP species are associated with saline lagoons are coastal grazing marsh, reedbeds, and bittern.

Legal Status:

Unless the area falls in to a SSSI, or other designated area, there is little protection for the site.

vi) Sea Grass Beds

The sea grass beds are generally composed of 3 species of eelgrass (*Zostera* spp.). The dwarf eelgrass, (*Zostera noltii*), the narrow leaved eelgrass, (*Zostera angustifolia*) and Marine eelgrass (*Zostera marina*). These 'grasses' are among the few flowering plants which are truly marine, some forming dense undersea meadows in sheltered waters.

Eelgrass beds provide a unique environment for many invertebrate species, including those which bury in the substrate, fasten themselves to the foliage, graze on the abundant growth and those which feed on the grazers. These beds are also important for the herbivorous wildfowl.

There are no EBAP species associated with this habitat.

Legal Status:

- These areas do not have specific protection, but much of the area is protected by other designations, such as SSSI, Ramsar, SPA, cSAC or under a coastal management plan.

vii) Heathland

Heathland is distinctive amongst British habitats as it is dominated by low-growing shrubs, rather than by trees, grasses or herbaceous plants. These habitats provide an important habitat for many different species, despite the inhospitable conditions creating a distinctive Heathland community.

Heathlands are man-made habitats which only persist if they are managed correctly (controlling Pine and Silver Birch seedlings), by gazing, cutting or fire. They were created as prehistoric forest clearance began to make way for crops. Primitive farming techniques on the poor free draining sandy and acidic soils could not prevent the leaching of nutrients, rain washing out the nutrients. Crops failed, the land was abandoned and these poor soils provided a fine habitat for heathers.

The EBAP species can be present in heathland is the skylark,

Legal Status:

- No special protection for the habitat type.

viii) Urban Areas

Essex has a great variety of valuable urban wildlife. Urban sites can provide a refuge for once widespread plants and animals; industrial land, urban commons, gardens and buildings can offer unique habitats which often support uncommon species and unique assemblages of plants and animals.

Parks, cemeteries, canals, allotments, 'derelict' land and gardens can support a huge range of species and play a crucial role in maintaining the wildlife resource of towns and cities. The character of urban areas is continually altering, through improvements, development and the changing demands on land.

The following EBAP species can be present in urban areas; water vole, skylark, song thrush, Pipistrelle bat

Legal Status:

- There is very little legal protection for urban wildlife areas, left to the discretion of the Local Authority.

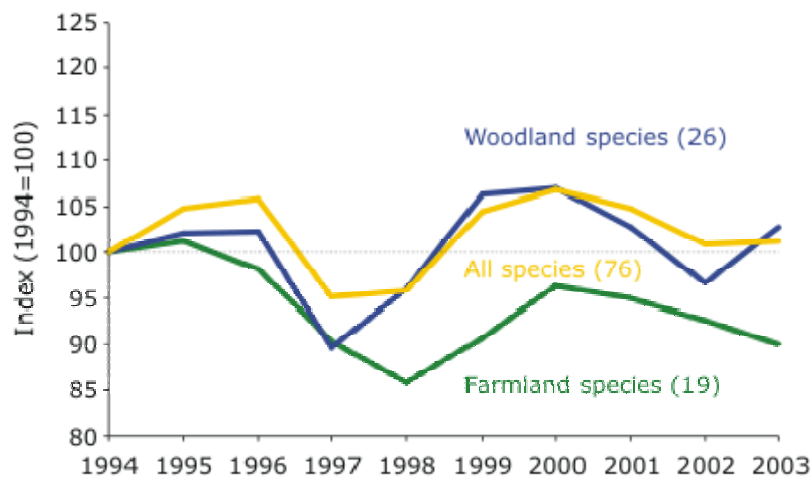
3.4 Bird Populations

Bird population can often be a useful indicator to the biodiversity in different areas such as, woodland and farmland. They are easier to locate and identify, than more illusive species and from their distribution, other species numbers and types (on which the birds are dependant) can be approximated.

Figure 1 shows the change in woodland and farmland bird species for the East of England, between 1994 and 2003.

From this it can be seen that the region's farmland bird populations decreased to 14 per cent below 1994 levels by 1998, recovered to 4 per cent below 1994 levels in 2000 but have declined again to 10 per cent below 1994 levels at 2003. However, woodland bird populations in the East of England decreased by 10 per cent between 1994 and 1997, but then increased to 7 per cent above 1994 levels by 2000. However by 2003 woodland populations had fallen slightly and were just 3 per cent above 1994 levels.

Figure 1: Farmland and Woodland Bird Population Indices, 1994 to 2003



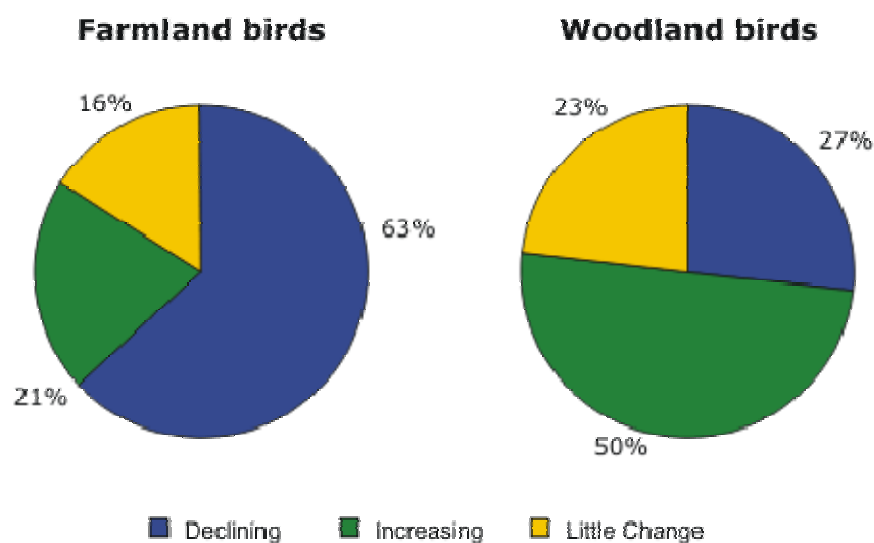
Source: Defra, 2007

<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/regional/ee/20.htm>

Figure 2 shows the percentage of bird populations that have changed between 1994 and 2003 in the east of England. Of the 19 farmland bird species monitored in the region, 21 per cent increased, 63 per cent declined and 16 per cent remained fairly stable. Of the 26 species of woodland bird monitored in the region, 50 per cent increased between 1994 and 2003, whereas 27 per cent declined and 23 per cent showed little change.

The information shows that woodland bird species have recovered to the level they were at in 1994, and the levels of farmland species, which experienced a steeper decline than woodland species, have not yet returned to those at 1994.

Figure 2: Percentage of Farmland and Woodland Bird Populations Increasing, Decreasing or Showing Little Change from 1994 To 2003



Source: Defra, 2007

<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/regional/ee/20.htm>

More information about bird populations can be found at:

<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/regional/ee/20.htm>

3.5 Land Designations

A. Ramsar Sites

Ramsar sites are European designated sites, as part of the Natura 2000 network. The Habitat directive protects these sites and requires appropriate measures to reduce potential adverse impacts arising from development proposals.

The UK Government signed the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention) in 1973. Ramsar sites are areas which have been formally 'listed' (designated) as Wetlands of International Importance by the Secretary of State. Natural England carries out consultations on the proposed listing with owners, occupiers and local authorities. Many sites qualify for both Ramsar and SPA designations.

Within Rochford District there is the Mid-Essex Coast Ramsar Sites, within which the Crouch and Roach Estuaries (incorporating River Crouch Marshes) was phase three in 1998 and Foulness was phase five listed in 1996.

Ramsar sites are European designated sites, protected as part of the Natura 2000 network. The Habitats Directive protects these sites and requires appropriate measures to reduce potential adverse impacts arising from development proposals. As Rochford contains a number of these protected sites, and the policies and proposals within the emerging Development Framework would have an impact on them sites an Appropriate Assessment would be required to assess the impact of these.

Further information about Ramsar Sites can be found at:

<http://www.english-nature.org.uk/about/facts3.htm>

B. Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are areas classified (designated) by the Secretary of State, under the Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds, adopted in 1979. This is a European designation, as part of the Natura 2000 network This Directive applies to birds, their eggs, nests and habitats, providing protection, management and control of all species of naturally occurring wild birds in the European territory. It requires Member States to take measures to preserve a sufficient diversity of habitats for these wild birds species to maintain populations at ecologically and scientifically sound levels. It also requires Member States to take special measures to conserve the habitats of certain particularly rare species and of migratory species.

Within the Rochford District the same three sites meet the criteria for SPA status as those qualifying for Ramsar protection; Foulness classified in 1996, and Crouch and Roach Estuaries (classified in 1998).

Further information about SPAs can be found at:

<http://www.english-nature.org.uk/about/facts3.htm>

C. Special Areas of Conservation

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) are designated by the European Commission after a period of consultation under

article 3 of the Habitats Directive (EC Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, 1992). These are European designations as part of the Natura 2000 network. This directive requires Member States to maintain or restore habitats and species at a favourable conservation status in the community. Special Protection Areas for birds (SPAs) and SACs will together make up a network of sites in Europe called Natura 2000.

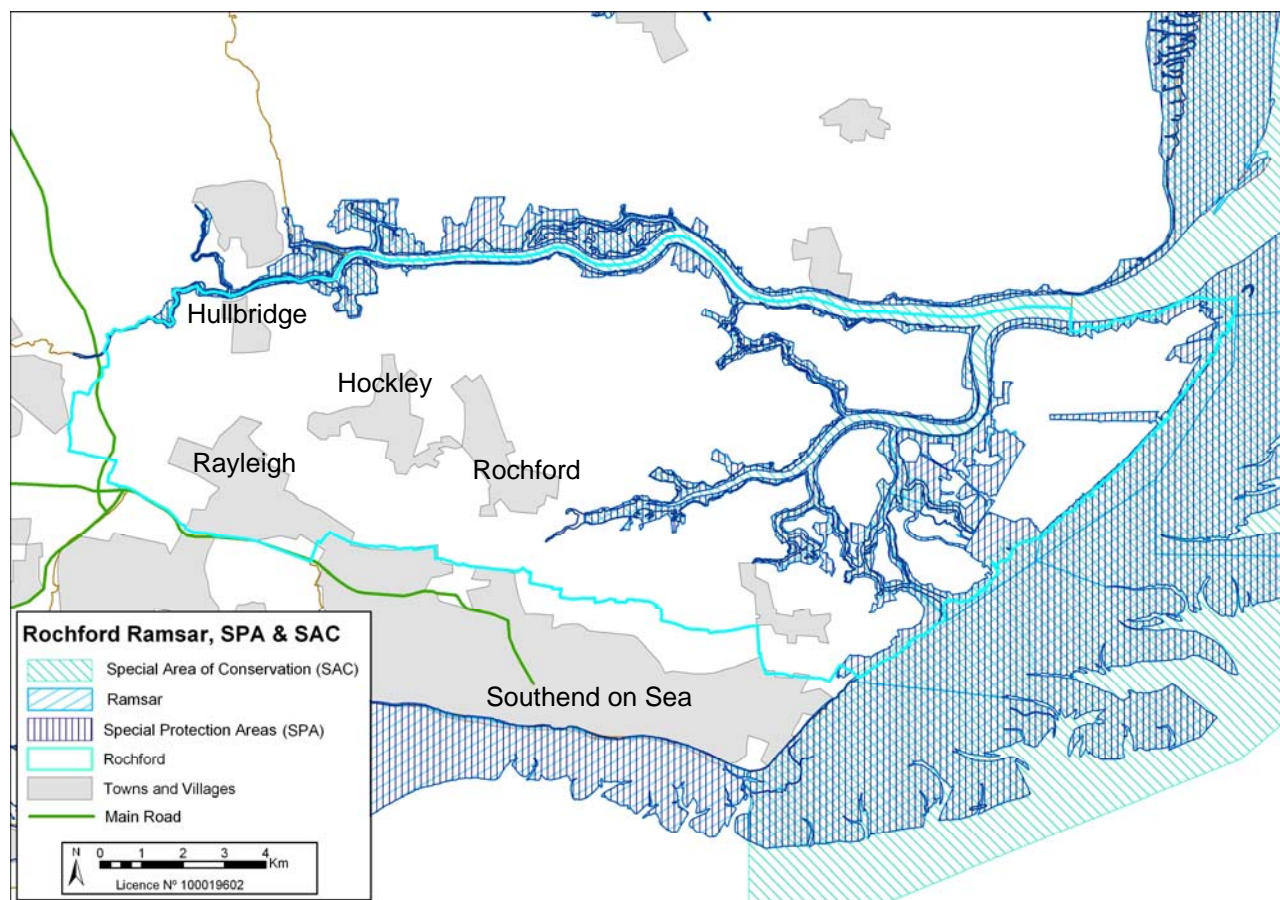
Within the Rochford District, there is part of the Essex Estuaries cSAC. This SAC covers 46 140.82 ha within Essex and covers the whole of the Foulness and Crouch and Roach Estuaries from the point of the highest astronomical tide out to sea. As such it relates to the seaward part of the coastal zone. It was designated as a cSAC due to various features of the habitat:

- Pioneer saltmarsh
- Estuaries
- Cordgrass swards Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
- Atlantic salt meadows
- Subtidal sandbanks
- Mediterranean saltmarsh scrubs

Further information about Ramsar Sites can be found at:

<http://www.english-nature.org.uk/about/facts3.htm>

Figure 3: Ramsars, SPAs and SACs in the Rochford District



Source: Essex County Council, 2007

D. The Essex Estuaries European Marine Site (EEMS)

Where a SPA or cSAC is continuously or intermittently covered by tidal waters, the site is referred to as a European Marine Site. The marine components of the Essex SPAs and cSACs are being treated as a single European Marine Site called the Essex Estuaries Marine site (EEEMS). Effectively the whole of the District coastline is within the EEEMS, although terrestrial parts of the SPAs (i.e. freshwater grazing marshes inside the sea walls) are not included as they occur above the highest astronomical tide.

E. Sites of Specific Scientific Interest

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are designated areas of land which is considered to be of special interest due to its fauna, flora, geological or are physiographical features. There are over 4,000 SSSIs in England, covering around 7% of the country's land area. SSSIs are important as they support plants and animals that find it more difficult to survive in the wider countryside.

The success of SSSIs is monitored by PSA targets in which the SSSIs are put in to one of five categories, ranging from favourable to destroyed. A SSSI is deemed to be meeting the PSA target by Natural England, if 95% of the total area is classed as "Favourable" or "Unfavourable Recovering".

Table 1: Definition of SSSI Categories

Category	Definition
Favourable	The SSSI is being adequately conserved and meeting conservation objectives, however there is scope for enhancement.
Unfavourable Recovering	The SSSI is not yet fully conserved but all the necessary management measures are in place. Provided that the recovery work is sustained, the SSSI will reach a favourable condition in time
Unfavourable No Change	The special interest of the SSSI is not being conserved and will not reach favourable condition unless there are changes to the site management or external pressures. The longer the SSSI remains in this condition, the more difficult it will be to achieve recovery
Unfavourable Declining	The special interest of the SSSI is not being conserved. The site condition is becoming progressively worse.
Part Destroyed	There has been lasting damage to part of the conservation interest of the SSSI such that it has been irreversibly lost.
Destroyed	Lasting damage has occurred to all the special conservation interest of the SSSI that it has been lost. This land will never recover

Sopurce: Natural England Website 2006

The overall condition of SSSIs throughout Essex in 2005, 2006 and 2007 is illustrated in the table below. This table highlights the proportion of the SSSIs that meet the PSA target.

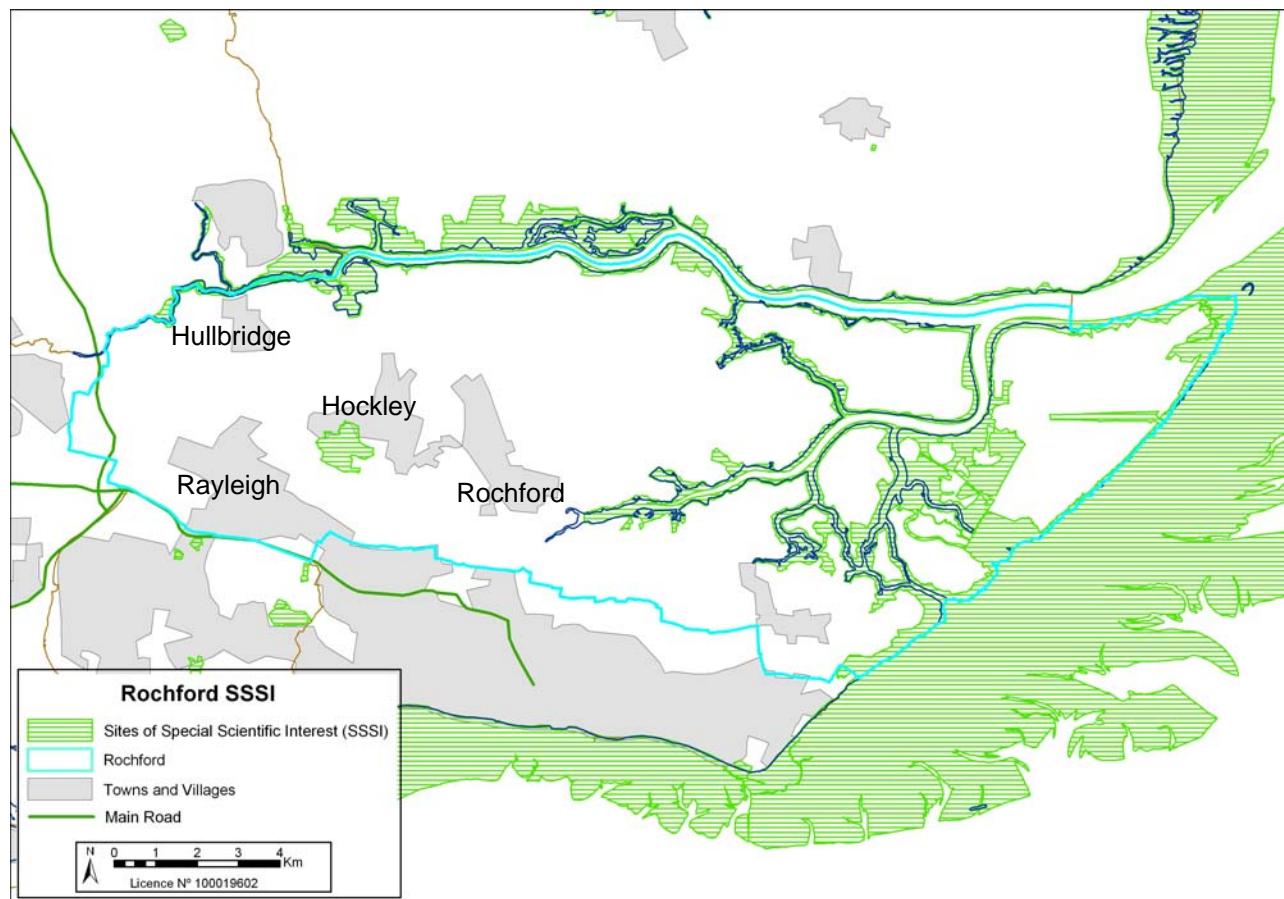
Table 2: Condition of the Counties SSSIs

Condition of Essex SSSIs	% Area			Change 2005-07
	2005	2006	2007	
Meeting PSA target	56.47	57.02	57.05	0.58%
Favourable	51.23	51.79	51.74	0.51%
Unfavourable recovering	5.24	5.23	5.31	0.07%
Unfavourable no change	2.74	2.71	2.64	-0.10%
Unfavourable declining	40.79	40.27	40.30	-0.49%
Destroyed/part destroyed	0	0	0	0%

Source: English Nature Website <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/special/sssi/report.cfm?category=C,CF>

There are three SSSIs in the District at Hockley Woods, Foulness and the Crouch and Roach Estuaries as illustrated in Figure 4.

Figure 4: SSSI Location within Rochford District



Source: Essex County Council, 2007

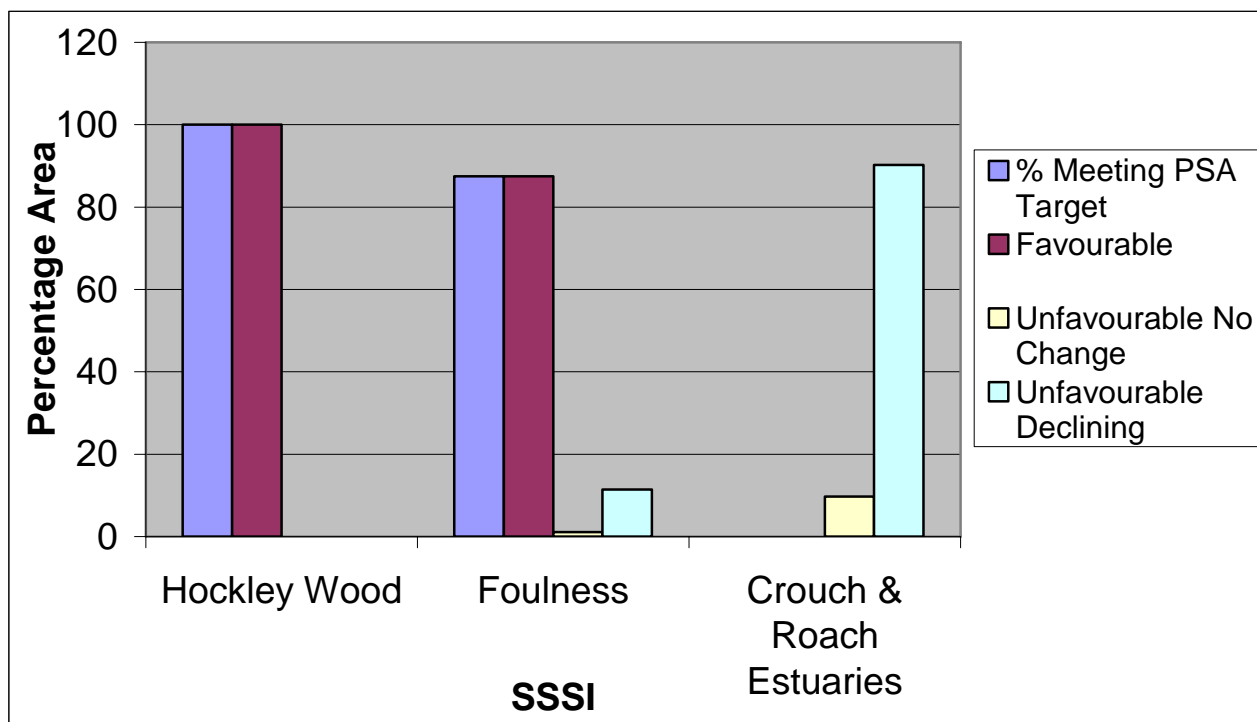
The description and condition of the above Rochford SSSIs is described in described in the table below.

Table 3: SSSI Location, Description and Condition

Hockley Woods			
Location:	To the South of Hockley	Size:	83.12 ha
Habitat Type	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland - lowland	PSA Target	Currently Meeting
Description & Reasons For Notification	<p>These are a contiguous group of ancient coppice woods incorporating Great Bull Wood, Great Hawkwell Wood, Beeches Wood and Parson's Snipe. They lie on the crest and slopes of a ridge of pre-glacial gravels and clay north-west of Southend-on-Sea, forming one of the most extensive areas of ancient woodland in South Essex. The dominant stand types comprising the Sweet Chestnuts variants of Pedunculate oak-hornbeam – birch-hazel variant and acid Sessile oak-hornbeam. The population of Sessile Oak Quercus petraea is probably the largest in eastern England.</p> <p>The ground fauna is dominated by Bramble and creeping Soft Grass Holcus Mollis with substantial areas of Bracken Pteridium Aquilinum.</p>		
Condition Most recent Assessment 20 th Jan 2006	<p>The rides in this eastern section need specific management (rank vegetation to be cut and stools cut) to create favourable conditions for the Heath Fritillary butterfly and link in with an area proposed for short-coppice rotation.</p> <p>Overall, good mix of age structure with evidence of adequate regeneration and adequate open space provision.</p>		
Foulness			
Location:	Foulness lies on the north shore of the Thames Estuary between Southend in the south and the Rivers Roach and Crouch in the north	Size:	9744.62 ha
Habitat Type	Littoral Sediment Supralittoral Sediment Coastal Lagoon Neutral Grassland – Lowland Improved Grassland Broadleaved, Mixed & Yew Woodland - Lowland	PSA Target	87.48% of SSSI is Currently meeting Targets
Description & Reasons For Notification	<p>A key site in "A Nature Conservation Review" edited by D.A Ratcliffe (Cambridge University Press, 1977), thus is regarded as an essential element in the success of nature conservation in Britain. It is also proposed as part of the mid-Essex Coast Special Protection Area, under the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Directive 79/409/EEC) and as a Wetland of International Importance, under the Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>It comprises extensive intertidal sand-silt flats, saltmarsh, beaches, grazing marshes, rough grass and scrubland. The flats are of national and international importance as feeding grounds for nine species of wildfowl and wader, with islands, creeks and grazing land forming an integral part as sheltered feeding and roosting sites. The shell banks support nationally important breeding colonies of Little Terns, Common Terns and Sandwich Terns. The complex matrix of habitats also supports nationally important numbers of breeding Avocets along with plants and invertebrates. Numerous species are locally restricted in their distribution and nationally uncommon or rare.</p>		
Condition Most recent Assessment There are 31 Unit areas in total. The last assessment was 19 Aug	<p>Most of the SSSI is managed well. The areas for concern are due to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal squeeze • Agriculture • Inappropriate Scrub Control 		

2005			
Crouch and Roach Estuaries (shared with Chelmsford Borough and Maldon District)			
Location:	South Essex	Size:	Total SSSI area: 1743.97 ha Within The District: 119.36 ha
Habitat Type	Littoral Sediment Neutral Grassland - Lowland	PSA Target	Not Currently meeting
Description & Reasons For Notification	<p>The site comprises the former River Crouch Marshes SSSI with extensions and deletions. The Crouch and Roach Estuaries with both the Dengie SSSI and the Foulness SSSI. These sites run from the mouth of the River Crouch, the Dengie SSSI to the north, and the Foulness SSSI running southwards including the south bank of the River Crouch downstream. Part of the site overlaps the geological SSSI known as The Cliff, Burnham on Crouch.</p> <p>A proportion of the site forms part of the Mid Essex Coast Special Protection Area under EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild birds (Directive 74/409/EEC) and as a wetland of international importance under the RAMSAR convention. The tidal reaches of the Crouch and Roach estuaries are part of the Essex Estuaries possible Special Area of Conservation under the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC).</p> <p>The River Crouch occupies a shallow valley between two ridges of London Clay, whilst the River Roach is set predominately between areas of brickearth and loams with patches of sand and gravel. The intertidal zone along the rivers Crouch and Roach is 'squeezed' between the sea walls on both banks and the river channel, leaving a relatively narrow strip of tidal mud in contrast with other estuaries in the county. This however is used by a significant numbers of three different species of waders and wildfowl. Additional interest is provided by the aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates and by the assemblage of nationally scarce plants.</p>		
Condition Most recent Assessment Unit 1 06 Oct 1998 Unit 2 07 Mar 2005	<p>Unit 1 is unfavourable declining and Unit 2 is unfavourable no change. This condition is mainly due to coastal squeeze and inappropriate water levels.</p> <p>Grazing marsh is currently managed as ESA tier 1 but requires higher water levels. This is difficult due to the isolated nature of the grazing marsh which is surrounded by arable land.</p>		

Source: Adapted from Natural England 2007 <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/special/ssi/reportAction.cfm?Report=sdrt13&Category=C&Reference=1015>

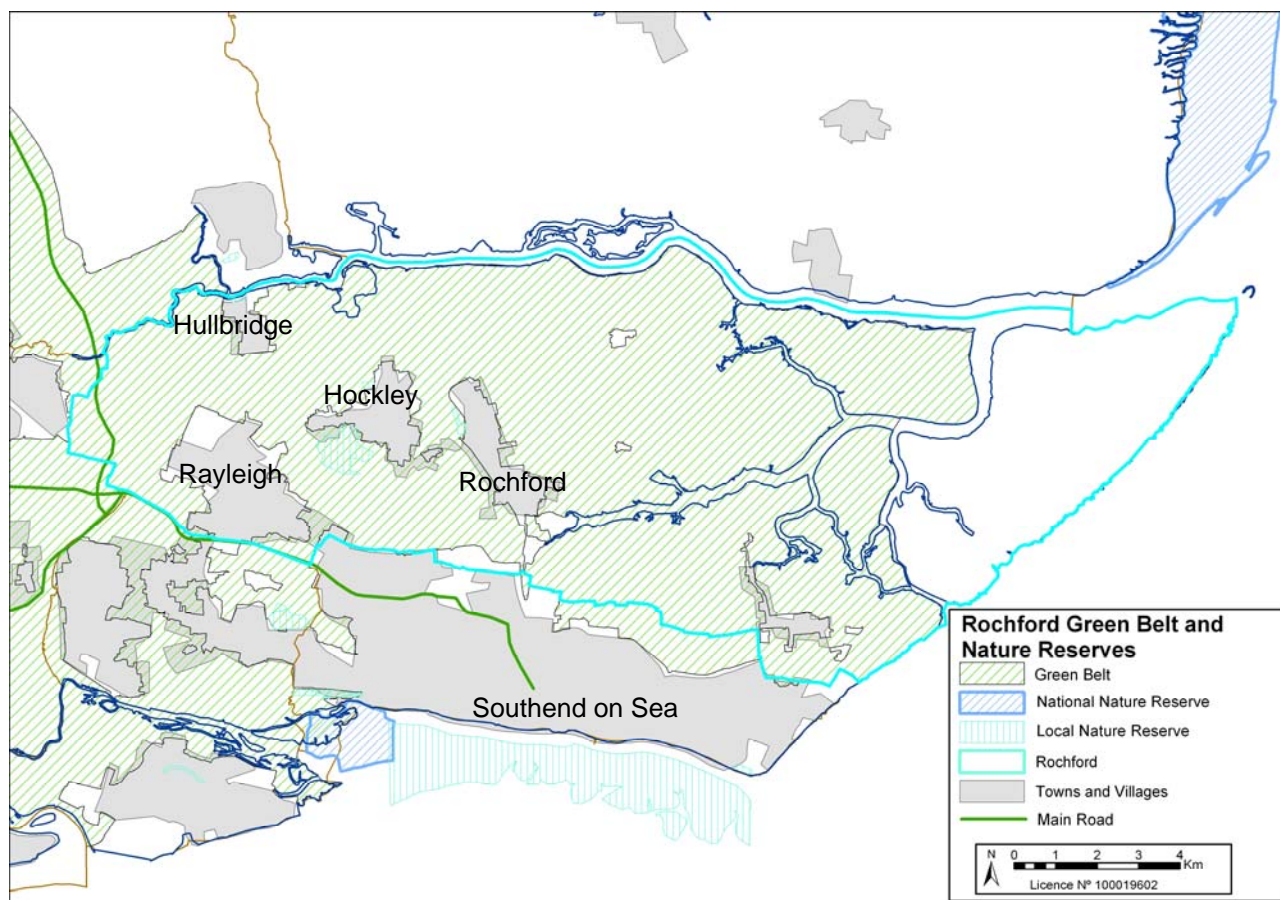
Figure 5: Condition of SSSIs in Rochford District (2007)

Source: Source: Adapted from Natural England 2007 <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/special/ssi/reportAction.cfm?Report=sdrt13&Category=C&Reference=1015>

Table 3 and Figure 5 shows that Hockley Woods SSSI has a high proportion of favourable habitats when last assessed. This indicates that with persistent management the SSSI will continue to meet the PSA targets. Foulness SSSI is an extremely large area, which is predominately favourable therefore meeting the PSA Targets. However, despite the percentage of the land which is not meeting the targets is quite small, the actual land area is a substantial 1219.89 ha. This means that unless appropriate management is undertaken the habitats shall worsen, and may be destroyed. The Crouch and Roach Estuary SSSI site is not meeting PSA targets with both units being categorised as either unfavourable no change or unfavourable declining. Therefore the site is not being adequately conserved and will fail to reach a favourable condition or be destroyed forever if appropriate management is not undertaken.

F. Nature Reserves

Figure 6: Rochford District LNRs



Source: Essex County Council. 2007

i) National Nature Reserves (NNRs)

There seven NNRs in Essex, of these there are none in the Rochford District.

ii) Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

These habitats of local significance contribute both to nature conservation and provide opportunities for the public to see learn about and enjoy wildlife. LNRs comprise a substantial part of the District’s identified wildlife habitats and also significantly contribute to the District’s biodiversity resource.

There are 46 LNRs within Essex. Of these, there are 4 within Rochford District, page 41):

- Hockley Woods (91 ha)
- Hullbridge Foreshore (4ha)
- Marylands (3.69 ha)
- Magnolia Fields (9.7 ha)

In addition to these there is a proposed extension of the Southend on Sea Foreshore LNR into the Rochford District to include the Maplin Bund in the near future.

Hockley Woods have more ancient woodland plants than any other wood in the country. Hockley Woods have survived because they have been coppice managed as a valuable resource.

Magnolia Fields is an area of habitat with a variety of species present including large numbers of the increasingly rare Bullfinch. The reserve was a former brickworks site and several signs of this trade are still apparent such as the pond that was redeveloped in 1996 to which wildlife has gradually returned. There is an extensive network of pathways through the woods, where there are numerous woodland bird species present.

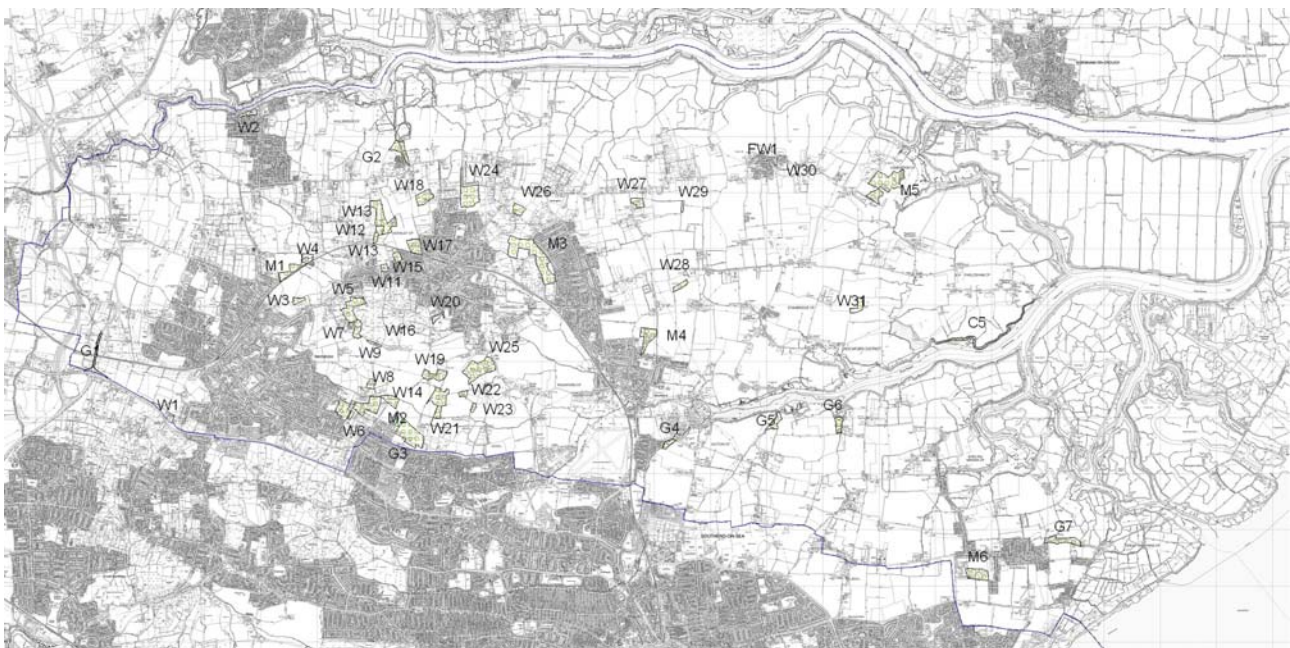
G. Local Wildlife Sites

Local Wildlife Sites (LoWSs) are areas of land with significant wildlife value (previously known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and County Wildlife Sites (CWSs)). Together with statutory protected areas, LoWSs represent the minimum habitat we need to protect in order to maintain the current levels of wildlife in Essex.

There are 39 LoWSs scattered throughout Rochford District, comprising of mainly Woodland, but with some Grassland, Mosaic, Coastal and Freshwater Habitats. The largest LoWS is the Wallersea Island Managed Realignment which covers 90.3 ha. Other significant LoWSs include Magnolia Nature Reserve and Fields, which is a 29.2 ha mosaic habitat and Wakering Landfill site, an 24.0 ha.

The extent and location of LoWSs in Rochford District is highlighted in the figure below.

Figure 7: Rochford District Local Wildlife Sites



Source: Rochford District Council, 2007

3.6 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Summary

- The Greengrid Partnership provides opportunities to enhance and restore various Biodiversity issues.
- Within the Rochford District listed in the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan are:
 - One plant Species,
 - Four Mammal Species,
 - Three Bird Species
 - One Invertebrate Species
 - Great Crested Newts and Shads
 - Eight Habitats

- Within the East of England overall bird species and woodland bird species have remained stable between 1994 and 2003, but farmland bird species have shown some declines.
- There are two areas (Foulness and the Crouch and Roach Estuaries) designated as Ramsar sites within the Rochford District, as part of the wider Mid Essex Coast Ramsar site. The same sites are also designated as SPAs, under the Natura 2000 network.
- An Appropriate Assessment to assess the impact of the policies and plans within any LDF proposals on these sites would be needed.
- Within the Rochford District, there is part of the Essex Estuaries SAC designated in 1996.
- There are three SSSIs within the Rochford District, Hockley Woods, Foulness and the Crouch and Roach Estuaries.
- Only Hockley Woods is currently meeting the PSA targets of 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites to be brought into a favourable condition by 2010. Only 87.5% of Foulness is meeting this target, and the Crouch & Roach Estuaries is in poor condition as it is unfavourable no change, or unfavourable declining condition.
- Rochford District has no NNRs.
- Rochford District has a total of four LNRs, Hockley Woods, Hullbridge Foreshore Marylands and Magnolia Fields.
- Rochford District contains 39 LoWSs. These are predominantly woodland, but there are also significant areas of grassland, mosaic coastal and freshwater habitat types.

4 LANDSCAPE

4.1 Introduction

Since the end of the last Ice Age, natural processes and successive human use (especially since the Industrial Revolution) have shaped the Essex landscape in to its present form. The result is a combination of physical components such as landform, visible spatial components (for example, scale and patterns) and even non visible spatial components which can incorporate sound and cultural associations.

It is the particular combination of these aspects which determines an areas distinctive character, which can then be classified in to wider character areas, or remain as distinct unique areas (as described in Essex Landscape Character Assessment, Essex County Council, July 2002).

4.2 POLICY CONTEXT

A. National Context

i) Planning Policy Guidance and Planning Policy Statements

National planning policies are published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in Planning Policy Statements (PPS), which are gradually replacing Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG). In respect of this topic, national guidance is presented in three documents:

- PPS 1 Delivering Sustainable Development (2005) states that sustainable development is the core principle underpinning planning and the protection of the environment is an integral part of this goal

www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143805

- PPS 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004) sets out the core strategies for rural areas, including country towns and villages and the wider landscape

www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1143825

ii) National Landscape Assessment

Landscape Assessment has been a powerful tool to classify and describe distinct landscape areas. Recently the emphasis has been on the process of Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs), to understand the intrinsic character of landscapes and their ability to accommodate change and development. The Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland was published by the Countryside Agency in 2002. This national landscape assessment forms a basis for county-wide landscape strategy, guiding development control, regeneration and future landscape management and conservation.

At the National level within Essex there are five Character Areas which are:

- Greater Thames Estuary
- Suffolk Coasts and Heaths
- South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland
- East Anglian Chalk
- Northern Thames Basin

The full Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland can be found at:

<http://www.countryside.gov.uk/lar/landscape/cc/landscape/publication/>

iii) The Rural White Paper (2000)

The Rural White Paper illustrates the importance of understanding, evaluating and protecting countryside character and diversity particularly. It stresses finding ways to ensure that “*valued features and attributes ... are conserved and enhanced*”. It advocates using the national character map as a tool for character assessment at the sub-regional level to help maintain the local countryside with its distinctive features.

Our Countryside: The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England can be found at

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruralwp/whitepaper/default.htm>

iv) Countryside Quality Counts

Countryside Quality Counts (CQC) is a project to develop a national indicator of how the countryside is changing. It aims to understand how and where change is occurring and what effects this will have on the countryside. Understanding change is a key factor in planning to help plan future landscapes and inform change that delivers public benefits - enhancing and maintaining the character and quality of our countryside.

The project is undergoing a second phase of development and consultation. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.cqc.org.uk/index.html>

B. Regional / County Context

i) Draft East of England Plan

The Draft East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy), prepared by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), was submitted to Government in December 2004. Following a period of public consultation the Plan was subject of an Examination in Public (EiP) between November 2005 and March 2006. The Report of the EiP Panel was published in June 2006. In December 2006 the Secretary of State published Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for a period of public consultation to March 2007. Following consideration of the consultation response, the Secretary of State issued some Further Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for public consultation between October-December 2007. These Changes incorporate the recommendations of an additional Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Secretary of State’s publication of the final version of the East of England Plan is expected during the first quarter of 2008.

Relevant policies are:

- Policy ENV1: Environmental Infrastructure
- Policy ENV2: Landscape Character
- Policy ENV4: Woodlands
- Policy C5: Recreation And Natural Resources

For the full document go to:

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=120>

ii) County Landscape Character Assessment

Within the framework provided by the National Joint Character Areas, the Essex Landscape Character Assessment identifies Landscape Character Types and Areas defined at 1:50,000 scale. The definition of these landscape units was not informed by the National Landscape Typology classification.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/dis/guc.jsp?channelOid=17089&guideOid=15423&guideContentOid=15421>

iii) Thames Gateway South Essex Greengrid

The TGSE Greengrid is a long-term project (over the next 20 to 30 years) to encourage the development of a network of open spaces and green links throughout the Thames Gateway in South Essex. It is influenced by PPG 17: Open Space Sports and Recreation. The Greengrid is an area of over 400 sq km broadly to the south of the A127. A number of wider linked benefits include health, transport, recreation, air quality and quality of life.

There are a number of community based projects which seek to:

- create (and enhance existing) connecting greenways to improve 'access for all'
- improve marshland areas bordering with London and south Basildon
- improve access and landscape to riverside military and industrial sites
- improve the country park
- conserve wildlife and open spaces

The Greengrid is a partnership project that includes the five local authorities of south Essex, Essex County Council and many government agencies and local environmental organisations. The partnership encourages active involvement from local people and community groups

For more information on the South Essex Green Grid go to

<http://www.greengrid.co.uk/>

C. District Context

i) Rochford District Council Replacement Local Plan, Adopted June 2006

Relevant policies relating to Landscape are:

- Policy CS8 - Retaining Character Of Place
- Policy NR1 - Special Landscape Areas
- Policy NR2 - Historic landscape
- Policy NR3 - Tree protection
- Policy NR8 - Other landscape features of importance for nature conservation
- Policy NR10 - Coastal Protection Belt

Further information about Rochford's Adopted Local Plan can be found at:

http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/pdf/planning_replacement_local_plan_small.pdf

ii) Rochford District Core Strategy, Regulation 25 Draft, September 2006

This is part of the LDF implementation and so as the incoming policy it is important to note that there are several areas where Rochford District Council considers the following options probable:

The Greenbelt and Strategic Gaps between Settlements

- Continuation of greenbelt policies
- Inclusion of seven strategic gaps
- Prioritise use of Brownfield sites

Protection and Enhancement of the Upper Roach Valley

- Policies providing protection and enhancement
- Allocation of land for a Country Park

Protection and Enhancement of Special Landscapes, Habitats and Species

- Protection of the undeveloped coast
- Protection for three special SLAs
- Protection of areas of historic landscape and ancient woods
- Protection of wildlife sites and LNRs

Character of Place and the Historic Environment

- Protection of the districts identity

Landscaping

- Push landscaping details to the fore of the planning application process.

Further information about this core strategy document can be found on Rochford's website at:

http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/PDF/planning_regulation_25_core_strategy.pdf

4.3 CURRENT BASELINE INFORMATION

A. Designated Areas

Within the Essex landscape there are many areas of special interest which have been designated and protected from inappropriate development. The main areas of importance are (statutory Landscape designations):

- Special Landscape Areas (SLA)
- Landscape Character Areas (LCA)
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- Ancient Woodlands
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Protected Lanes
- Special Verges

There are no AONBs in the Rochford District.

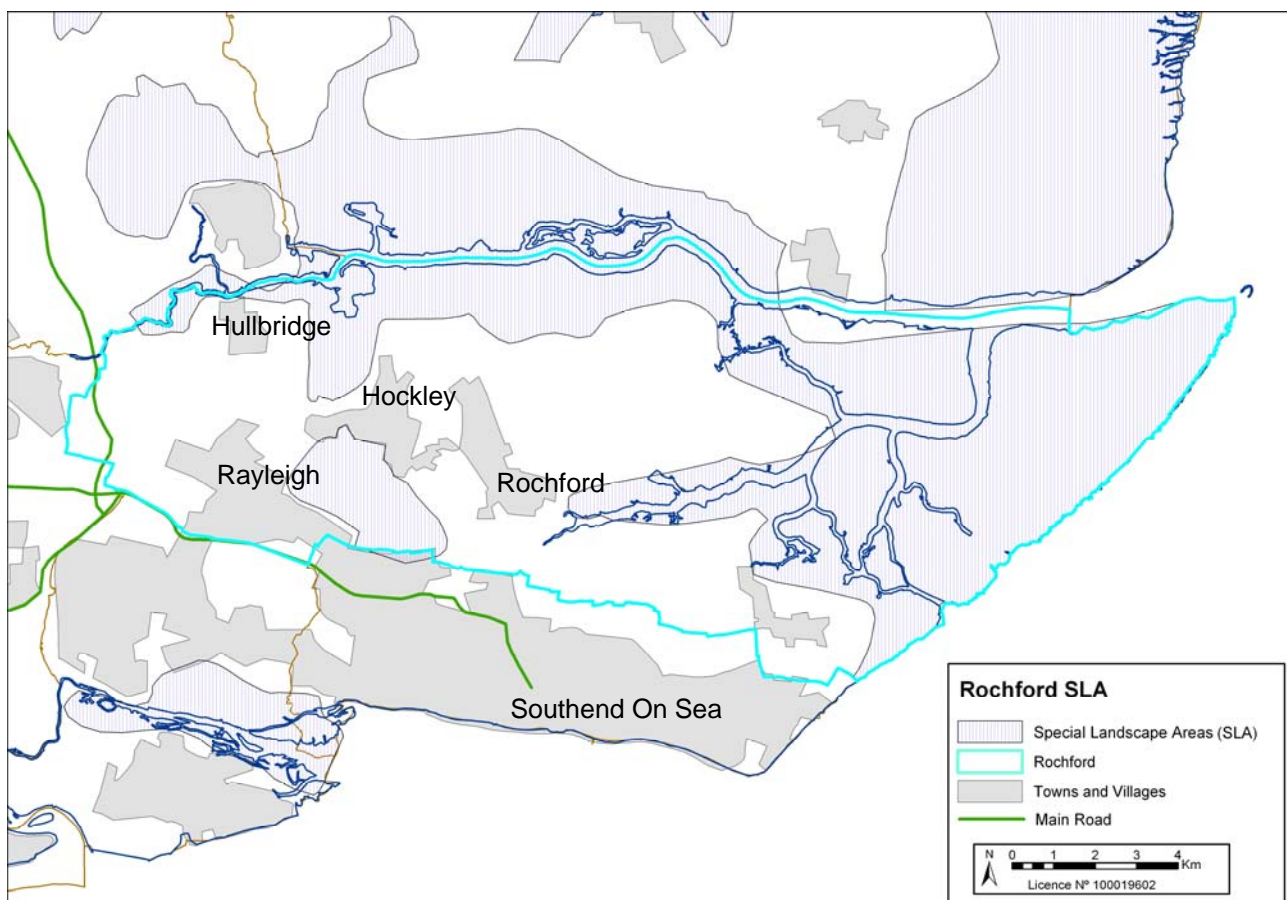
B. Special Landscape Areas

SLAs are defined as a series of areas of distinctive scenic attraction and of great landscape value resulting from a combination of features such as vegetation cover and landform. They are non statutory designations, selected by Essex County Council. Their conservation is important resulting in a presumption against development unless it accords with the character of the area concerned. Any development that is permitted in SLAs will be expected to conform to the highest standards of design, siting and layout with materials appropriate to the character of the area, with appropriate landscaping. The conservation and maintenance of features important to the local landscape such as trees, hedges, copses, woodlands and ponds are encouraged.

Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are located within the District. These have been implemented to protect the visual quality of important areas. The major SLA is 'North Essex', which incorporates much of the District. However there are some smaller SLAs at:

- Hockley Woods, a complex of ancient woodlands and farmland on undulating ground between Hockley and Southend-on-Sea
- Upper Crouch containing numerous creeks, mudflats and saltings on either shore. It is relatively treeless and unspoiled
- The Crouch/Roach marshes consist of a number of islands, creeks, and channels with salt marsh, mudflats, and drainage ditches. It is mainly a remote area and supports a large bird population

Figure 8: Special Landscape Areas within Rochford District



Source: Essex County Council, 2007

C. Landscape Character Areas

The Essex Landscape Character Assessment (2003) is based on the Countryside Agency's guidance, and establishes a 'baseline' of the existing character of the Essex landscape. The assessment involved a broad review of the landscape. The study identified 35 'Landscape Character Areas' within Essex which were geographical areas with a recognisable pattern of landscape characteristics, both physical and experiential, that combine to create a distinct sense of place. This allows Local Authorities to manage change through guiding necessary development to landscapes where the type and degree of change can best be accommodated without significant effects on the intrinsic character.

It also provides the framework for the more detailed landscape character assessments of District areas to help inform the preparation of Local Plans encouraged by the Adopted Replacement Structure Plan (April 2001) in Policy NR4 'Landscape Character Assessment'.

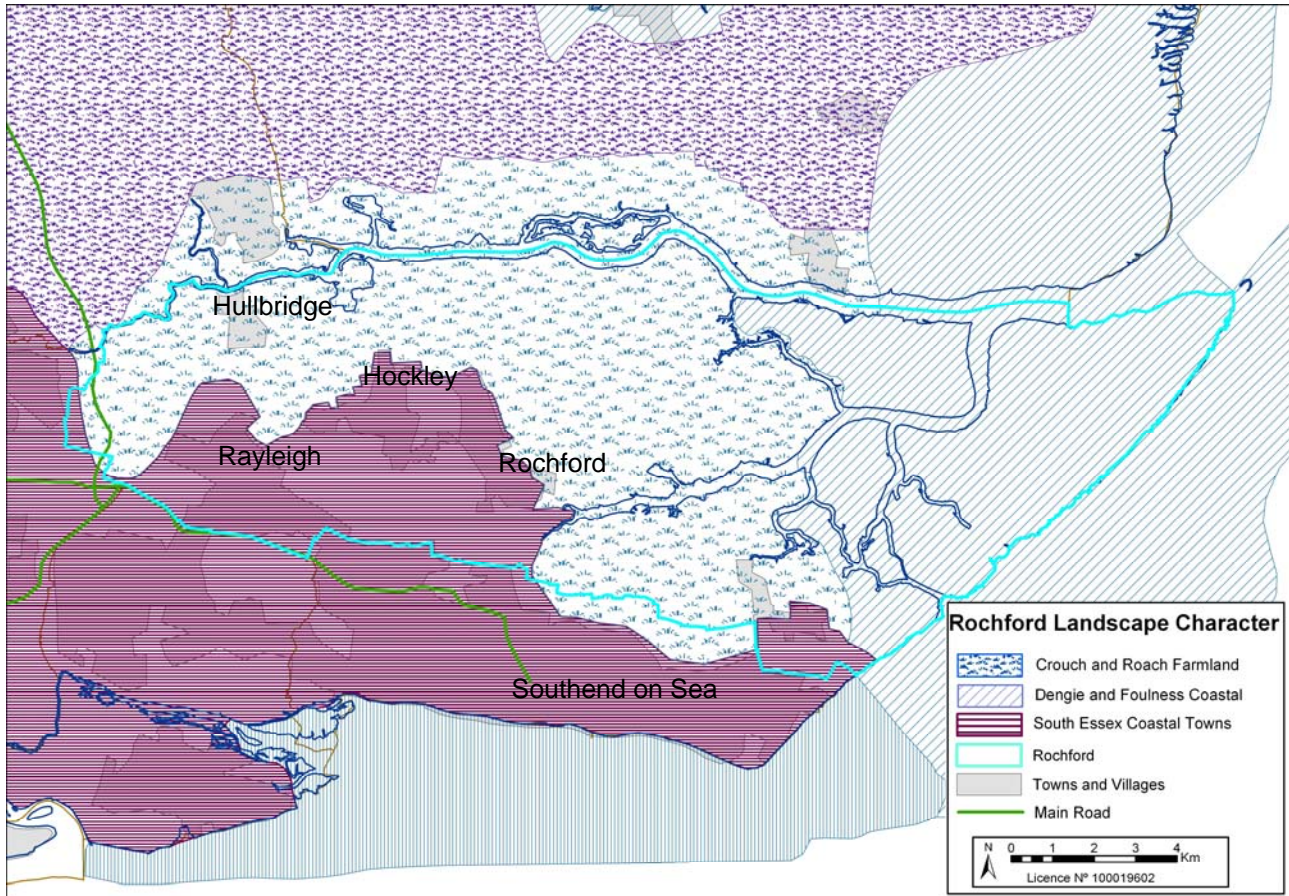
Within the Rochford District there are 20 different Landscape Character Areas in 3 Character Types as shown in Figure 9 on page 43.

The only Landscape Character Assessment available at present was carried out by Chris Blandford Associates for Essex County Council (2003) from which this LCA was compiled. This County wide assessment covers Rochford District, but not in the same detail as a District wide assessment.

Further information about the 2003 county wide report can be found at

<http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/dis/guc.jsp?channelOid=17089&guideOid=15423&guideContentOid=15421>

Figure 9: Landscape Character Areas within Rochford District



Source: Essex County Council, 2007

From the landscape character map above, it can be seen that the district is evenly divided in to three landscape character areas; Crouch and Roach Farmland, Dengie and Foulness Coast and South Essex Coastal Towns, which are described in the tables below.

Table 4: Coastal Landscapes (F)

Coastal Landscapes (F)		
Crouch & Roach Farmland (F2)		Sensitivity: Medium - High
Summary of Character	<p>The coastal character of the area is defined by the narrow estuaries which penetrate far inland, with associated low lying mudflats, salt marsh and reclaimed marshlands, including grazing marsh. The land between the estuaries and their immediate margins is gently or strongly undulating arable farmland. Moderate to steep sided estuary valley sides are a distinctive backdrop either side of the Crouch. From here there are frequent long views across the farmland to the estuaries. Typically, thick hedgerows dominated by scrub elm follow the rectilinear field boundaries. However, there has been significant loss of hedgerows especially in the south of the area, as well as the general loss of elm, resulting in a fairly open character. Where hedgerows remain there are Distinctive ancient planned coaxial hedgerow boundaries. There is a strong pattern of right angled lanes due to field boundaries. The settlement pattern is sparse along the edge of the estuaries, and mostly small settlements tend to hug the slightly higher drier land, with the largest town being South Woodham Ferrers with extensive modern estates. The area has a tranquil character, apart from where the A130 crosses the landscape and near the larger settlements.</p> <p>Other important landscape features include various Church towers and spires, some wet gravel pits, scattered ponds and small reservoirs, and small caravan parks. There area also occasional marinas, pontoons and river moorings, especially at Burnham on Crouch.</p>	
Landscape Condition	hedgerows	Many are fragmented
	settlements	very mixed, often including out of character modern infill
Past Trends And Changes		Likely Future Trends
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There 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. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • urban development around South Woodham Ferrers • transportation developments near Southend • demand for additional boat moorings, marina facilities along the estuaries • Flood protection measures
Dengie and Foulness Coast (F3):		Sensitivity: High - Medium
Summary of Character	<p>Dengie and Foulness coast is a distinctive extensive area of reclaimed marshlands, and of sweeping tidal mudflats sands and fringing salt marshes (rich in wildlife) beyond the sea wall. It is a flat open and exposed landscape, with a sense of openness and space, dominated by the sky and sea. A large scale pattern of arable fields on the marshlands is defined by straight or sinuous ditches, with very few trees and only limited hedging. Settlement is very sparse, the older marshlands have occasional farmsteads and barns, but on the more recent reclaimed areas there are isolated barns and farmsteads. The small villages are restricted to the fringes of the marsh. No major roads cross the area so this increases its remote tranquil character.</p> <p>Important features in the landscape Bradwell Nuclear Power Station is a significant landmark as is the isolated church at Bradwell on Sea. Also important are the Military ranges, decoy ponds, shingle spit at Foulness Point, traces of redhills the caravan sites leisure parks at St Lawrence Bay.</p>	
Landscape Condition	Intrusion	Some intrusive farm buildings occur around historic farmsteads Locally intrusive industrial/warehouse buildings

Past Trends And Changes	Likely Future Trends
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Since the Second World War there has been significant loss of coastal grazing marsh and of features such as decoy ponds and old sea wall, as a result of agricultural intensification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The main future influences on changes are likely to be agricultural and flood protection

Table 5: Urban Landscapes (G)

Urban Landscapes (G)		
South Essex Coastal Towns (G3)		Sensitivity: Medium
Summary of Character	<p>An area of very mixed character, but unified by the overall dominance of urban development, with frequent views of an urban skyline. The major urban areas of this area include Basildon New Town, Southend-On-Sea, Rayleigh, Hockley, Wickford and Canvey Island. 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 woods, including woods on former plotlands and 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 undeveloped. However, many residential and industrial edges with areas of adjacent open arable farmland are hard and abrupt with few hedgerows and woodlands remaining, with pylon routes visually dominating the farmland in the A130 corridor. There area extensive flat coastal grazing marshes adjacent to the Thames Estuary.</p> <p>Other landscape features are the two castles at Rayleigh and Hadleigh, Pylons and overhead lines, oil storage depots, landfill sites near Canvey Island. Also important is Southend Airport and the large number of Golf Courses</p>	
Landscape Condition	Settlement	very mixed, Poor quality intrusive commercial 'shed' development is common within the area
	hedgerows and woodland	Moderate.
Past Trends And Changes		Likely Future Trends
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area has been subject to very significant change in the 20th Century, with massive expansion of urban areas, 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> urban development

Source compiled from the County wide 2003 Landscape Character Assessment carried out by Chris Blandford Associates for Essex County Council and the District wide assessment completed by Chris Blandford Associates in 2006.

Further information can be found at

<http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/dis/guc.jsp?channelOid=17089&guideOid=15423&guideContentOid=15421>, for the 2003 report.

i) Sensitivities within Landscape Character Areas

As shown in Table 6 below, the sensitivity of these LCAs to different developments and changes is quite variable. The most sensitive area is the Dengie and Foulness Coast (F3), which is highly sensitive to eight of the ten developments. The least susceptible LCA is the South Essex Coastal Towns (G3) which is only highly sensitive to two developments.

Overall, the LCAs in Rochford District are most sensitive to Utilities development i.e. masts, pylons, and least sensitive to incremental small-scale developments.

Table 6: Landscape Sensitivity Level to Developments and Changes in Rochford District

Type/Scale of Development/Change	Landscape Character Area		
	Crouch & Roach Farmland	Dengie & Foulness Coast	South Essex Coastal Towns
Major urban extensions (>5ha) and new settlements	H	H	M
Small urban extensions (<5ha)	M	H	L
Major transportation developments/improvements	M	H	M
Commercial/warehouse estate/port development	H	H	M
Developments with individual large/bulky buildings	H	H	L
Large scale 'open uses'	M	M	M
Mineral extraction/waste disposal	M	H	M
Incremental small-scale developments	M	M	L
Utilities development i.e. masts, pylons	H	H	H
Decline in traditional countryside management	M	H	H

Source: Compiled from the County Wide Landscape Character Assessment, 2003, by Chris Blandford Associates

(<http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/dis/guc.jsp?channelOid=17089&guideOid=15423&guideContentOid=15421>)

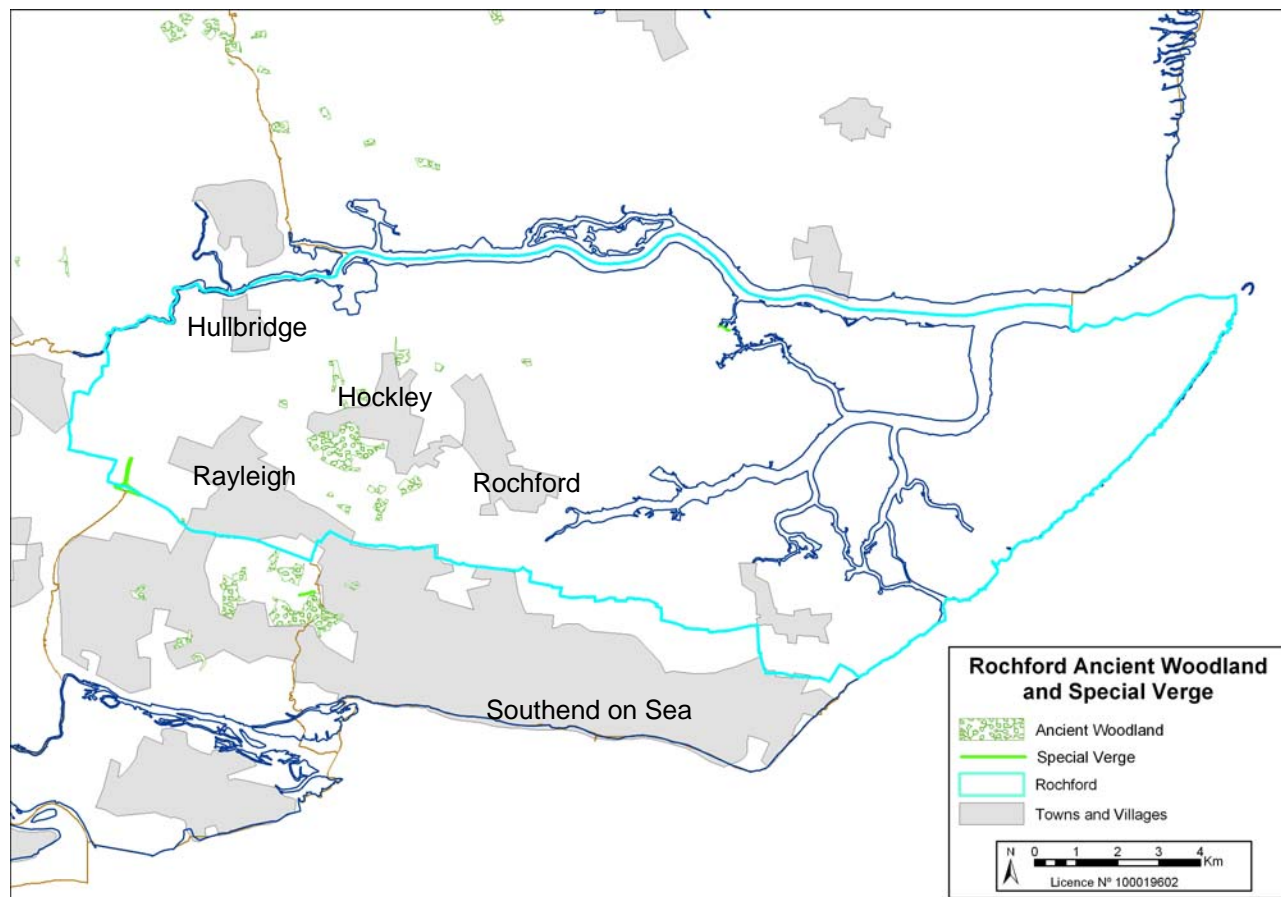
ii) Actions To Preserve Character Areas

- Opportunities for managed realignment together with restoration of salt marshes and grazing marshes, rather than use of visually intrusive higher hard sea walls should be seized.
- Changes in arable subsidy regimes may present opportunities for large scale managed realignment with creation of salt marsh and restoration of coastal grazing marsh.
- Areas where traditional landscape character survives well, such as the Upper Roach Valley, the Crouch Valley, the Thames Marshes, Langdon Hills and

Dunton Ridges need particular protection from landscape or development change. Recreational pressures are also likely to be considerable

D. Other Landscape Designations

Figure 10: Ancient Woodland, Historic Parks and Gardens, Protected Lanes and Special Verges within Rochford District



Source: Essex County Council, 2007

i) Ancient Woodland

Trees covered most of prehistoric Essex. Most of which has been cleared as wood was a vital resource, meaning woods were managed carefully by coppicing and pollarding conserving them for future use, unknowingly increasing the biodiversity of the woodland.

However, since the Industrial Revolution the need for wood has dwindled as has the management. Many neglected woods have been grubbed out, or planted with fast growing conifers for intensive wood production. The remaining ancient woodlands hold many rare plants and are one of the most irreplaceable of all the semi-natural habitats in the UK.

There are 14 areas of ancient woodland in Rochford District which are shown in Figure 10.

ii) Historic Parks and Gardens

These are designated by English Heritage and defined as “a park or garden of special historic interest” and. They are graded I (highest quality), II* or II. There are 35 historic parks and gardens in Essex, of which there are none within Rochford District.

Further information can be obtained from the English Heritage Website at:

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/conWebDoc.3766>

iii) Protected Lanes

Protected lanes (Figure 10, Page 26) have significant historic and landscape value. They generally originate from pre-historic track ways, which have been in continual (if lighter) use since. Protected lanes are often narrow, and sometimes sunken. They are often enclosed by a combination of mixed deciduous hedges and mature trees, ditches and raised verges that can be indications of great age.

The volume weights and speed of traffic is often limited to preserve the special character. Due to their age and use they also have great biological value as well as landscape value.

There are a number of both grade one and two protected lanes within the Rochford District.

iv) Special Verges

Roadside Verges are important as if sensitively managed they can increase the biodiversity of the verges themselves and in that of the surrounding countryside as verges may act as corridors interlinking fragmented or isolated habitats. In terms of wildlife value, verges can be split into three broad types:

- Landscaped and intensively managed verges: poorest quality.
- Recently created verges left to colonise naturally: vary in ecological value.
- Ancient verges: often of high ecological value.

With this in mind, in the 1970s, Essex County Council Highways Agency, Nature Conservancy Council and Essex Wildlife Trust identified a number of important verges which were subsequently designated as Special Roadside Nature Reserves. They aim to safe guard the future of rare and uncommon flowers growing on them. Currently there is one within the district which is alongside the A127 as shown in Figure 10, on page 26.

Further information can be found on the Essex County Council Website at:

<http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/dis/guc.jsp?channelOid=17089&guideOid=79388&guideContentOid=79523>

Or the Essex Wildlife Trust Site at:

<http://www.essexwt.org.uk/habitats/verges.htm>

4.4 Landscape Summary

- There are three Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) located within the District, namely Hockley woods, Upper Crouch and the Crouch and Roach Marshes.
- Within the Rochford District there are three Landscape Character Areas (LCAs).
- Two of the three LCAs are highly sensitive to development, namely the Dengie and Foulness Coast and the Crouch and Roach Farmland.
- The main approaches to protecting the sensitive LCAs are to use opportunities for managed coastal realignment, and restoring natural features such as salt and grazing marshes. Additionally areas where traditional landscape character survives well, there needs to be particular protection from landscape or development change.
- Rochford District has 14 areas designated as ancient woodland

- There is one special verge along a portion of the A127.
- The Greengrid Partnership provides opportunities to enhance and restore various aspects of the landscape.

5 AIR QUALITY

5.1 Introduction

The quality of our air affects both human health and quality of life, and the natural environment. Poor air quality can also affect the health of our ecosystems, and can adversely affect our built cultural heritage. The air we breathe today is cleaner than at any time since before the Industrial Revolution, but recent research has indicated that some pollutants in the air are more harmful than previously believed.

(<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/strategy/index.htm>)

Local air quality is affected by emissions from industrial activity, airports, power stations and natural sources, but road transport accounts for around 40% of UK Nitrogen dioxide emissions. Additionally, diesel vehicles are a significant source of the emissions of fine particulates.

5.2 Policy Context

A. National Contexts

i) Planning Policy Guidance and Planning Policy Statements

National planning policies are published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in Planning Policy Statements (PPS), which are gradually replacing Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG). In respect of this topic, national guidance is presented in the following documents:

- PPS 1 Delivering Sustainable Development (2005) states that sustainable development is the core principle underpinning planning and air quality, which affects everyone's quality of life.
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/rtf/156024.rtf>
- PPG 13: Transport (2001) states that transport, which is a major contributor to emissions and air quality, together with infrastructure are of vital importance in sustainable development.
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/rtf/156039.rtf>
- PPS 23: Planning and Pollution Control states that any consideration of air quality and its impact on health and the environment is a material planning consideration.
- <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147450>

ii) EU Air Quality Framework Directive

The EU Air Quality Framework Directive 1996 (96/62/EC), together with four daughter directives (see table below) set out limit values for a series of pollutants which are mandatory for all member states to report progress upon.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/existing_leg.htm

- First Daughter Directive – Council Directive 1990/30/EC sets the limit values for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, PM₁₀ and lead in ambient air.
- Second Daughter Directive – Directive 2000/69/EC sets the limits for benzene and carbon monoxide
- Third Daughter Directive – Directive 2002/3/EC sets target values and long term objectives for the concentration of ozone in air.

- Fourth Daughter Directive – Directive 2004/17/EC sets the limit values for arsenic, cadmium, nickel, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Monitoring requirements are set for mercury.

Table 7: EU Air Quality Framework Directive Daughter Directives

Year	Protocol	Entered into force
1999	To abate acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone	17 May 2005
1998	Persistent organic pollutants (POPs)	23 October 2003.
1998	Heavy metals	29 December 2003.
1994	Further reduction of sulphur emissions	5 August 1998.
1991	Control of emissions of volatile organic compounds or their transboundary fluxes	29 September 1997
1988	Control of nitrogen oxides or their transboundary fluxes	14 February 1991
1985	Reduction of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes by at least 30%	2 September 1987
1984	Long-term financing of the cooperative programme for monitoring and valuation of the long-range transmission of air pollutants in Europe (EMEP)	28 January 1988.

Air Quality Framework Directive, 1996

iii) The Environment Act 1995

The Environment Act 1995 required local authorities to carry out studies of air quality in their areas to assess whether standards were likely to be exceeded by 2005. These standards have been set by the Government in the National Air Quality Strategy (NAQS) (2000), which looks at major pollutants on a national scale, and which either conform or are more stringent than limit values set out in the EU framework as can be seen in Table 9.

iv) The National Air Quality Strategy (2007)

The National Air Quality Strategy (2007) sets out the following:

- sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues
- sets out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved
- introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles
- identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy’s objectives.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/strategy/pdf/air-qualitystrategy-vol1.pdf>

v) Standards / Targets

The UK has adopted objectives that are based on the Air Quality Regulations 2000 and (Amendment) Regulations 2002. The objectives take into account the limit values required by EU Daughter Directives based on Air Quality.

Table 8: NAQS Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Objective		Date to be achieved by
	Concentration	Measured as	
Benzene	16.25µg/m ³ (5ppb)	running annual mean	31 December 2003
	5µg/m ³ (1.5ppb)	annual mean	31 December 2010
1,3-Butadiene	2.25µg/m ³ (1ppb)	running annual mean	31 December 2003
Carbon monoxide	10mg/m ³ (8.6ppm)	running 8 hour mean	31 December 2003
Ozone	100µg/m ³	Running 8 hour mean. Daily maximum not to be exceeded more than 10 times a year	31 December 2005
Poly Aromatic hydrocarbons	0.25ng/m ³	Annual Mean	31 December 2010
Lead	0.5µg/m ³	annual mean	31 December 2004
	0.25µg/m ³	annual mean	31 December 2008
Nitrogen dioxide	200µg/m ³ (105ppb) not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1 hour mean	31 December 2005
	40µg/m ³ (21ppb)	annual mean	31 December 2005
Particles (PM ₁₀)	50µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24 hour mean	31 December 2004
	40µg/m ³	annual mean	31 December 2004
Sulphur dioxide	350µg/m ³ (132ppb) not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1 hour mean	31 December 2004
	125µg/m ³ (47ppb) not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24 hour mean	31 December 2004
	266µg/m ³ (100ppb) not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15 minute mean	31 December 2005

(*The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland*. DEFRA in partnership with the Scottish Executive, The National Assembly for Wales and the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland, 2000.)

vi) National PSA target:

The National PSA target is:

“To improve air quality by meeting Air Quality Strategy targets for carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particles, sulphur dioxide, benzene and 1, 3-butadiene”.

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/how/psa/psatarget6>

B. Regional / County Context

i) Draft East of England Plan December 2004

The Draft East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy), prepared by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), was submitted to Government in December 2004. Following a period of public consultation the Plan was subject of an Examination in Public (EiP) between November 2005 and March 2006. The Report of the EiP Panel was published in June 2006. In December 2006 the Secretary of State published Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for a period of public consultation to March 2007. Following consideration of the consultation response, the Secretary of State issued some Further Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for public consultation between October-December 2007. These Changes incorporate the recommendations of an additional Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Secretary of State's publication of the final version of the East of England Plan is expected during the first quarter of 2008

Relevant policies in the Draft Plan, as submitted in December 2004, are:

- Policy ENV7: Air Quality – this outlines the need for local development documents and local transport plans to include objectives, policies, and proposals to reduce/reverse the increase in motor traffic, encourage cleaner transport fuels and infrastructure to support this. It also highlights the need for new developments to take into account air quality in the area, and notes that particular attention needs to be paid to potential environmental effects.

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Planning%20and%20Transport/PlanHome/RPG/RPG14/View%20the%20Plan/RSSfinal%20on%20website/Chap9.pdf>

- Policy SS3: Development in and adjoining urban areas – this policy outlines the need for new development to be the most sustainable option if Greenfield.

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Planning%20and%20Transport/PlanHome/RPG/RPG14/View%20the%20Plan/RSSfinal%20on%20website/Chap4.pdf>

ii) Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)

Each local authority in the UK has been carrying out reviews and assessments of air quality within their area since December 1997. Air pollution is measured and the results are used to try to predict trends, to show what the air will be like in the future. The aim of reviewing and assessing the information is to ensure that the objectives described above are achieved by the deadlines set. If a local authority has an area with measurements of air pollution that are unlikely to meet the objectives, an Air Quality Management Area must be declared. The size of this area can vary from 1 street or a much larger area of the locality.

Air quality in Essex is generally good. Most industrial processes in Essex are concentrated along the Thames Estuary. The air quality in Essex is influenced by its close proximity to mainland Europe. A total of 45 AQMAs have been designated within the East of England region, as shown on the following page. There are currently 10 AQMAs within the county, 8 of which were newly introduced in 2005. Seven of these are concentrated in Brentwood Borough, 2 in Colchester Borough and 1 in Chelmsford Borough.

Table 9: AQMAs within the East of England

Council	No of AQMAs	Pollutant
Bedford BC	4	NO ₂ , SO ₂
Breckland DC	1	PM ₁₀
Brentwood BC	7	NO ₂ , SO ₂
Broxbourne BC	3	NO ₂ , PM ₁₀
Cambridge City	1	NO ₂
Chelmsford BC	1	NO ₂
Colchester BC	2	NO ₂
Fenland DC	4	NO ₂ , PM ₁₀ , SO ₂
Hertsmere BC	6	NO ₂
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk BC	1	NO ₂
Luton UA	2	NO ₂
Mid Bedfordshire DC	1	SO ₂
Norwich City	3	NO ₂
South Bedfordshire DC	1	NO ₂
St Albans City	3	NO ₂
Three Rivers DC	5	NO ₂ , PM ₁₀

Source: UK National Air Quality Archive 2007

http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/laqm/laqm.php?action=submit&map_name=fulluk&la_id=281

The above table illustrates that the primary elements of concern to pollution are from Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulates, specifically PM₁₀. These pollutants particularly derive from fuel emissions from transport.

The Essex Air Quality Consortium includes Essex County Council, BAA Stanstead Airport, University of Essex, Environment Agency, the 12 District Councils and the 2 Unitary Authorities in Essex. The role of the Essex Air Quality Consortium is:

- To ensure that monitoring and modelling are carried out in a uniform manner
- To achieve data handling standardisation and data sharing across Essex
- To research and advise on the role, scope and effectiveness of available air quality modelling systems
- To consider and advise on the input and consequences of relevant legislation and air quality issues in Essex
- To help coordinate and share best practice on effective practical solutions to air quality management issues

C. Rochford Context

i) Rochford District Replacement Local Plan Adopted 16th June 2006

The Rochford District Replacement Local Plan was formally adopted on 16th June 2006. The policies within the Local Plan of relevance to air quality are:

- Policy PN1: Potentially Polluting Uses states that development that may be liable to cause pollution of water, air or soil or pollution through noise, smell, smoke,

fumes, gases, steam, dust, vibration, light or heat, electromagnetic radiation or other polluting emissions will only be permitted if:

- The health, safety and amenity of users of the site or surrounding land are not put at significant risk;
 - The quality and enjoyment of the environment would not be damaged or put at risk, and;
 - National air quality objectives would not be breached.
- Policy PN4: Air Quality declares that the Council will consider the potential effects of a development on local air quality when determining planning applications. Considerations will be given to the impact caused by both the construction and operation phases of the development, together with the traffic generated by it. Development that significantly increases air pollution will not be permitted.
 - Where development proposals are likely to involve emissions to air, submission of appropriate details will be required.
 - Where development proposals are near an existing source of air pollution, submission details will be required to enable a full judgment of the impact on the development to be made. Development will not be approved if the acceptable levels set out in the national air quality strategy are likely to be exceeded.
 - Planning objective P2 of the Local Plan is to ensure that new development or uses have no adverse impact on land, water or air pollution.

5.3 Current Baseline Information

A. Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have to be imposed by Local Authorities in the UK if the objectives of The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are unlikely to be met by prescribed dates.

The Council undertook its First Round review and assessment of air quality during 1998 – 2001. The First Round predicted that the air quality objectives would be met by their target dates. The main issues with respect to local air quality were found to be road traffic emissions (NO₂ and PM₁₀) emanating from vehicles on the A127 Southend Arterial Road and A130 Chelmsford Road, but it was not necessary to declare any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) for any pollutant.

B. Progress with Local Air Quality Monitoring For NO₂

The Council does not monitor NO₂ continuously and therefore a locally derived bias adjustment factor is not available. Instead, a default factor obtained from DEFRA is used. The bias adjustment factor used was 1.18, indicating that the diffusion tube is under reading compared to continuous monitoring. The bias adjusted results indicate that the annual mean objective was exceeded at the Rochford Market Square, Eastwood Road and High Street junction in Rayleigh sites. Only the latter exceeded targets based on unbiased results (for 2004 and 2005) however. The following three figures give the locations of NO₂ diffusion tube sites in Rochford.

C. Location of Nitrogen Dioxide Diffusion Tube Sites in Rochford

Figure 11: Rochford Market Square site



The location of the monitoring site indicates that it is close to relevant exposure.

Taken from Third Round Updating and Screening Assessment for Rochford District Council, 2006

Figure 12: Eastwood Road and High Street Junction in Rayleigh



The location of the monitoring site indicates that it is close to relevant exposure.

Taken from Third Round Updating and Screening Assessment for Rochford District Council, 2006

Figure 13: Bedloes Corner Site in Rawreth



Taken from Third Round Updating and Screening Assessment for Rochford District Council, 2006

Table 17: NO₂ bias adjusted results in Rochford (2004 – 2005) (µg m⁻³)

Site code	Location	Easting	Northing	2004	2005	Biased 2005
1A	Rochford Market Square	587647	190520	29.3	34.0	40.1
1B	Rochford Market Square	587647	190520	30.9	36.2	42.8
1C	Rochford Market Square	587647	190520	30.1	32.6	38.4
2A	Rayleigh (Eastwood Rd / High St)	580560	190627	42.8	44.9	53.0
2B	Rayleigh (Eastwood Rd / High St)	580560	190627	39.2	45.6	53.8
2C	Rayleigh (Eastwood Rd / High St)	580560	190627	39.1	46.0	54.3
3A	Rawreth (Bedloes Corner)	578424	193307	28.1	32.0	37.8
3B	Rawreth (Bedloes Corner)	578424	193307	29.5	33.5	39.5
3C	Rawreth (Bedloes Corner)	578424	193307	29.8	31.8	37.5

Taken from Third Round Updating and Screening Assessment for Rochford District Council, 2006

The World Health Organisation (WHO) objective of an annual NO₂ mean of 40µg/m⁻³ has been exceeded in two sites. On this basis a Detailed Assessment is required for the Rochford Market Square and Eastwood Road and High Street junction in Rayleigh. The most problematic site is Eastwood Rd / High Street in Rayleigh, where the WHO target was exceeded in all 3 monitoring localities in 2005. The maximum permitted concentration of 200µg/m⁻³ of NO₂ was not exceeded in any locality between 2004 and 2005.

In view of the high concentrations, particularly at the Rayleigh site, further monitoring should be considered along the High Street and Eastwood Road at sites where there is

relevant exposure. This monitoring would assist in determining the extent and fall off of concentrations.

The Council is undertaking continuous monitoring in Rayleigh High Street and the forthcoming results will inform this conclusion further as well as the subsequent Detailed Assessment.

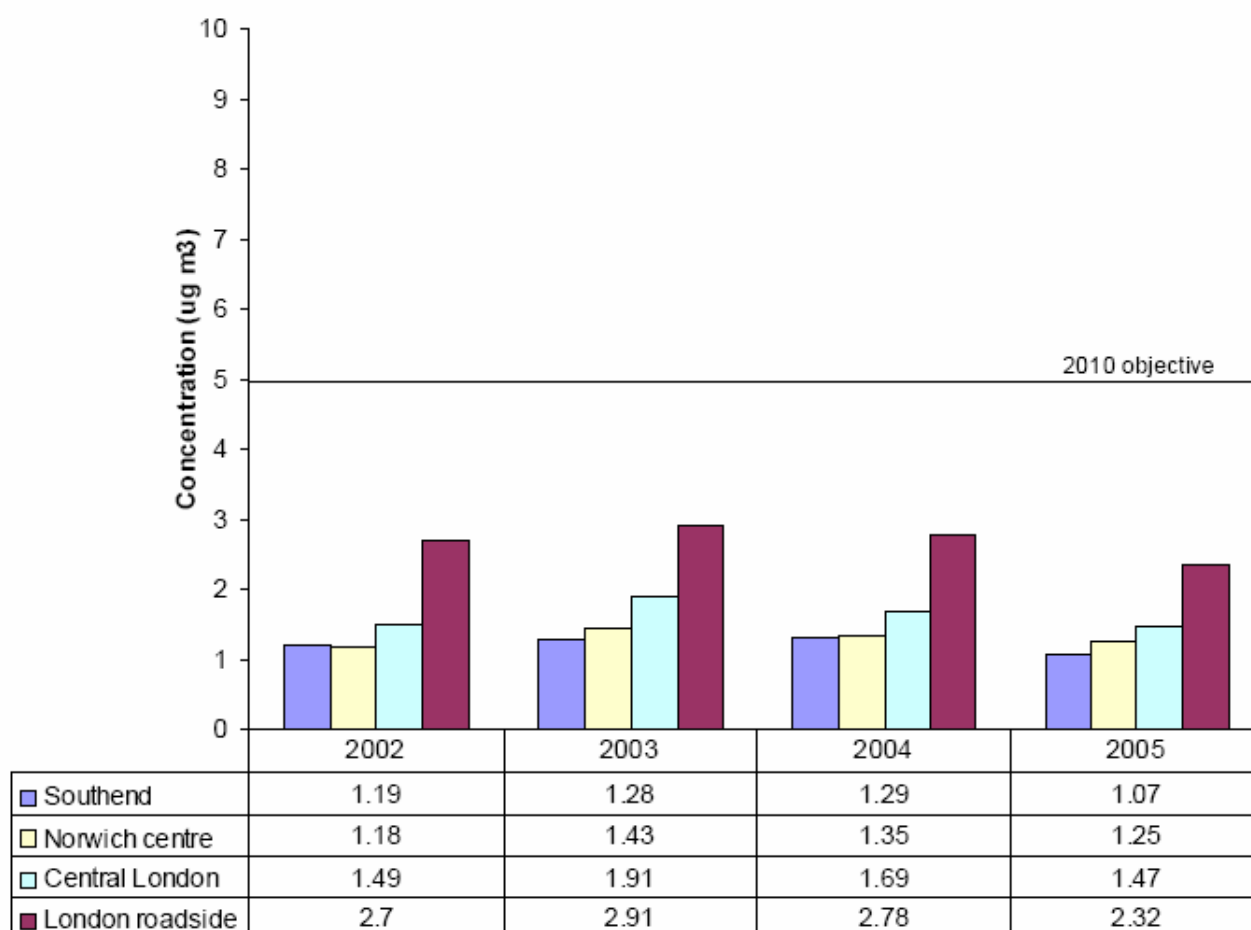
D. Carbon Monoxide (CO)

Rochford District Council does not undertake CO continuous monitoring in its area, however monitoring which is undertaken in Southend, Tendring and Thurrock is considered to be representative of the Councils area. From analysis of this data there have been no significant changes in CO concentrations or emissions in the District since the second round of USA, therefore a further assessment of this is not required.

E. Benzene

Background monitoring of Benzene is undertaken in shend and the results of this are considered to be representative of Rochford. The results indicate that the concentrations will not exceed the benzene objectives for 2010.

Figure 14: Annual Mean Concentrations of Benzene



Taken from Third Round Updating and Screening Assessment for Rochford District Council, 2006

F. 1, 3 Butadiene

The Council does not undertake monitoring of 1, 3 Butadiene within the district. However, continuous monitoring is undertaken at the busy central London site at Marylebone Road

which is part of the government's automated network. There have been no significant changes to 1, 3 butadiene concentrations or emissions in the district since the second round USA and as a result a Detailed Assessment for 1, 3 butadiene will not be required.

G. Lead

The Council does not monitor lead in its area. Similarly there is no monitoring of lead undertaken by other authorities in Essex. However, lead monitoring based in London could be taken as being representative of the likely highest concentrations in the Council's area. The results indicate that the concentrations will not exceed the 2004 and 2008 lead objectives as there have been no significant changes to lead concentrations or emissions in the district since the second round USA and as a result a Detailed Assessment for lead will not be required.

H. Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂)

The Council does not undertake SO₂ monitoring in the District. However, monitoring is undertaken at Southend, Castle Point and Thurrock. These monitoring results are considered to be representative of the County area. There have been no significant changes to SO₂ concentrations or emissions and as a result a Detailed Assessment for SO₂ will not be required.

I. Particles (PM₁₀)

The Council monitored PM₁₀ in the District as part of its Detailed Assessments of fugitive sources close to the Rawreth Industrial Estate, Rayleigh. The monitoring took place over two 3-month periods during the summer of 2004 and spring 2005. The findings from the monitoring indicated that the daily mean objective was being exceeded and as a result an Air Quality Management Area should be declared.

The Detailed Assessment also advised that improvements to mitigate the emissions were proposed at one of the likely emissions sources. Additional monitoring was recommended to determine the extent of the area exceeding the objective and apportion the sources of PM₁₀.

There have been complaints about dust at the Rawreth Industrial Estate. The potential sources in this area include the waste transfer station, a stonemason, a concrete batching plant, plus numerous movements of heavy road vehicles on unmade surfaces. Dust complaints have also arisen concerning fugitive emissions from the waste transfer sites at the Purdeys Industrial Estate, Rochford and at Great Wakering.

Experience from monitoring in other areas with waste transfer sites has confirmed that high PM₁₀ concentrations can arise both from fugitive sources and the re-suspension of material deposited on roads.

5.4 Air Quality Summary

- The 2005 diffusion tube monitoring results indicate that 2005 concentrations exceeded the annual mean objective at sites with relevant exposure: Rochford Market Square and the junction of Rayleigh High Street and Eastwood Road. As a result a Detailed Assessment for NO₂ will be required for these two areas.
- Results for Carbon Monoxide, Benzene, 1,3 Butadiene, Lead and Sulphur Dioxide all indicate that the current targets will not be exceeded in the near future and that a detailed assessment is unnecessary at this point.

- With regards to PM₁₀ results, the Council is carrying out additional monitoring at the Rawreth Industrial Estate in Rayleigh as a result of dust complaints. Detailed Assessments should also be considered at the other sites where dust complaints have arisen, including at the Purdeys Industrial Estate in Rochford and in Great Wakering.

6 CLIMATIC FACTORS

6.1 Introduction

Climate is an important factor on the quality of life, as many other factors such as flooding, and rising temperatures are directly caused by changes in climate.

Despite continuing discussion about the causes of climate change the Governments is aiming to reduce the human factors which contribute towards it. A number of initiatives have been set up to seek to reduce greenhouse gases, which contribute to climate change. These include reducing the consumption of, and emissions from fossil fuels and the recycling of waste products. Rochford residents are being encouraged to switch to green energy, with the council sourcing approximately 0.1% of its own energy from a renewable source.

6.2 Policy Context

A. International/National Context

i) Kyoto Protocol

The main objective of the Kyoto Protocol is the prevention of "dangerous anthropogenic [man-made] interference with the climate system". The EU is committed under the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 8% from 1990 levels by 2008-2012. Reductions in the three most important gases (Carbon dioxide, methane, and Nitrous oxide) will be measured against a base year of 1990 (with exceptions for some countries with economies in transition). The EU and its Member States ratified the Kyoto Protocol in late May 2002.

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf>

ii) Earth Summit 1992

The 1992 Earth Summit resulted in the international adoption of the global action plan for sustainable development, Agenda 21. This is aimed at addressing pressing issues affecting the international community, including climatic concerns. In the UK this has been disaggregated to the production of Local Agenda 21 strategies at local authority and district level. In this way, collective implementation of Local Agenda 21 at a grassroots level can make progress towards the achievement of the global Agenda 21 action plan. The 2002 Johannesburg Summit addressed the progress made towards reaching these targets, and discussed mechanisms of better achieving these objectives in the future.

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/agenda21text.htm>

iii) The European Union's Sustainable Development Strategy

The European Union's Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS) was adopted in 2001 and has set out to tackle climate change, natural resource protection, sustainable transport, ageing population, public health and the global dimension of sustainable development. Sustainable consumption and production is also advocated within 'Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy' (March 2005). The intended mechanism to combat climate change is to meet the commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and then to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 1% per year over 1990 levels up to 2020 (EU SDS. European Commission, 2001).

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st10/st10117.en06.pdf>

iv) The Sixth Environmental Action Plan 2005 (6th EAP) (European Commission)

The Sixth Environmental Action Plan 2005 (6th EAP) (European Commission) consists of four key environmental issues: climate change, biodiversity and nature conservation, environment and health, resources and waste. To address these priorities the Plan's strategic actions are improving implementation of existing legislation, integrating environmental concerns into the decisions taken under other policies, finding new ways of working with the markets and consumers and encouraging better land use planning and management decisions.

v) Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1, 17 December 2007

The Key Planning Objectives are to manage the delivery of spatial plans that contribute to climate change and energy policies, to ensure energy efficiency and a reduction in emissions from all types of development, to promote sustainable methods of transportation reducing journeys by car, and to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/614742>

vi) Waste Strategy for England 2007

The strategy sets out a number of key proposals for action. Efforts to reduce, re-use, recycle waste and recover energy from waste are to be incentivised. Action is to be targeted in the areas where the most positive benefit can be claimed and investment is to be stimulated in the collection, recycling and recovery infrastructure. The strategy also wishes to improve national, regional and local governance to deliver better co-ordinated action on the ground.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/strategy07/pdf/waste07-strategy.pdf>

B. Regional/County Context

i) Draft East of England Plan December 2004

The Draft East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy), prepared by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), was submitted to Government in December 2004. Following a period of public consultation the Plan was subject of an Examination in Public (EiP) between November 2005 and March 2006. The Report of the EiP Panel was published in June 2006. In December 2006 the Secretary of State published Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for a period of public consultation to March 2007. Following consideration of the consultation response, the Secretary of State issued some Further Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for public consultation between October-December 2007. These Changes incorporate the recommendations of an additional Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Secretary of State's publication of the final version of the East of England Plan is expected during the first quarter of 2008.

Relevant policies in the Draft Plan, are:

- Policy ENV8: renewable energy and energy efficiency
Local development documents will contain policies for promoting and encouraging energy efficiency and renewable energy. These policies concern developers to maximise energy efficiencies, require energy consumption statements for development proposals and all developments above the same threshold to incorporate equipment for renewable power generation and favourably consider

the on-shore developments associated with off-shore energy generation and methane exploitation from appropriate landfill sites.

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Planning%20and%20Transport/PlanHome/RPG/RPG14/View%20the%20Plan/RSS14Finalversion.pdf>

ii) Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England

The Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (EERA and Sustainable Development Round Table, 2001) highlights the need to raise awareness and education regarding climate change and waste issues, amongst other topics.

http://www.gos.gov.uk/goee/docs/193713/193722/Regional_Strategy/Regional_Sustainable_Develo1.pdf

iii) The Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England – Our Environment Our Future

The Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England – Our Environment, Our Future (EERA and East of England Environment Forum, July 2003) discusses the continuing growth in car ownership and use, with the resultant congestion around major roads in the region and greenhouse gas emission. The region also has a number of international airports, with Stansted and Luton specifically experiencing rapid growth. The Strategy advocates that the first priority should be a reduction in the need to travel, and then encouragement to utilise more sustainable modes of transport. The need for energy conservation and increased efficiency of new buildings and their appliances is also discussed in relation to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The importance of energy from renewable sources is also stressed, since at present only 0.45% of the East of England's energy is produced from renewable sources.

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Environment/RENS.pdf>

iv) UKCIP02 Climate Change Scenarios

Climate change in Essex has been predicted through the use of the UKCIP02 Climate Change Scenarios (Hulme et al., 2002) and published within the 'Climate Change in Essex' report (HR Wallingford, November 2005). These projections are for the 2080s and are as follows:

- Winter temperatures will increase by 2-3°C
 - Summer temperatures will increase by 3-5°C
 - Winter precipitation will increase by 13-25%
 - Summer precipitation will increase by 24-47%
 - Average sea levels will increase by 26-86cm*
 - Extreme sea levels will increase by 80-140cm*
- *including regional isostatic subsidence as well as climate change.

The key required actions that have emerged from this study include improved water conservation, reduced carbon emissions, the protection of people and property from the consequences of flooding, and the effects of heat and UV radiation and the promotion of sustainable tourism.

http://www.ukcip.org.uk/scenarios/ukcip02/documentation/documents/UKCIP02_tech.pdf

v) Living with Climate Change in the East of England

The 'Living with Climate Change in the East of England' report (Stage 1 Interim Report. EERA and Sustainable Development Roundtable, February 2003) concluded that the East

of England should aim to work with, rather than against climate change, and to reduce the risk from the potentially adverse impacts of climate change.

<http://www.sustainabilityeast.org.uk/pdf/Living%20with%20Climate%20Change%20in%20the%20East%20of%20England%20-%20Local%20Authorities.pdf>

vi) 'A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England' (EERA and East of England Sustainable Development Round Table, October 2001)

This concludes that preparing for climate change now will benefit the economy (for example through minimising storm damage), social issues (e.g. avoiding disruption as a result of flooding) and potentially the environment (for example new habitats and the preservation of historic sites).

http://www.goeast.gov.uk/goee/docs/193713/193722/Regional_Strategy/Regional_Sustainable_Develo1.pdf

vii) Public Service Agreement Targets

Public Service Agreement targets are:

- Public Service Agreement 2005-2008 (DEFRA)
To reduce Greenhouse gas emissions to 12.5% below 1990 levels in line with the Kyoto commitment and move towards a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions below 1990 levels by 2010 (Public Service Agreement 2005-2008, DEFRA).
To enable at least 25% of household waste to be recycled/composted by 2005-06, with further improvement by 2008 (Public Service Agreement 2005-2008, DEFRA).
- Energy White Paper target:
UK to cut CO₂ emissions by 60% by 2050 (Energy White Paper. February 2003).
- East of England (Making Renewable Energy a Reality – Setting a Challenging Target for the Eastern Region. ESD and Global to Local, 2001)
produce 14% (including offshore) of its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2010

C. District Context

i) Rochford District Replacement Local Plan 2006

- Policy UT3 – Renewable Energy
Proposals for the development of renewable sources of energy will be encouraged where there are benefits to the local community. Renewable energy proposals will be permitted provided that the proposed development would not adversely affect:
 - The special character of the Coastal Protection Belt, Special Landscape Areas, Areas of Ancient Landscape or sites of nature conservation (including avian flyways) or heritage conservation interest; and
 - The amenity of nearby dwellings or residential areas;
 - Proposals for development must be accompanied by adequate information to indicate the extent of possible environmental effects and how they can be satisfactorily mitigated.
 Minor domestic renewable energy schemes will be encouraged

http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/interactive_local_plan/index.htm

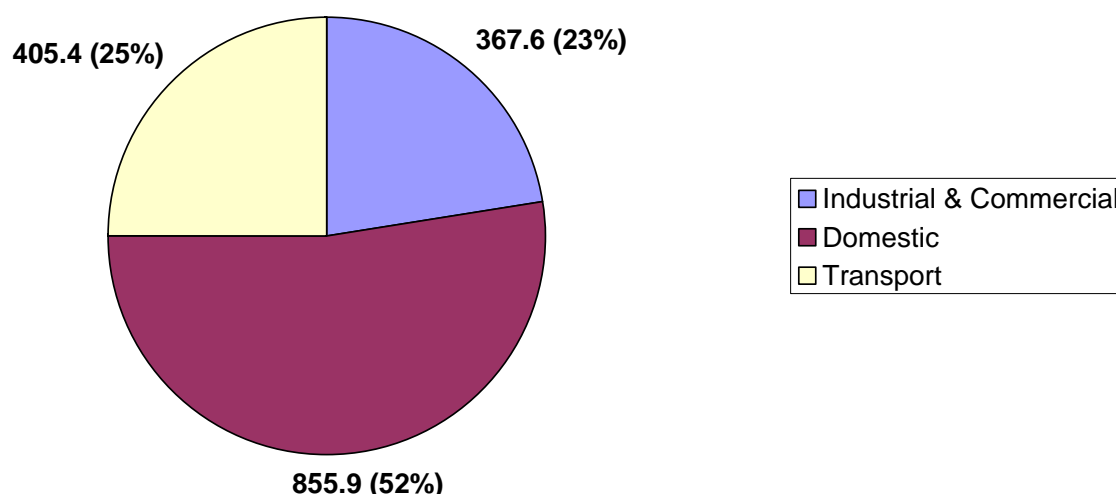
6.3 Current Baseline Information

A. Energy Consumption

An important factor influencing the climate is the amount of CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions produced in the production and consumption of energy in transport domestic, commercial and industrial sectors.

Currently the total Rochford energy consumption is shown in the figure below. This shows that in Rochford District the greatest consumer of energy is domestic (52%), consuming 855.9 Giga watts per hour (Gwh) and the smallest consumer is commercial (23%).

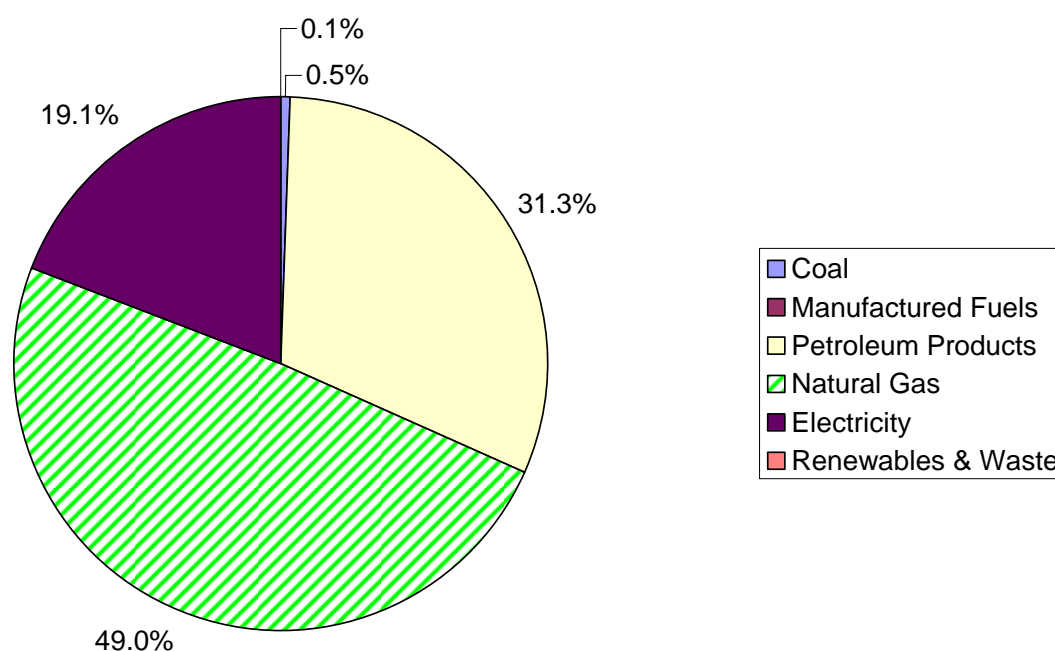
Figure 15: Total Energy Consumption in 2004 (Gwh) In Rochford District



Source: Compiled from the DTI site - www.berr.gov.uk/files/file38367.xls

The total amount of energy consumed in the Rochford District in 2004 is 1628.9Gwh. The table below shows this by percentage, broken down into the generation method. 49% of the total energy consumed is from natural gas (68.7Gwh). The second largest type consumed is petroleum products (1,291.1Gwh). There was no consumed energy resulting from manufactured fuels generation and only 0.1% resulting from renewables and waste generation.

Figure 16: Percentage Use of Energy Products in Rochford District



Source: Compiled from the DTI site - www.berr.gov.uk/files/file38367.xls

The table below compares the amount of energy consumed industrially, commercially and domestically in Rochford District, with other Essex Districts. This shows that Rochford is the 10th largest consumer of energy within the County out of 12 Districts/Boroughs. The largest producer of consumed energy is natural gas, whilst the lowest is from manufactured fuels with 0 Gwh. This trend is not in accordance with many of the other Districts in Essex where petroleum products account for more energy generation than natural gas. Rochford District consumes the third lowest amount of energy produced from renewable sources and waste.

Table 10: Rochford District's Total Consumed Energy, Compared To Other Essex Boroughs and Districts in 2004 (Measured in Gwh)

District	Coal Total	Manufactured Fuels Total	Petroleum Products Total	Natural Gas Total	Electricity Total	Renewables & Waste Total	Total
Epping Forest	16.2	2.9	2505.7	1464.6	497.5	5.9	4492.9
Basildon	118.9	0.0	1291.1	1764.2	878.2	24.5	4077.0
Chelmsford	28.8	0.0	1762.4	1366.5	790.0	9.4	3957.1
Colchester	17.8	0.0	1524.3	1416.6	753.8	6.8	3719.2
Braintree	30.0	0.1	1712.6	1106.9	619.5	97.0	3566.0
Tendring	18.9	0.0	1228.9	1232.2	568.8	227.4	3276.1
Uttlesford	25.9	0.0	1940.3	582.7	397.1	5.1	2951.1
Brentwood	6.9	0.0	1339.5	800.9	322.8	1.8	2471.9
Harlow	1.3	0.0	409.4	976.9	466.2	0.6	1854.3
Rochford	7.8	0.0	509.4	799.5	310.4	1.7	1628.9
Castle Point	0.1	0.2	377.3	834.5	286.4	0.0	1498.5
Maldon	8.9	0.0	471.8	383.6	348.0	2.6	1213.9
Essex Total	281.4	3.3	15072.7	12728.2	6238.6	382.7	34766.9

Source: Compiled from the DTI site - www.berr.gov.uk/files/file38367.xls

B. Emissions

The use of fossil fuels in the production of energy creates greenhouse gas emissions. This is mainly in the form of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), but also includes Methane (CH₄), Nitrous Oxides (NO_x), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and water vapour, which all contribute towards climate change.

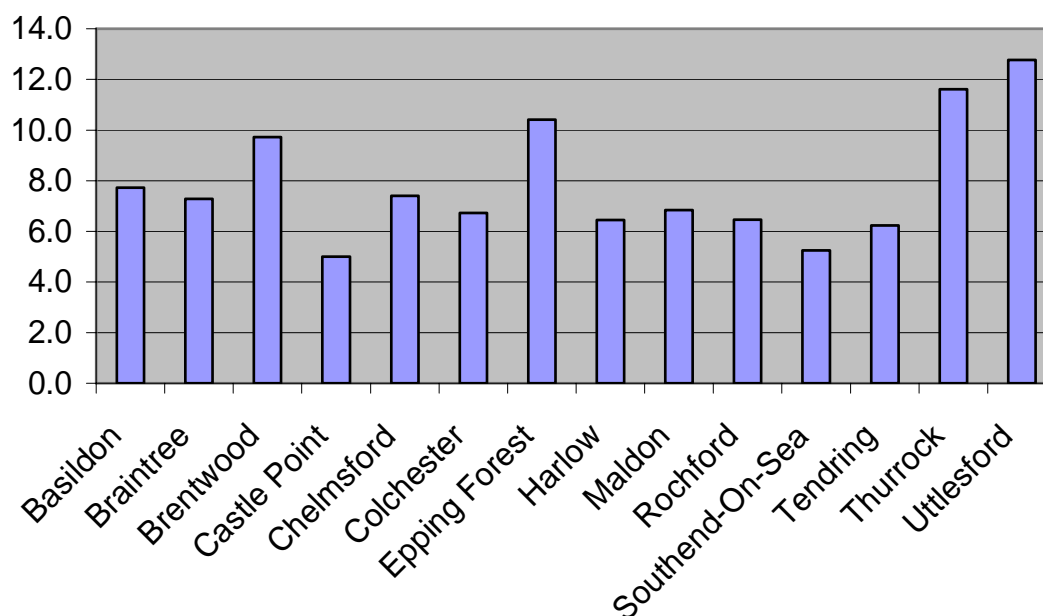
i) CO₂ Emissions

One of the main greenhouse gases is carbon dioxide (CO₂). The main causes of increased CO₂ in the atmosphere are deforestation and burning fossil fuels for:

- Electricity
- Heating dwellings and other buildings
- Transportation (using internal combustion of fossil fuels and fossil fuel products)

The Figure below shows that Rochford District at approximately 6.5 tCO₂ produces the 5th lowest amount of CO₂ per capita (*how much each individual receives, that is generated in the UK through production*) within Essex. This figure is below the national median of 8.6 tCO₂.

Figure 17: Essex CO₂ Emissions Per Capita (tCO₂) in 2004



Source: Experimental high level energy indicators for 2004, published March 2007 by the DTi from <http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/statistics/regional/high-level/page36161.html>

C. Renewable Energy Production

Rochford District currently produces just 0.1% of its total energy production from renewable sources. These instances are isolated schemes adopted by individual properties, and not part of the wider district. Policy surrounding Renewable Energy in the District can be found at

http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/interactive_local_plan/rdrpl/10_utilities_health_social_03_electricity.html

D. Local Incentives

The Rochford District Council website 'Environment' link (<http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/main.asp?page=393>) makes reference to the following:

The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) in April 2006 launched Phase One of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP) managed by the Energy Saving Trust. Running over three years the LCBP is open to householders, public, not for profit and commercial organisations across the UK and demonstrates how energy efficiency and micro-generation create low carbon buildings.

One of Rochford District Council's priorities is to address fuel poverty and to improve homes. This can be done by improving heating and insulation measures.

Rochford District Council is committed to promoting the use of energy efficient measures for individual homes and the adoption of renewable energy schemes for the individual household. Cavity wall insulation is one of the best ways to reduce heating bills as it increases the energy efficiency of homes. This helps reduce the amount of carbon dioxide produced helping slow down climate change.

Residents are encouraged to improve their energy efficiency through Warm Front Grants. Warm front is a Government funded scheme which will help improve the warmth and energy efficiency of homes. Grants are available to the value of £2,700 or £4,000 where oil central heating is recommended. Grants can be claimed where residents own their own home or rent it from a private landlord.

Another initiative in the district is the Affordable Energy Scheme. This scheme is managed by Essex Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (Essex EEAC) which is a non profit organisation funded by Government through the Energy Savings Trust (EST). They negotiate competitive rates and they are confident they can beat most national installer's prices by 40%. Quotes are provided free of charge with no obligation.

Further incentives are advised to residents by Rochford District Council in the promotion of ground source heat pumps, room heaters/stoves with automated wood pellet feed, solar photovoltaic panels, solar water heating, windpower, wood fuelled boiler systems, roof insulation. The energy saving benefits and typical prices for installation are quoted for all of these initiatives.

6.4 Climatic Factors Summary

- In Rochford District the greatest consumer of energy is domestic (52%), consuming 855.9 Giga watts per hour (Gwh) and the smallest consumer is industry and commercial (23%).
- 49% of the total energy consumed in Rochford in 2004 is from natural gas (68.7Gwh). The second largest type consumed is petroleum products (1,291.1Gwh). There was no consumed energy resulting from manufactured fuels generation and only 0.1% resulting from renewables and waste generation.
- Rochford is the 10th largest consumer of energy within the County out of 12 Districts/Boroughs.
- The largest producer of consumed energy is from natural gas, whilst the lowest is from manufactured fuels.
- Rochford District consumes the third lowest amount of energy produced from renewable sources and waste in the County at 0.1%.

7 WATER QUALITY

7.1 Introduction

Achieving a balance between the demands of competing uses of water is extremely important in the Eastern Region, since it is the driest region in the country (Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England. East of England Regional Assembly and East of England Environment Forum, July 2003).

In addition to the ever increasing demand from human uses, water contributes to the natural environment, having ecological, aesthetic, scientific, educational and recreational value.

7.2 Policy Context

A. National Context

i) National Planning Policies

National Planning Policies are published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in Planning Policy Statements (PPS) which are gradually replacing Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG). In respect of Water Quality, national guidance is presented in the following documents:

- Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005) states that sustainable development is the core principle underpinning planning and water quality, which affects everyone's quality of life.

(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147393>)

- Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control (2004) states that any consideration of water quality and its impact on health and the environment is a material planning consideration.

(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147450>)

ii) Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC

The Water Framework Directive introduces an integrated and co-ordinated approach to water management. It introduces a holistic approach to water management and aims to achieve improved ecological health of inland and coastal waters, the sustainable use of water as a natural resource, create better habitats for wildlife that live in or around water, reduce discharges and emissions, reduce pollution of groundwater and contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. There is a requirement for nearly all inland and coastal waters (1 mile out from low tide) to achieve a 'good' status under the framework.

(<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/wfd/index.htm>)

iii) The Groundwater Regulations 1998

The regulations state that authorisation will not be given to any activity which will result in an indirect discharge of any substance which has been identified as posing a risk to groundwater quality. These are defined as List I and List II substances by the Environment Agency. List I substances are the most damaging and toxic and must be prevented from directly or indirectly entering groundwater. These include many pesticides and herbicides. List II substances are less harmful but must be controlled to prevent pollution of

groundwater. List II substances include many metals such as zinc and lead. The only exceptions to this are if the groundwater is considered unsuitable for any other uses or that measures are used to ensure the pollutant cannot reach other aquatic systems and does not impede exploitation of ground resources.

(<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si1998/19982746.htm>)

iv) Key Targets

The Government does not have a specific PSA target to measure river water quality. However, monitored river lengths have a baseline assessment called the River Quality Objectives (RQO), which is the level of water quality that a river should achieve in order to be suitable for its agreed uses. The River Quality Objective is 91% compliance by 2006 for rivers in England and Wales (Environment Agency).

DEFRA's Public Service Agreement (2005-2008): target is to achieve 95% by area of SSSI in favourable or recovering condition by 2010. One of the major tools for achieving this will be for public bodies, including the water companies, to deliver their SSSI responsibilities, namely water quality and abstraction.

Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) exist for List I and List II substances from the EC Dangerous Substances Directive (76/464/EEC). Article 6 (List I substances) of 76/464/EEC was repealed with the entry into force of Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive) with the remainder of 76/464/EEC remaining in place until 2013. (Water Information System for Europe)

(http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-dangersub/76_464.htm#transition)

B. Regional Context

i) Draft East of England Plan December 2004

The Draft East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy), prepared by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), was submitted to Government in December 2004. Following a period of public consultation the Plan was subject of an Examination in Public (EiP) between November 2005 and March 2006. The Report of the EiP Panel was published in June 2006. In December 2006 the Secretary of State published Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for a period of public consultation to March 2007. Following consideration of the consultation response, the Secretary of State issued some Further Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for public consultation between October-December 2007. These Changes incorporate the recommendations of an additional Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Secretary of State's publication of the final version of the East of England Plan is expected during the first quarter of 2008

- Policy ENV9: Water Supply, Management and Drainage

(<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Planning%20and%20Transport/PlanHome/RPG/RPG14/View%20the%20Plan/RSSfinal%20on%20website/Chap9.pdf>)

ii) Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England, East of England Regional Assembly and East of England Environment Forum, July 2003.

The East of England Regional Assembly believes that the key to sustainable development of the region is to integrate the delivery of economic development, social progress and

environmental quality. The main aim of this strategy is to raise awareness of the environment among key stakeholders and to inform and advise other regional strategies to ensure that environmental objectives are integrated with social and economic issues.

(<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Environment/ROENS.pdf>)

iii) Environmental Capacity in the East of England Draft June 2007, prepared by Land Use Consultants and Cranfield University for the East of England Regional Assembly and Partners

'Living within environmental limits' is a key theme of Government policy for sustainable development. The concept of environmental capacity refers to the capacity of the environment to perform its natural functions, with an environmental limit being the level at which the environment is unable to accommodate a particular activity or rate without sustaining unacceptable or irreversible change. This project is still on-going and is expected to be completed in 2008.

(<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Environment/EERA%20Stage%201%20Report%20FINAL%20DRAFT.pdf>)

iv) South Essex Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy June 2004

The strategy was completed in March 2004 and has a life cycle of 6 years. The vision of this strategy is to ensure that there is a fair share of water for both people and the environment. The aims for this strategy include contributing towards sustainable development, promoting water efficiency and to provide a clear and consistent approach to the protection of the local environment across the sub-region.

(<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/anglian/1274735/314096/?version=1&lang=e>)

v) Water Resources for the Future: A summary of the Strategy for the Anglian Region 2001

The strategy sets out a vision, namely that there will be 'enough water for all human uses with an improved water environment.' The strategy looks 25 years ahead and considers the changes that may occur over this time period, with particular focus on future demand for water and climate change.

(http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/wr_anglia.pdf)

C. Rochford Context

i) Rochford District Replacement Local Plan adopted 16th June 2006

The Rochford District Replacement Local Plan was formally adopted on 16th June 2006. The policies within the Local Plan of relevance to water quality are:

- Policy CS1: Moving Towards Sustainable Development
- Policy CS2: Protecting and Enhancing the Built and Natural Environment
- Policy NR8: Other Landscape Features of Importance for Nature Conservation
- Policy UT1: Foul and Surface Water Requirements
- Policy PN1: Potentially Polluting Uses
- Policy PN3: Protection of Water Quality

(http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/pdf/planning_replacement_local_plan_small.pdf)

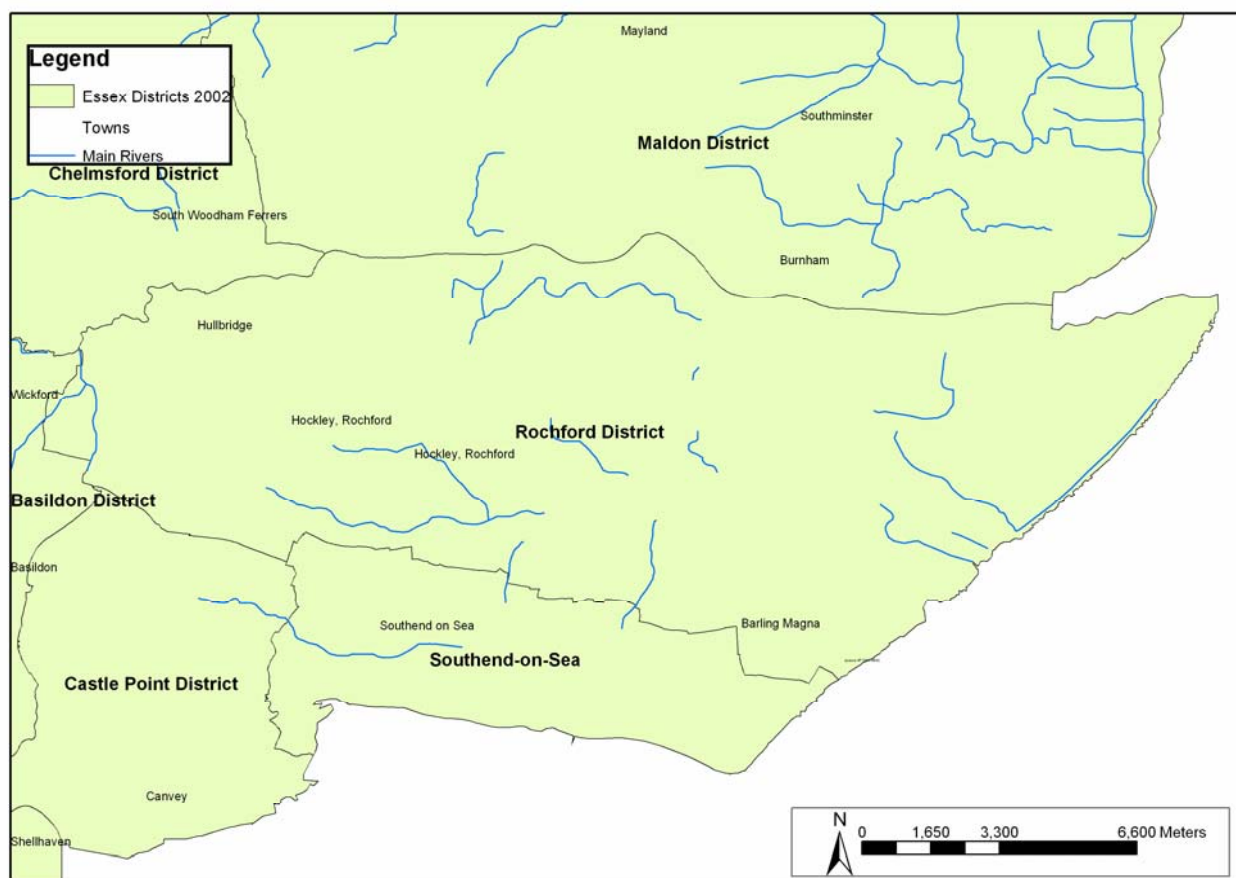
7.3 Baseline Information

The water quality chapter opens with two figures highlighting the geographical location of major rivers and aquifers in the District and surrounding area. Following this there is an explanation of the River Ecosystem Classification and the results for the District are analysed between 1999 and 2006. Individual river stretches are also examined here. The Environment Agency carries out General Quality Assessments on a number of aspects of water quality, and this report focuses on two of these, namely chemistry and biology. District results are presented from 2000 to 2006 (including 1990 and 1995), and then 2006 results are compared to those found at the Regional and County level. Individual river stretches are also assessed for their chemical and biological quality.

A. Key Water Courses In Rochford District

Figure 18 details the geographical location of the major rivers within Rochford District.

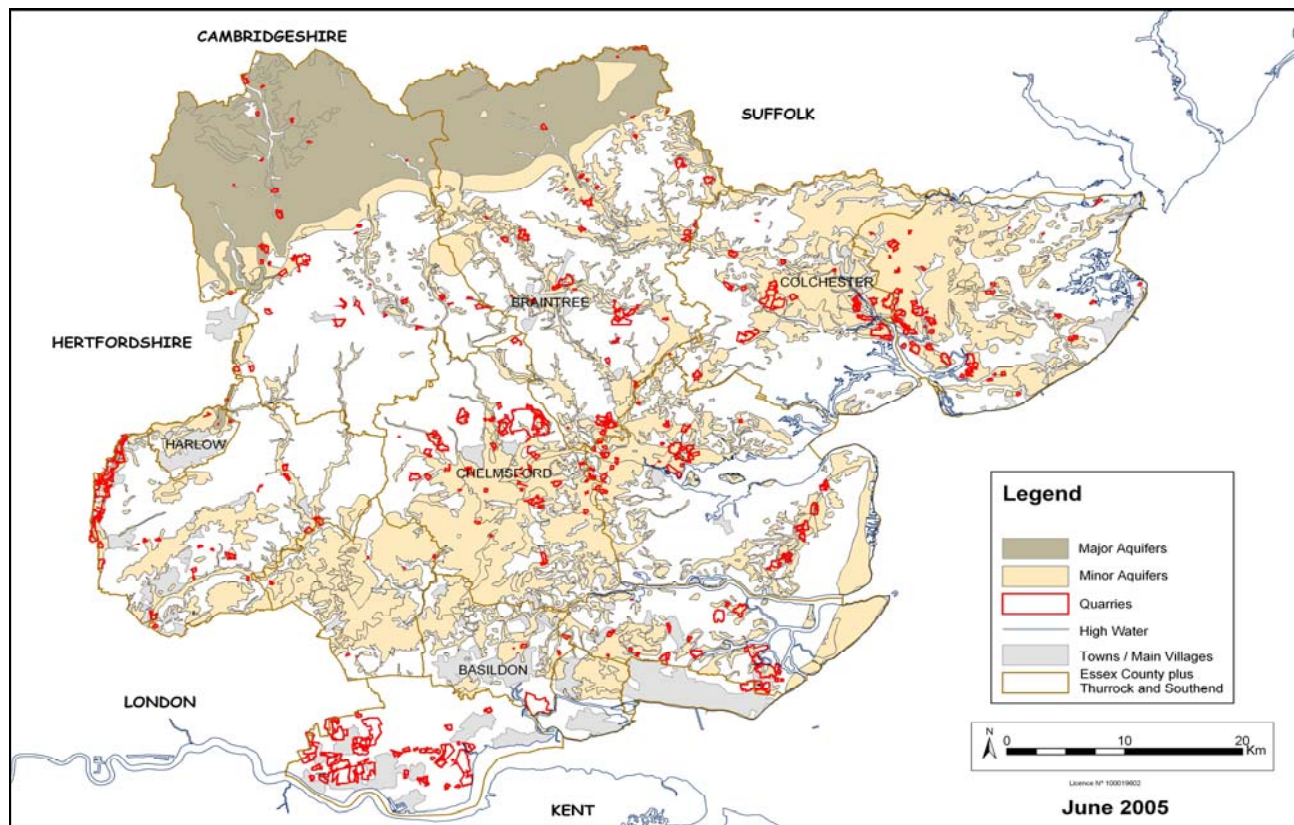
Figure 18: Main Rivers within Rochford District



Essex County Council 2005

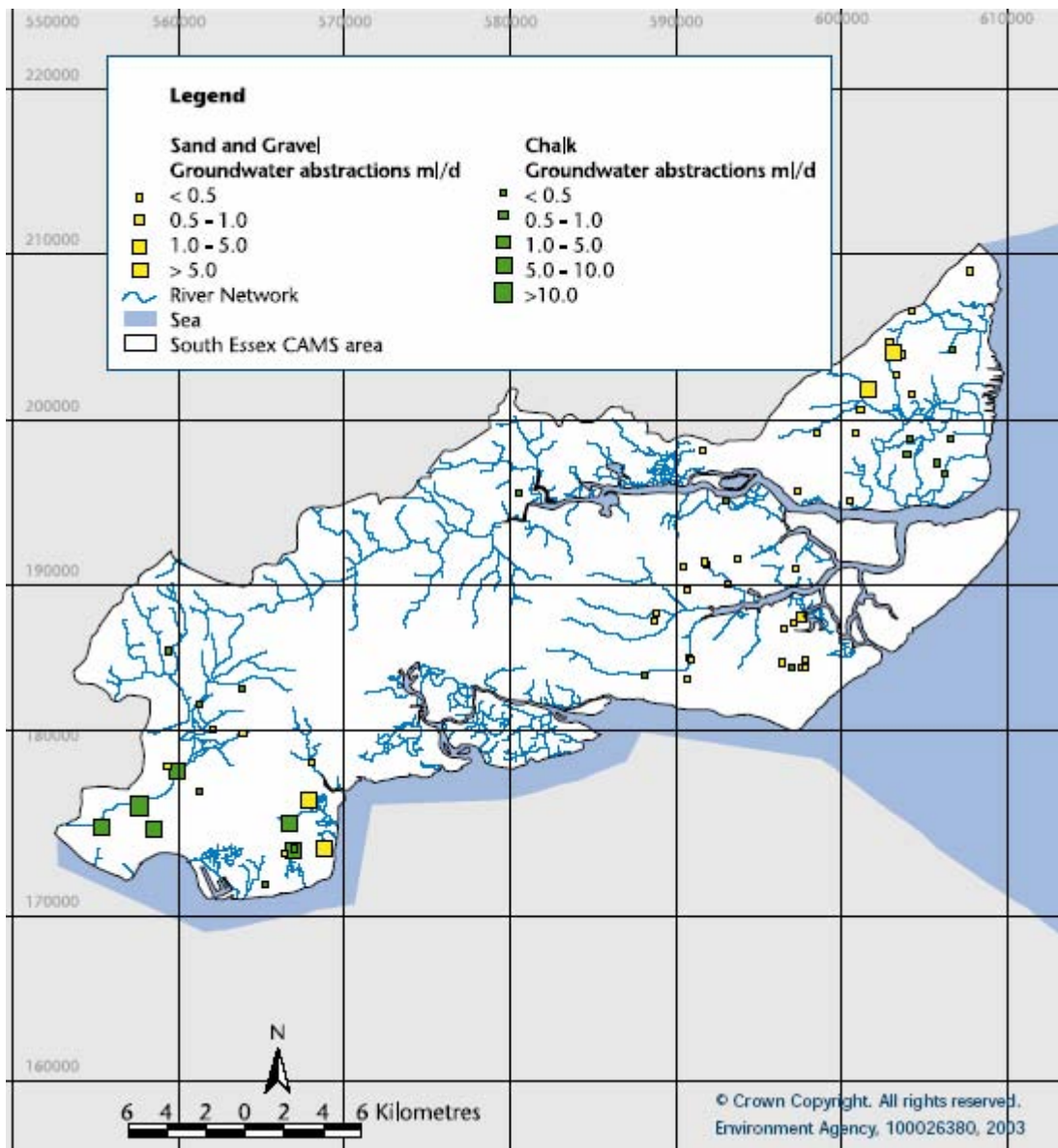
B. Water Resources In Essex County

Figure 19: Aquifers within Essex County



Source: Essex County Council 2005

Figure 20: Groundwater Abstractions in South East Essex Catchment Area



Source: The South East Essex Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy June 2004
http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/pg_0109_s_essex_845212.pdf

Figure 19 and Figure 20 highlight that there are no major aquifers in Rochford District although it can be seen that there are a number of minor aquifers present in the District, specifically along the coastline. The majority of major aquifers are concentrated in the north of the County, specifically the northern parts of Braintree and Uttlesford Districts.

C. River Summary Report for Rochford District

Table 11 explains the River Ecosystem (RE) scheme, with Table 12 detailing the results in Rochford District since 1997 and Figure 21 illustrating results since 1997.

Table 11: River Ecosystem Classes and Definitions

Class	Description	Class Criteria						
		DO	BOD	Ammonia	Unionised Ammonia	Copper	Zinc	pH
RE1	Water of very good quality suitable for all fish species	* Q10	Q90	Q90	Q95	Q95	Q95	Q5 - Q95
RE2	Water of good quality suitable for all fish species	80%	2.5	0.25	0.021	112	500	6 - 9
RE3	Water of fair quality suitable for high class coarse fish populations	70%	4	0.6	0.021	112	2000	6 - 9
RE4	Water of fair quality suitable for coarse fish populations	60%	6	1.3	0.021	112	2000	6 - 9
RE5	Water of poor quality which is likely to limit coarse fish populations	50%	8	2.5	-	112	2000	6 - 9
		20%	15	9	-	-	-	-

*Q10 - 10 percentile, Q90 - 90 percentile, Q95 - 95-percentile, Q5 - 5 percentile

Source: Environment Agency 2006

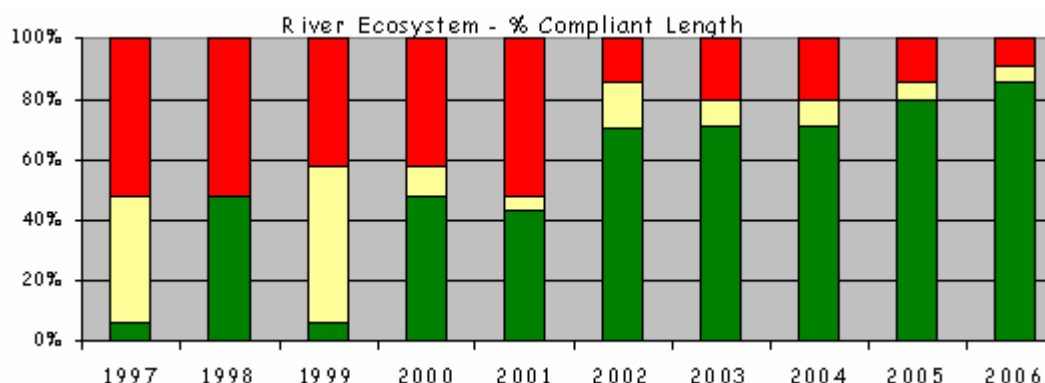
When sampled, a river stretch is assigned a target based on the environment it runs through and what water quality should therefore be expected. Table 11 above shows the grade boundaries across a number of criteria. All criterion need to be satisfied for that grade boundary to be achieved. In the case of failure, the lowest RE class which satisfies all criteria is awarded to the stretch. A stretch is classified as failing its RE target if there is a 95% certainty that it has failed. This is deemed to be a ‘Significant Failure’. If there is a 50 – 95% chance of failure then this is classed as marginal, and with less than 50% certainty it is classed as a pass. The length of a compliant river is the total of those stretches classed as a marginal or a pass. The total percentage of failing river is the total length of those stretches classed as significant failures. Compliance is assessed using a 3 year rolling data set.

Table 12: River Ecosystem Classification Results for Rochford District

River Ecosystem Scheme	2003	2004	2005	2006
Significant Failure	20.75%	20.75%	14.47%	9.43%
Marginal	8.18%	8.18%	6.29%	5.03%
Pass	71.07%	71.07%	79.25%	85.53%
Total Length	15.9km	15.9km	15.9km	15.9km

Source: Environment Agency 2007

Figure 21: River Ecosystem Classification Results for Rochford District



Source: Environment Agency 2007

Since 2002, over 50% of Rochford District’s sampled rivers passed the River Ecosystem Classification. From 2003 the proportion of rivers significantly failing has reduced year on year. In 2006, 9.43% of rivers were significantly failing the scheme, less than half of the 20.75% which were failing in 2003, and less than a quarter of the approximately 55% of rivers significantly failing in 1997. This reduction in significantly failing rivers is mainly due to larger proportions of rivers passing the scheme, with the proportion of those marginally passing the scheme remaining relatively unchanged since 2003, decreasing from 8.18% to 5.03% between 2003 and 2006.

Those rivers assessed for their compliancy with river quality targets in Rochford District across the period 2004 – 2006 are shown on the following page:

Table 13: River Stretches Failing River Ecosystem Target in Rochford District 2004 to 2006

River name	River stretch	Years	Target	Water Quality
EASTWOOD BRK	RAYLEIGH BK...ROACH	2004 to 2006	3	Compliant
EASTWOOD BRK	SOUTHEND AIRPORT...RAYLEIGH BK	2004 to 2006	2	Marginal
GOLDSANDS BR BRK	SOUTHMINSTER STW...CROUCH	2004 to 2006	4	Significant Failure
HAWKWELL BRK/ROACH	EASTWOOD BK CON...TIDAL LT	2004 to 2006	3	Compliant
HAWKWELL BRK/ROACH	HEADWATERS...EASTWOOD BK CON	2004 to 2006	4	Compliant
RAYLEIGH BRK/NOBLES DTCH	RAYLEIGH EAST STW...EASTWOOD BK	2004 to 2006	4	Compliant
ROCHFORD RESERVOIR	ROCHFORD RESERVOIR.....	2004 to 2006	3	Compliant

Source: Environment Agency 2007

(http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?extraClause=COUNTY~'Rochford%20District%20Council'&extraClause=REPORT_YEAR~'2004%20to%202006')

The Environment Agency has stipulated that they want 91% of sampled rivers to achieve their individual river quality targets by 2005. 1 of the 7 sampled rivers (14.3%) can be seen to have significantly failed its River Ecosystem Target and as such it cannot be said that the District is meeting this target. There has been an improvement in this field however. Across the period 2003 – 2005, Eastwood Brook was recorded as significantly failing the scheme whereas now it can be seen to be marginally passing. With regard to the Southminster to Crouch stretch of the Goldsands, this has been failing since at least 1988 – 1990. It is noticed that during the period 1988 – 1990, all 6 of the recorded rivers were significantly failing the scheme. The one exception is that of the Headwaters to Eastwood stretch of the Hawkwell / Roach which wasn't recorded at this time. Consequently it can be said that river water quality is improving in the District.

D. Rochford District Chemistry General Quality Assessment (GQA)

The Environment Agency uses the GQA scheme to classify the water quality of rivers and canals. It has been designed to provide a consistently accurate classification system which can accurately assess the state of water quality and how this changes over time. For each site, a stretch of river is assigned which is of the same general character as the site itself. Sites are sampled a minimum of 12 times a year, at 6km intervals, and the data is collected over 3 years to provide 36 separate samples. Any extreme data values are excluded. The figures reported in the tables are for the years 1990, 1995 and 2000 - 2006, whilst all information pertaining to individual rivers is for the years 2004-2006.

Chemistry and Biology GQAs will be examined in this report. The situation in the District will be examined first, and then comparisons will be made between the results reported by the District, County and Country for the year 2006.

i) Chemistry General Quality Assessment

Chemistry GQA is calculated by analysing the concentrations of dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand and ammonia, according to the following criteria:

Table 14: Chemistry GQA Boundaries

GQA grade	Dissolved oxygen (% saturation) 10-percentile	Biochemical oxygen demand (mg/l) 90-percentile	Ammonia (mgN/l) 90-percentile
A	80	2.5	0.25
B	70	4	0.6
C	60	6	1.3
D	50	8	2.5
E	20	15	9.0
F	<20	-	-

Source: Environment Agency 2007 (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/chemistry.pdf>)

Table 15 highlights the likely uses and characteristics that one would expect a river stretch to display for each GQA grade.

Table 15: Available Uses and Likely Characteristics of Rivers of Each Chemistry GQA Grade

Chemical grade	Likely uses and characteristics*
A Very good	All abstractions Very good salmonid fisheries Cyprinid fisheries Natural ecosystems
B Good	All abstractions Salmonid fisheries Cyprinid fisheries Ecosystems at or close to natural
C Fairly good	Potable supply after advanced treatment Other abstractions Good cyprinid fisheries Natural ecosystems, or those corresponding to good cyprinid fisheries
D Fair	Potable supply after advanced treatment Other abstractions Fair cyprinid fisheries Impacted ecosystems
E Poor	Low grade abstraction for industry Fish absent or sporadically present, vulnerable to pollution** Impoverished ecosystems**
F Bad	Very polluted rivers which may cause nuisance Severely restricted ecosystems

Source: Environment Agency 2007
(<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/chemistry.pdf>)

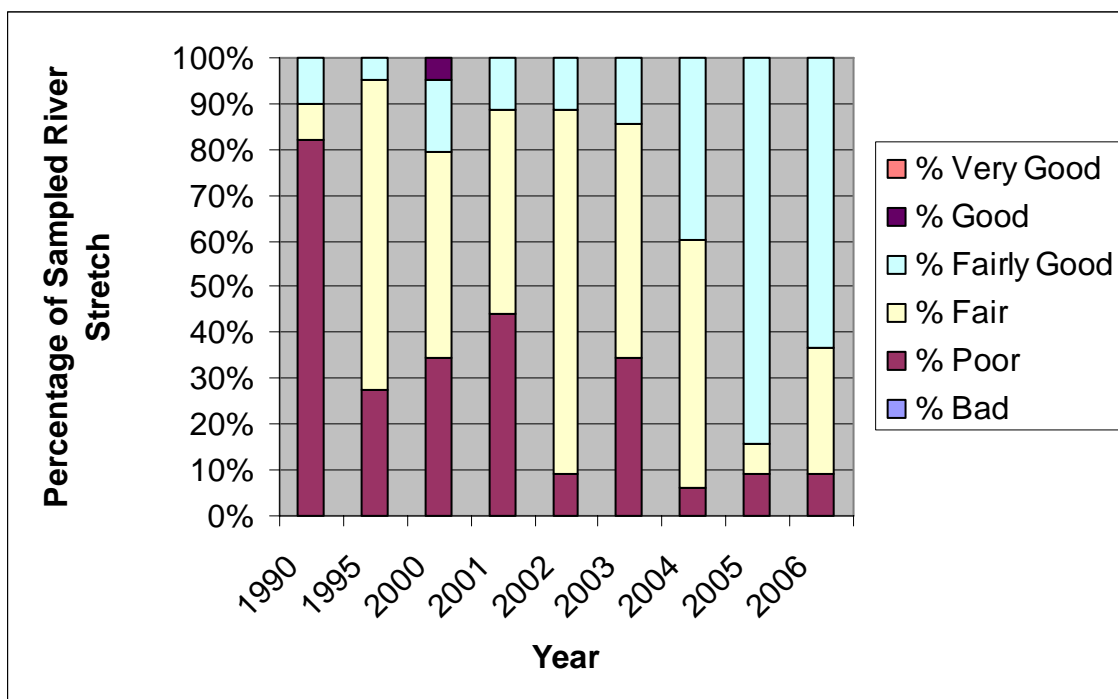
It is important to realise that rivers can lie very close to a grade boundary and that due to financial reasons, it is impossible to monitor a river stretch continuously. These two factors combine to produce a risk of 19% that a river sampled 36 times will be graded incorrectly.

Table 16: Rochford District Chemistry General Quality Assessment Results 1990 – 2006

Year	Classified Length (Km)	Chemistry GQA Grade					
		% Very Good	% Good	% Fairly Good	% Fair	% Poor	% Bad
1990	10.1	0.00%	0.00%	9.89%	7.85%	82.26%	0.00%
1995	15.9	0.00%	0.00%	5.00%	67.51%	27.50%	0.00%
2000	15.9	0.00%	5.00%	15.60%	44.73%	34.68%	0.00%
2001	15.9	0.00%	0.00%	11.30%	44.73%	43.97%	0.00%
2002	15.9	0.00%	0.00%	11.30%	79.41%	9.30%	0.00%
2003	15.9	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%	51.03%	34.68%	0.00%
2004	15.9	0.00%	0.00%	39.67%	54.03%	6.30%	0.00%
2005	15.9	0.00%	0.00%	84.41%	6.29%	9.30%	0.00%
2006	15.9	0.00%	0.00%	63.21%	27.50%	9.30%	0.00%

Source: Environment Agency 2007 (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/anglian/830408/842762/842945/842965/842990/1180245/>)

Figure 22: Rochford District Chemistry General Quality Assessment 1990 - 2006



Source: Environment Agency 2007 (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/anglian/830408/842762/842945/842965/842990/1180245/>)

There have been no instances where the chemical quality of Rochford District’s sampled rivers has been classified as ‘Poor’. There have also been no instances of ‘Very Good’ chemical quality across the study and just a single instance of ‘Good’ quality waters, namely 5% reported in 2000. 1990 is the lowest performing year, with 82.26% of river stretches being of a ‘Poor’ chemical quality. This is over double the proportion for all other years excluding the 43.97% recorded in 2001. Between 2000 and 2004, there is no direction of travel of river quality for more than a single year, with each year being an

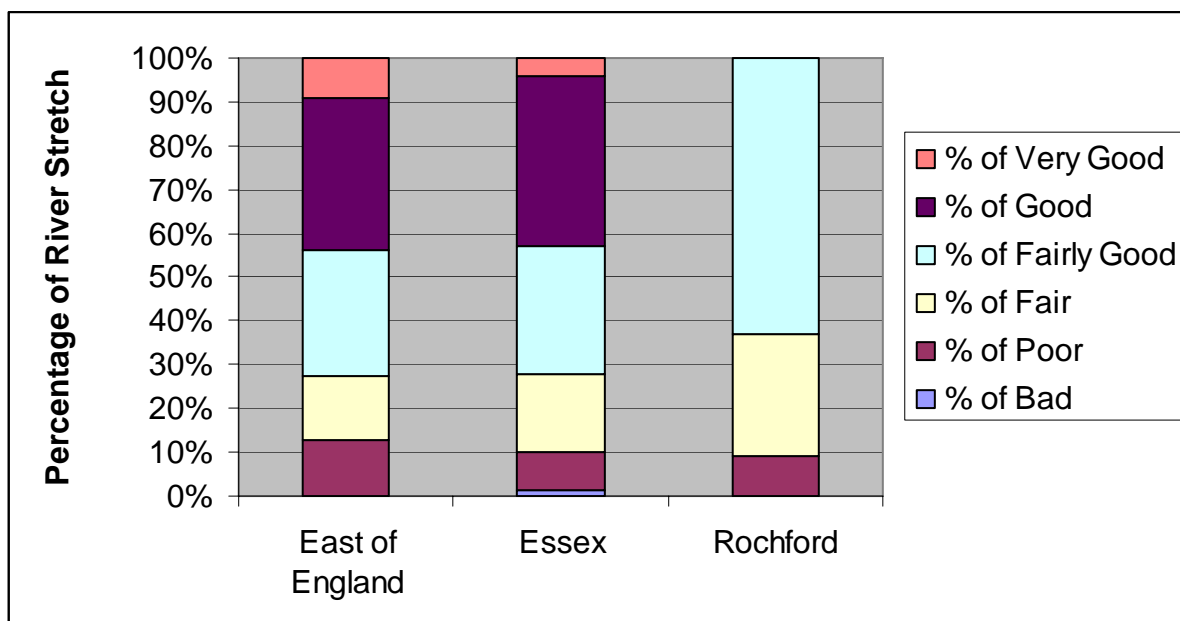
improvement on the previous year if that year witnessed deterioration from the previous, and vice versa. 2005 is the year where chemical quality was recorded at its highest. 84.41% of river stretches were graded as 'Fairly Good', the highest total. In 2006, the proportion of river stretches graded as 'Fairly Good' decreased to 63.21%. It can be surmised that these waters deteriorated to a 'Fair' water quality as the proportion of 'Poor' waters remains unchanged at 9.3% between 2005 and 2006.

Table 17: Comparison between Chemical GQA at the Regional, County and District Level in 2006

	Chemistry GQA Grade					
	% of Bad	% of Poor	% of Fair	% of Fairly Good	% of Good	% of Very Good
East of England	0.21%	12.38%	14.87%	28.59%	34.67%	9.28%
Essex	1.23%	8.87%	17.61%	29.28%	38.98%	4.04%
Rochford	0.00%	9.30%	27.50%	63.21%	0.00%	0.00%

Source: Environment Agency 2007 (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/anglian/830408/842762/842945/842965/842990/1180245/>)

Figure 23: Chemistry Quality Comparison between Rochford District, Essex County Council and the East of England in 2006



Source: Environment Agency 2007 (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/anglian/830408/842762/842945/842965/842990/1180245/>)

The East of England had the largest proportion of river stretches being classified as 'Very Good' in 2006. 9.28% of rivers in the East of England achieved this grade, compared to 4.04% in Essex and 0% in Rochford District. With no stretch of river being graded as 'Very Good' or 'Good', Rochford District can be seen to have the lowest water quality. Rochford District has the highest proportion of waters of 'Fair' and 'Poor' quality although there is an absence of chemically 'Bad' waters. Waters of this quality were found in Essex at 1.23% of all sampled stretches, and the East of England at 0.21%.

Chemistry GQA data is available for 7 river stretches within Rochford District from the Environment Agency and this is reproduced on the following page

Table 18: Chemistry GQA Results within Rochford District.

River name	River stretch	Years	Grade
EASTWOOD BRK	RAYLEIGH BK...ROACH	2004 to 2006	C
EASTWOOD BRK	SOUTHEND AIRPORT...RAYLEIGH BK	2004 to 2006	C
GOLDSANDS BR BRK	SOUTHMINSTER STW...CROUCH	2004 to 2006	F
HAWKWELL BRK/ROACH	EASTWOOD BK CON...TIDAL LT	2004 to 2006	C
HAWKWELL BRK/ROACH	HEADWATERS...EASTWOOD BK CON	2004 to 2006	C
RAYLEIGH BRK/NOBLES DTCH	RAYLEIGH EAST STW...EASTWOOD BK	2004 to 2006	D
ROCHFORD RESERVOIR	ROCHFORD RESERVOIR.....	2004 to 2006	C

Source: Environment Agency 2007

(http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?extraClause=COUNTY~'Rochford%20District%20Council'&extraClause=REPORT_YEAR~'2004%20to%202006')

5 of the 7 rivers have been assessed as being at Grade C. This translates to a 'Good' river quality. The sampled Goldsands stretch received a grade of F. This equates to 'Bad' chemical river quality and suggests that the river is very polluted and could even cause a nuisance. Those ecosystems present in the Goldsands stretch are likely to be severely restricted. More detailed results can be attained from the Environment Agency website and study of these reveals that there is insufficient dissolved oxygen in the waters of the Goldsands. Waters require >20% dissolved oxygen saturation to achieve a D grade whereas the Goldsands stretch was measured at 12.05%

ii) Rochford District Biology General Quality Assessment

Biology GQA is based around the macro-invertebrate communities of rivers and canals. These include insects such as mayflies and caddis-flies, together with snails, worms, shrimps and others. Macro-invertebrates are good bio-indicators as they respond to everything that is in the water, they are found in virtually all fresh waters and do not move far. They are even affected by infrequently occurring pollutants which may be missed by other sampling techniques. There are however natural differences in the types of species that one would expect to find and this is dependent on the numerous variable characteristics of a river. Consequently, Biology GQA is calculated as the difference between what one would expect to find in an unpolluted river of that type, and what is actually present in the river that is being sampled. Some animals are more susceptible to pollution than others, and therefore the presence of these animals is a good sign that the water is unpolluted. This fact is taken into account by a scoring system on 80 different taxa, awarded due to their susceptibility to organic pollution.

The average value for each taxon in a sample is known as the Average Score per Taxon (ASPT) and it is considered to be a stable and reliable index of organic pollution.

Both the ASPT and the number of taxa (NTAXA) in samples are divided by the expected results for an uncontaminated river of the same type. These proportional values are called Ecological Quality Indices (EQI), and an EQI of 1 indicates a river free of pollutants. An EQI above 1 is indicative of a river which is of greater ecological quality than the average for an unpolluted river of that type. The advantage of EQI is that it allows widely different rivers with a variety of biological communities to be assessed using the same method.

A table summarising the Biology GQA boundaries, along with a short description of what the Grades indicate are reproduced below:

Table 19: Biology GQA Grade Boundaries

Table B1: Biological grades			
Grade	EQI for ASPT	EQI for number of taxa	Environmental quality
a	1.00	0.85	very good
b	0.90	0.70	good
c	0.77	0.55	fairly good
d	0.65	0.45	fair
e	0.50	0.30	poor
f	-	-	bad

Source: Environment Agency 2007 (http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/bio_method_09_03_559881.pdf)

Table 20: Description of Biology GQA Grade Boundaries

Grade	Description
a	The biology is similar to (or better than) expected for an average, unpolluted river of this size, type and location. There is a wide variety of families, each including several species, and it is rare to see a dominance of any one family.
b	The biology falls a little short of that expected for an unpolluted river of this size, type and location. There may be a small reduction in those animals most susceptible to pollution alongside a moderate increase in the number of species more resistant to pollution e.g. worms and midges. This may also indicate the first signs of organic pollution.
c	The biology is worse than that expected for this type of river. Many of the sensitive families are absent or the number of individuals is reduced, and in many cases there is a rise in the number of individuals in the families that tolerate pollution.
d	There is a considerable difference between the biology present and what would be expected in an unpolluted river. Sensitive families are scarce and contain only a small number of individuals. There may be a range of those families that tolerate pollution and some of these may have high numbers of individuals.
e	The biology is restricted to animals which tolerate pollution with some families dominant in terms of the number of individuals. Sensitive families will be rare or entirely absent.
f	The biology is limited to a very small number of tolerant families. These may be present in very high numbers but even these may be missing if the pollution is toxic. In the worst case there may be no life present in the water at all.

Source: Environment Agency 2007 (http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/bio_method_09_03_559881.pdf)

Since 2002, sites have been sampled once every 3 years. Each biological site corresponds to a stretch of river also characterised by a chemical site. These two sites may not always be coincident but they must be subject to the same water quality and should not be separated by features such as tributaries or other influences on water quality. Samples are taken in spring and autumn to allow for seasonal variation. 10% of all samples are re-inspected as part of a quality control scheme. Similarly to the Chemistry GQA, rivers lying close to a Grade boundary can be placed in the wrong grade category. For instance, a taxon present in the sample may fail to be recorded, or, although rarer, a taxon may be recorded that isn't present in the sample. This leads to the Biology GQA

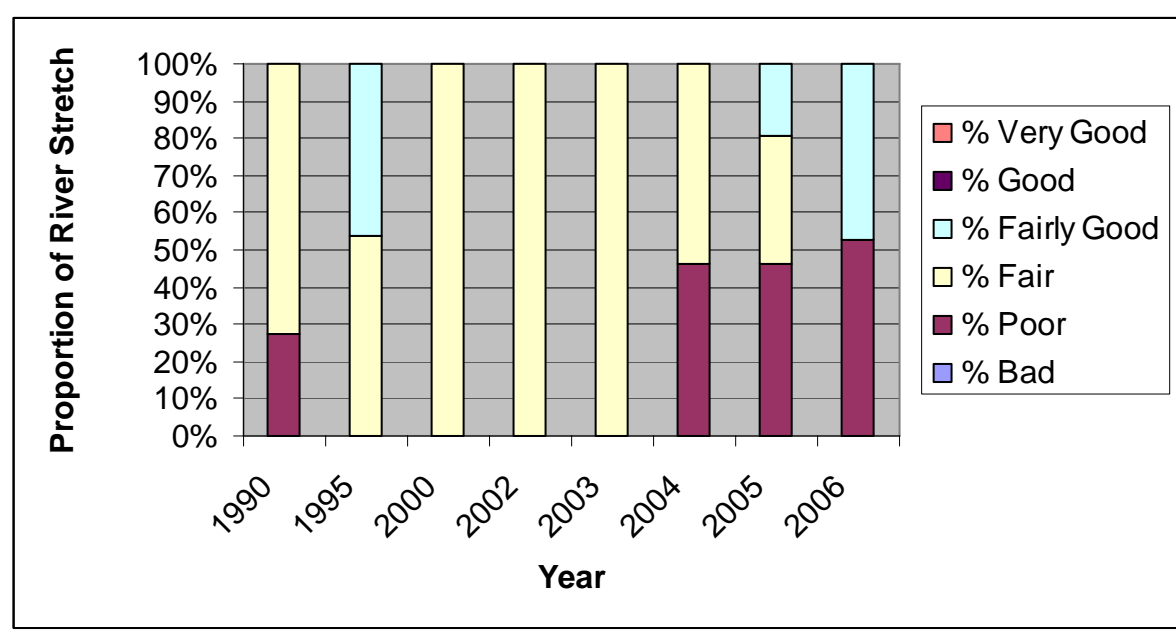
having a 22% chance of placing the water sample in the wrong grade boundary, with a 10% chance of an over-estimate, and 12% of an under-estimate.

Table 21: Rochford District Biology General Quality Assessment Results 1990 – 2006

Year	Total Length (Km)	Biology GQA Results					
		% Very Good	% Good	% Fairly Good	% Fair	% Poor	% Bad
1990	15.9	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	72.50%	27.50%	0.00%
1995	15.9	0.00%	0.00%	45.97%	54.03%	0.00%	0.00%
2000	15.5	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
2002	15.5	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
2003	8.3	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
2004	15.5	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	53.95%	46.05%	0.00%
2005	15.5	0.00%	0.00%	19.16%	34.79%	46.05%	0.00%
2006	15.5	0.00%	0.00%	47.46%	0.00%	52.54%	0.00%

Source: Environment Agency 2007 (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/anglian/830408/842762/842945/842965/842990/1180245/>)

Figure 24: Rochford District Biology General Quality Assessment



Source: Environment Agency 2007 (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/anglian/830408/842762/842945/842965/842990/1180245/>)

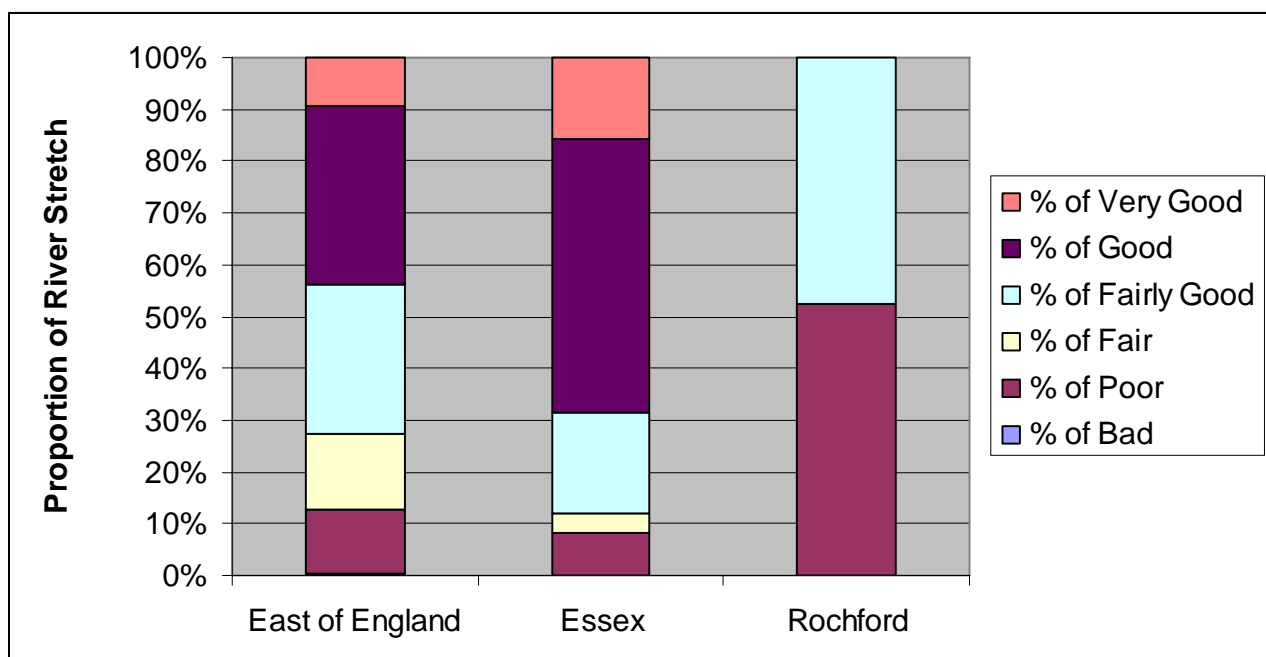
In 2006, biological water quality was recorded as being the highest in the District since 2004. The proportion of 'Fairly Good' waters, at 47.46%, is the highest across the study and more than double that reported in 2005. The proportion of 'Poor' graded waters however is also the largest across the study at 52.54%. Consequently there has been a reduction in river water biology since 2003, where all waters received a 'Fair' rating, although there has been an improvement since 2004. There have been no instances of 'Bad' biological water quality across the study.

Table 22: Comparison between Biological GQA at the Regional, County and District Level 2007

	Classified Length (Km)	Biology GQA Grade					
		% of Very Good	% of Good	% of Fairly Good	% of Fair	% of Poor	% of Bad
East of England	3529.6	9.28%	34.67%	28.59%	14.87%	12.38%	0.21%
Essex	590	15.83%	52.78%	19.32%	3.69%	8.37%	0.00%
Rochford	15.5	0.00%	0.00%	47.46%	0.00%	52.54%	0.00%

Source: Environment Agency 2007 (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/anglian/830408/842762/842945/842965/842990/1180245/>)

Figure 25: Biology General Quality Assessment Comparison between Rochford District, Essex County and the East of England



Source: Environment Agency 2007 (<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/regions/anglian/830408/842762/842945/842965/842990/1180245/>)

Both Essex and the East of England report river stretches with 'Very Good' biological quality, at 9.28% and 15.83% respectively. Rochford lacks rivers with this quality as well as stretches of 'Good' biological quality. These two GQA grades equate to 43.95% of river stretches in the East of England and 68.61% in Essex. 52.54% of Rochford District's waters are of a 'Poor' quality, compared to 8.37% in Essex and 12.38% in the East of England. From this information it is evident that Rochford District has river water of a poorer biological quality than that seen in Essex or the East of England.

A single river has been sampled in detail by the Environment Agency, and expanded results are shown below:

Table 23: Biological GQA Results for Rochford District 2006

River name	River stretch	Year	Upstream grid ref.	Downstream grid ref.	Length	
EASTWOOD BRK	RAYLEIGH BK...ROACH	2006	X:587000, Y:190000	X:587500, Y:190300	1km	
Criteria	Observed	Expected	Observed/Expected	Probability grade %	Season code	Grade
NTAXA	18	29.4	0.61	70		C
ASPT	4.28	5.14	0.83	82		C
Overall					5	C

Source: Environment Agency 2007

(http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/queryController?topic=riverquality&ep=2ndtierquery&lang=e&layerGroups=4&x=587100.0&y=190000.0&extraClause=YEAR~2006&extraClause=STRETCH_CODE~'037070011001')

The Eastwood stretch has received a grade of C in its Biological GQA. This is the same result as in the previous year, although in 2005 the NTAXA grade was slightly lower at 0.68 whilst the ASPT was slightly higher at 0.84. These differences are not however large enough to effect overall grading. A further river stretch of the Eastwood, from Southend Airport to Rayleigh, was also surveyed by the Environment Agency in 2005 although this was not repeated for 2006.

7.4 Water Quality Summary

- There are no major aquifers present in Rochford District. These are mainly concentrated in North Braintree and North Uttlesford
- 9.43% of sampled stretches failed their RE target in 2006 within the District. This is the lowest amount since 1997, the first year for which information was received.
- There has been an absence of river stretches with a Chemical GQA result of 'Good' or above since 2000. 2005 was the year where chemical quality was recorded at its highest. 84.41% of river stretches were graded as 'Fairly Good'. In 2006, the proportion of river stretches graded as 'Fairly Good' decreased to 63.21%. Chemical water quality can be seen to be better across Essex and the East of England, with 'Very Good' and 'Good' quality waters comprising 43.02% and 43.95% of total sampled waters respectively.
- In 2006, biological water quality was recorded as being the highest in the District since 2004. The proportion of 'Fairly Good' waters, at 47.46%, is the highest across the study and more than double that reported in 2005. Again, Rochford District lacks water of 'Very Good' or 'Good' grades whereas in Essex and the East of England they comprise 43.95% and 68.61% respectively.

8 FLOODING

8.1 Introduction

River flooding is a natural process that plays an important role in shaping the natural environment. However, flooding threatens life and causes substantial damage to property, therefore incurring significant costs. The effects of heavy and/or prolonged rainfall can be increased in severity as a result of planning decisions about the location, design, nature of settlement and land use. Increasingly flooding is viewed as a potential consequence of future climate change. Although flooding cannot be completely prevented, its impacts can be avoided and reduced through good planning and management.

8.2 Policy Context

A. International / National Planning Policies

i) Making Space For Water

Making Space for Water: Taking forward a new Government strategy for flood & coastal erosion risk management (DEFRA, DfT, ODPM and HM Treasury, 2005) advocates a holistic approach that addresses all forms of flooding and coastal erosion through a range of Government policies. This means looking at groundwater, surface run-off and urban flooding and embeds sustainable development across flood and coastal erosion risk management policies.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/enviro/fcd/policy/strategy/1stres.pdf>

ii) National Planning Policy Guidance / Statements

PPS 25 Development and Flood Risk, aims to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid development which is inappropriate in a flood plain, or to minimise development in areas that have a high risk of flooding. In the case of new developments, this PPS will aim to keep that development safe and reduce overall flood risk, either to or caused by the proposed development. The cost of provision and maintenance of flood defences should be met by the developer for all development and also take account of climatic change. Responsibility for safeguarding land from flooding is placed on the owner or developer as the Government do not have a statutory duty to protect land or property against flooding. The effect of flood zones can be seen later in this chapter.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/planningpolicystatement25>

iii) High Level Target 5 Development and Flood Risk 2005 / 2006 (Joint report to DEFRA and CLG by EA and LGA) November 2006

This report monitors the impact of technical advice on flood risk provided by the Environment Agency on planning application decisions made by Local Planning Authorities. It shows that,

- The number of planning applications requiring detailed consideration on flood risk grounds continues to decline as a result of the Environment Agency's Standing Advice.
- The total number of applications permitted against the Environment Agency's advice continues to fall from previous years. Where the outcome of the application is known by the Environment Agency, 95% of outcomes were in line with EA recommendations.

- Only 5 major cases were permitted which ran contrary to EA advice between the 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2007.
- The EA is not informed of the final decision on 30% of the cases to which it objected.
- The requirement of a full Flood Risk Assessment is still being ignored by developers. The proportion of assessments submitted but considered unsatisfactory increased in 2005/ 2006. The lack of a satisfactory FRA now accounts for 68% of all objections.

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/acrobat/finalhlt5_2006_07_1902936.pdf

B. Regional / County Context

i) Draft East of England Plan December 2004

The Draft East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy), prepared by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), was submitted to Government in December 2004. Following a period of public consultation the Plan was subject of an Examination in Public (EiP) between November 2005 and March 2006. The Report of the EiP Panel was published in June 2006. In December 2006 the Secretary of State published Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for a period of public consultation to March 2007. Following consideration of the consultation response, the Secretary of State issued some Further Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for public consultation between October-December 2007. These Changes incorporate the recommendations of an additional Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Secretary of State's publication of the final version of the East of England Plan is expected during the first quarter of 2008.

Relevant policies in the Draft Plan are:

- Policy SS14:
The priority is to defend existing properties from flooding, and where possible locate new development in locations with little or no risk of flooding.
Local development documents will:
 - promote the use of strategic flood risk assessments
 - include policies to protect flood plains and land liable to tidal or coastal flooding from development
 - require that all developments should reduce flooding pressures by using appropriate sustainable drainage systems
 - only propose development in floodplains, areas of flood risk or at risk of flooding where the risk can be fully mitigated by design or engineering measures.

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Planning%20and%20Transport/PlanHome/RPG/RPG14/View%20the%20Plan/RSS14Finalversion.pdf>

ii) South Essex Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

In November 2006, Thames Gateway South Essex (TGSE) Partnership on behalf of the local authorities of Thurrock Council, Castle Point Borough Council, Basildon District Council, Southend Borough Council and Rochford District Council, commissioned consultants Scott Wilson to undertake a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).

The outcomes of this report are as follows:

Main rivers and the Basildon New Town flood storage system have been assessed as fluvial sources of flood risk. Tidal sources have only been considered in terms of structural failures i.e. breach in sea defences or the failure of barriers at specific points identified at the tender stage. Flood risk associated with smaller localised sources and failure of property specific flood defence systems will require specific Flood Risk Assessments as and when appropriate as part of the planning process.

The most significant events in this area, in terms of potential for flooding, are associated with high rainfall events in the River Crouch catchment, coinciding with high tidal water levels to produce high volume fluvial flows and elevated water levels in the Crouch River.”

<http://floodrisk.tgessex.co.uk/general/index.asp>

C. District Context

i) Rochford District Replacement Local Plan 2006

- Policy EB7 – Baltic Wharf & Policy EB8 – Essex Marina
Permission will not be granted where the proposals have significant harmful impacts on the various designations
- Policy EB9– Stambridge Mills
Development proposals must be accompanied by a flood risk assessment and traffic impact assessment.
- Policy LT15 – Water Recreation Facilities
Proposals for new facilities or expansion of existing facilities will not be permitted within the Coastal Protection Belt.
- Policy NR10 – Coastal Protection Belt
Within the Coastal Protection Belt priority will be given to the protection of the rural and undeveloped coastline.
- Policy NR11 – Development within Flood Risk Areas
Applications for development within flood risk areas will need to be accompanied by full flood risk assessments.
- Policy NR12 – Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS)
In cases where there is a perceived risk of flooding from surface water run-off arising from the development, the local planning authority will require the submission of a flood risk assessment.

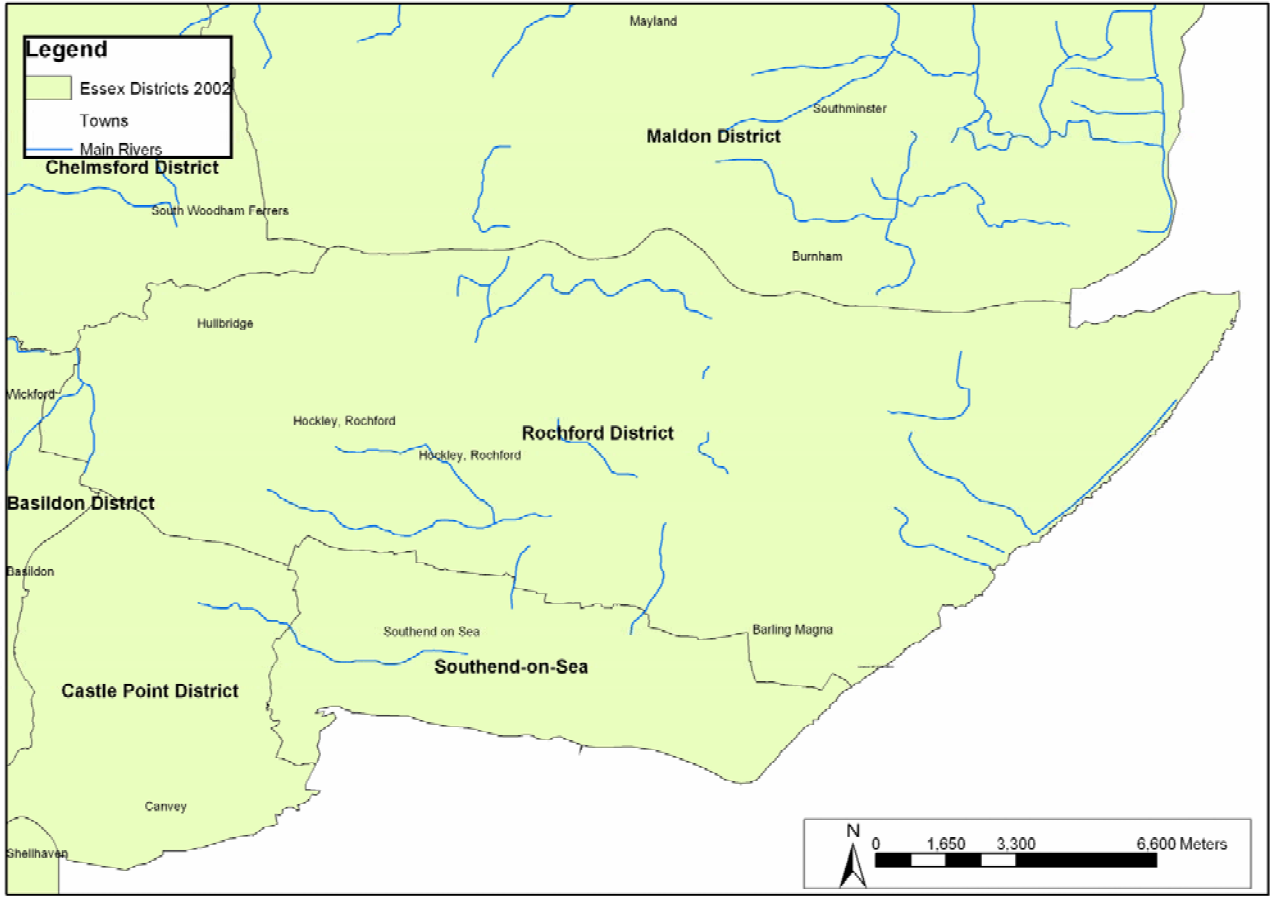
http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/interactive_local_plan/index.htm

8.3 Baseline Information

A. Rivers in Rochford District

Figure 24 details the geographical location of the major rivers within Rochford District.

Figure 26: Main Rivers/Watercourses within the District



Source: Essex County Council, 2007

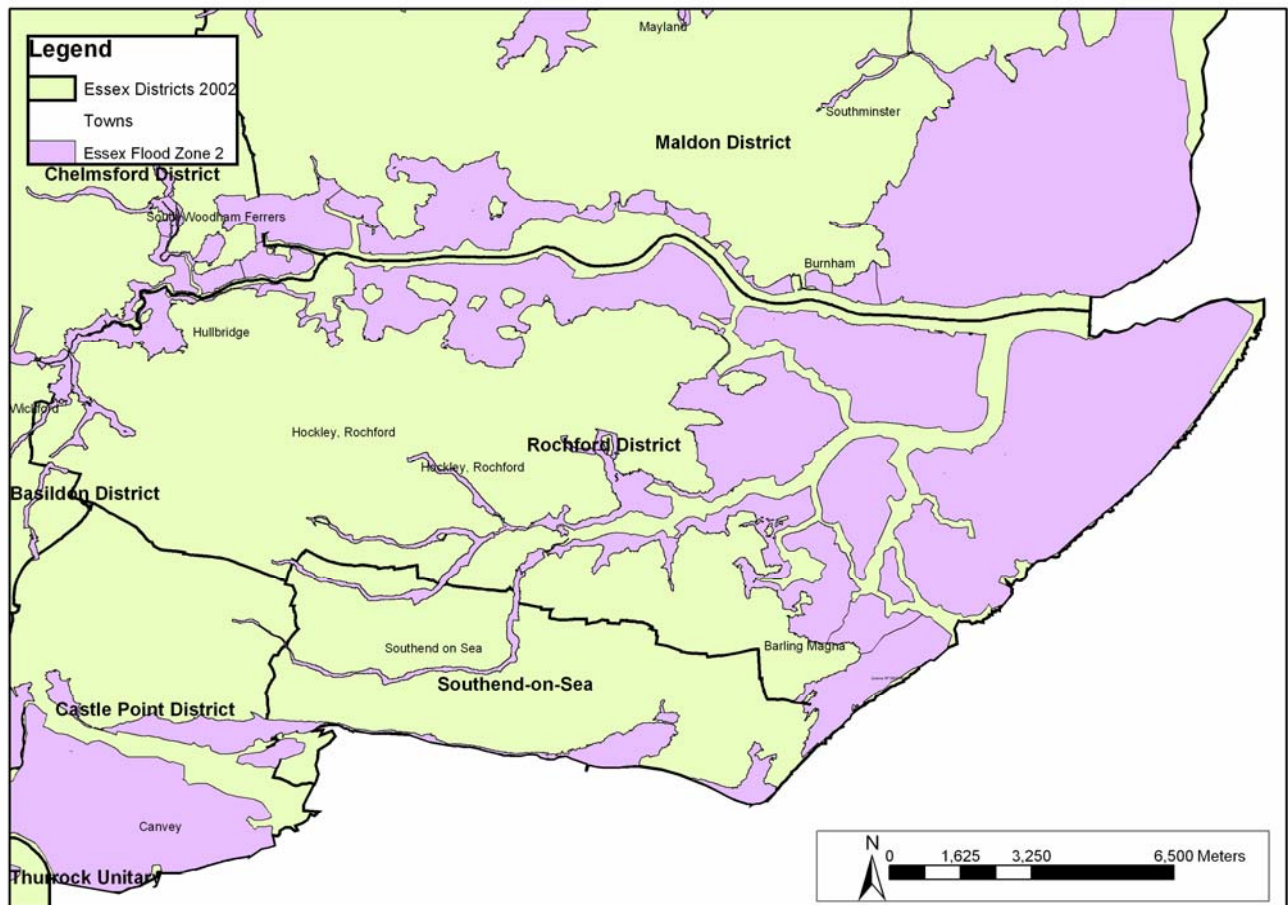
B. Flood Zones

Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk requires developments to be carried out in areas of as low a risk of flooding as possible. Annex D of PPS 25 sets out a risk-based sequential test to be applied at all stages of the planning process. Its aim is to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding. A hierarchy of flood zones for application of the sequential test is defined as,

- Zone 1 - Low Probability
Encompasses land assessed as having a less than 1 in 1000 annual probability of flooding in any year (<0.1%).
- Zone 2 - Medium Probability
Comprises land assessed as having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 annual probability of river flooding (1% – 0.1%).
- Zone 3a - High Probability
Covers land assessed as having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1%) in any year.
- Zone 3b - The Functional Floodplain
This zone consists of land where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood. It is land which would flood with an annual probability of 1 in 20 (5%) or greater in any year.

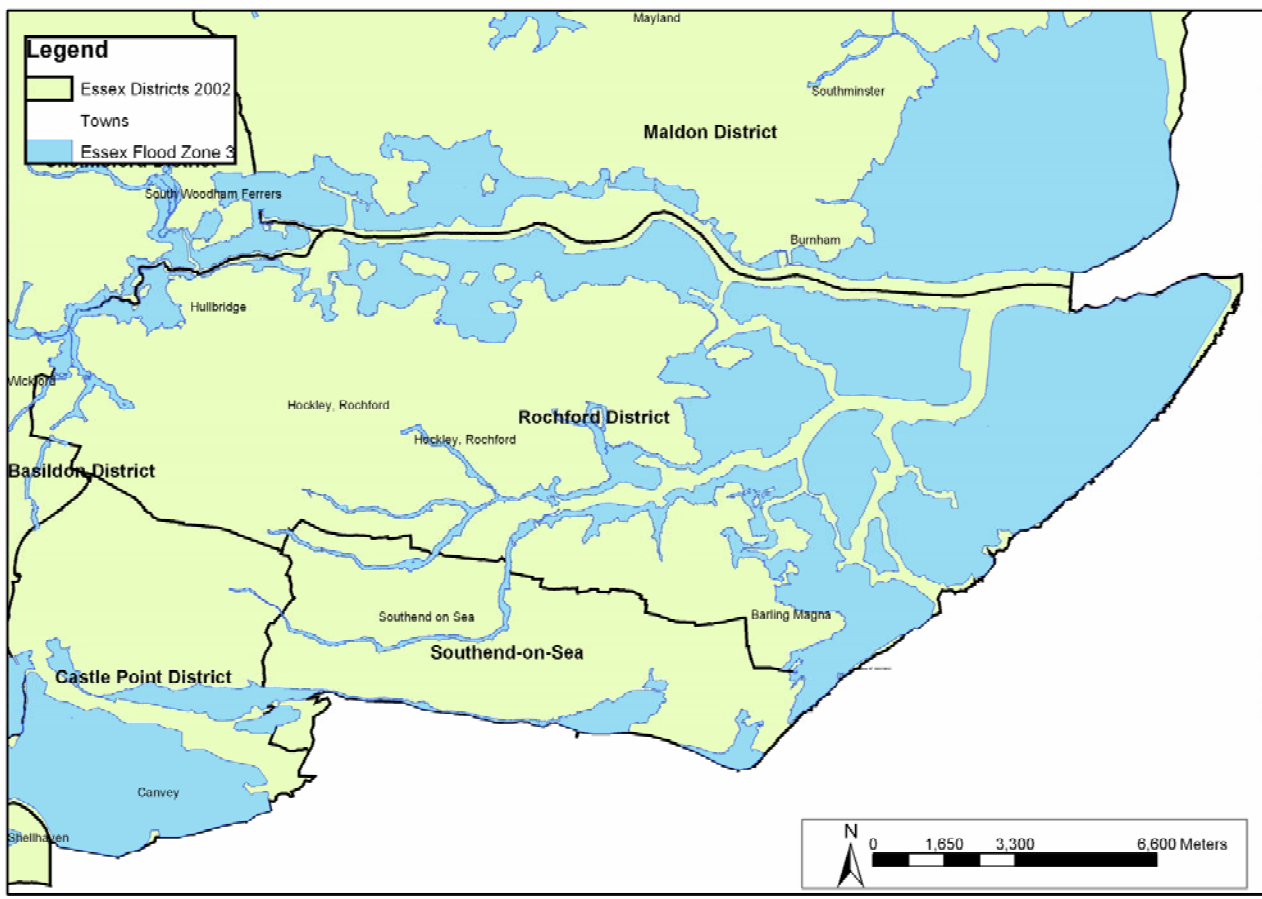
Further information on flood risk zones can be found in PPS 25 which can be found at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps25floodrisk>.

Figure 27: Spatial Extent of Essex Flood Zone 2



Source: Essex County Council, 2007

Figure 28: Spatial Extent of Essex Flood Zone 3



Source: Essex County Council 2007

Figures 25 and 26 show that both Essex Flood Zones 2 and 3 cover the same broad area. The areas that are the most susceptible to flooding in the District are those surrounding the coast and the Crouch estuary.

C. EA Objections To Development

The number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency (EA) on either flood defence grounds or water quality is one of the Governments Core Output Indicators. It shows how many planning permissions have been granted either on designated flood plain, or which could adversely affect water quality.

Each year the Environment Agency produces a national list of planning applications which were objected to on grounds of flood defence. These can be found at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/aboutus/512398/908812/1351053/1449570>.

Table 24: Planning Permission Granted Contrary to Environment Agency Advice

LPA Reference	Location	Nature of Proposed Development	Reason for Agency Objection
07/00153/LDC	Riverside Village Holiday Park Creeksea Road Canewdon Rochford Essex SS4 2EY	Caravan Sites – Major. Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for use of one Unit for Manager/Warden Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk to the Development
07/00108/FUL	37 Sutton Court Drive Rochford Essex SS4 1HR	Residential – Minor. Extend Roof Half Hip to Gable For Rooms in Roof With Dormers Front and Rear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient Info - Flood Risk • Unsatisfactory FRA/FCA Submitted
06/00970/FUL	Pickerels Farm Highlands Road Rawreth Wickford Essex SS11 8TL	Residential – Major. Internal and External Alterations to Convert Existing Barn Into Agricultural Workers Dwelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient Info - Flood Risk
06/00375/COU	Land Opposite Homestead Southend Road Great Wakering Southend-On-Sea Essex	Recreational Schemes – Major. Change of Use from Agricultural Land to Recreational Uses. (this land to form part of an 18 Hole Golf Course with ancillary development the majority of which is located within Southend Borough Council SOS/06/00520/FUL).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse Impact on Surface Water Run-Off
06/00520/FUL	Land North Of 71 - 89 Seaview Drive Great Wakering Southend-On-Sea Essex	Residential – Major. Erection of 23 Dwellings 8 x 4 - Bed, 15 x 3 - Bed. All Dwellings are Detached some have Linked Garages and All are Two Storey. (This Application Proposes Alternative House Types to Those Approved Under ROC/178/85 which gave Consent on 03/07/85 for 31 Houses and Access Road. Some of the Dwellings and the Road Layout of ROC/178/85 have been Implemented at the Site; the Remainder of the Plots are to be Built Out in Accordance with the Details of this Submission).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsatisfactory FRA Submitted

Source: Compiled from the Environment Agency <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/aboutus/512398/908812/1351053/1449570> and Rochford District Council http://www.rochford.gov.uk/PublicAccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_searchform.aspx

Between the 1st April 2006 and 31st March 2007, five developments were granted planning permission irrespective of Environment Agency objections. This included 1 barn conversion and 23 detached dwellings. The Environment Agency's main objections

throughout the granted applications were the lack of supporting information regarding flood risk and the submission of unsatisfactory Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs).

8.4 Flooding Summary

- Both Essex Flood Zones 2 and 3 basically cover the same area and are more susceptible to flooding from the coast and the Crouch estuary.
- In the District of Rochford between the dates of 1/04/06 and 31/03/07, 1 barn conversion and 23 detached dwellings have been given planning consent irrespective of Environment Agency objections.

9 SOILS, MINERALS AND WASTE

9.1 Introduction

Both the soil types and minerals within Essex have helped to shape the landscape, wildlife and economy of the County. Soils are also subject to pollution resulting from man's activities both past and present. The surface geology and the hydrological processes that take place within them provide the pathway by which contamination can extend its impacts on the natural environment and human health. The geology which exists within the District is also responsible for any minerals which could be extracted.

It is important to monitor waste and recycling data as it enables the setting of waste reduction and recycling targets. A lack of monitoring would also mean that it would be impossible to identify any trends in waste generation, as well as waste transportation.

9.2 Policy Context

A. National Context

i) National Planning Policies

National Planning Policies are published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in Planning Policy Statements (PPS) which are gradually replacing Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG). With respect to soils, minerals and waste, national guidance is presented in the following documents:

Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management states that regional planning bodies and all planning authorities should help deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy and provide a framework in which communities take more responsibility for their own waste. There is a need to help secure the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment. New developments should be designed to aid sustainable waste management.

ii) National Mineral Policies

Minerals Planning Guidance Notes (MPGs) and their replacements, Minerals Policy Statements (MPSs), set out the government's policy on minerals and planning issues and provide advice and guidance to local authorities and the minerals industry on policies and the operation of the planning system with regard to minerals.

Minerals Policy Statement 1 (2006): Planning and Minerals states that minerals are essential for development and through that for our quality of life and creation of sustainable communities. Minerals planning ensures that the need for minerals by society and the economy and the impacts of extraction and processing on people and the environment are managed in an integrated way.

(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/152993>)

Minerals Policy Statement 2 (2006): Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Minerals Extraction in England sets out the policies and considerations in relation to the environmental effects of minerals extraction that the Government expects Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs) in England to follow when preparing development plans and in considering applications for minerals development.

(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147501>)

iii) The Council of Europe's European Soil Charter (1972)

The Council of Europe's European Soil Charter (1972) recognised the significance of soil as a resource. In response to concerns about the degradation of soils in the EU, the European Commission adopted a Communication "Towards a Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection" in April 2002. The European Union has decided to adopt this strategy as part of its aim of protection and preservation of natural resources.

(<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=654589>)

iv) A Better Quality of Life (May 1999) and Soil Strategy for England (2007)

This will build on the foundation provided by The First Soil Action Plan for England (2004 – 2006) and is currently under consultation. The strategy seeks to protect soils in the planning system, minimise contamination of soils, soils in mineral extraction, construction and the built environment as well as the interactions between soil, air, water and climate change. Within A Better Quality of Life (May 1999), a total of 52 actions are set out concerning issues ranging from soil management on farms to soils in the planning system, soils and biodiversity, contamination of soils and the role of soils in conserving cultural heritage and landscape. All of these actions are focussed upon more sustainable soil use and protection.

(<http://www.defra.gov.uk/Environment/land/soil/sap/index.htm>)

v) Agricultural Land Classification

The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system divides land into five grades, with Grade 3 subdivided into sub-grades 3a and 3b. The 'best and most versatile land' is categorised as Grades 1, 2 and 3a, as discussed in Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (ODPM, 2004). This is the land which is most productive, efficient and can best deliver future crops for food and non-food uses. PPS 7 also states that where significant development on agricultural land is unavoidable, areas of poorer quality land should be used in preference to higher quality land. The importance of this agricultural land protection policy is highlighted in Foundations for our Future – DEFRA's Sustainable Development Strategy (June 2002). The UK Strategy for Sustainable Development – A better quality of life (May, 1999) and PPS 7 (ODPM, 2004) also discuss this further.

vi) Waste Framework Directive 2006/12/EC

The European waste directive defines what is considered to be waste as well as a number of waste related activities such as 'disposal' and 'recovery'. The aim of the directive is to facilitate treatment and recovery activities for waste and it replaces two older Waste Directives, namely 75/442/EEC and 91/156/EEC.

(<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32006L0012:EN:NOT>)

vii) Waste Strategy for England 2007

The strategy sets out a number of key proposals for action. Efforts to reduce, re-use, recycle waste and recover energy from waste will be targeted by providing financial incentives. Action is to be targeted in the areas where the most positive benefit can be claimed and investment is to be stimulated in the collection, recycling and recovery infrastructure. The strategy also wishes to improve national, regional and local governance to deliver better co-ordinated action on the ground.

(<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/strategy07/pdf/waste07-strategy.pdf>)

viii) Landfill of Waste Directive 99/31/EC

The objective of this directive is to reduce or prevent the possible negative impacts of landfilling on the environment, in particular surface and groundwater, soil, air and human health by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. An acceptance procedure is laid down to avoid any risks and waste that cannot be landfilled is highlighted. The Directive also sets up a system for gaining a landfill operation permit.

(<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31999L0031:EN:HTML>)

ix) Landfill (England and Wales) (Amended) Regulations 2005

This document transposes the European Council Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste into UK law. It defines the considerations when granting planning permissions and details conditions to be included in landfill permits. Offences for non-compliance are also documented in these regulations.

(<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2002/20021559.htm>)

B. Regional Context

i) Draft East of England Plan December 2004

The Draft East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy), prepared by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), was submitted to Government in December 2004. Following a period of public consultation the Plan was subject of an Examination in Public (EiP) between November 2005 and March 2006. The Report of the EiP Panel was published in June 2006. In December 2006 the Secretary of State published Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for a period of public consultation to March 2007. Following consideration of the consultation response, the Secretary of State issued some Further Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for public consultation between October-December 2007. These Changes incorporate the recommendations of an additional Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Secretary of State's publication of the final version of the East of England Plan is expected during the first quarter of 2008

- Policy ENV6: Agriculture, land and soils
- Policy ENV10: Waste Management
- Policy ENV11: Management of Wastes Arising within the East of England
- Policy ENV14: Regional Waste Management Strategy
- Policy ENV15: Overall Minerals Supply and Transportation
- Policy ENV16: Minerals Recycling/Reprocessing Sites
- Policy ENV17: Overall Minerals Management
- Policy ENV18: Sustainable Approach to Minerals Planning

(<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Planning%20and%20Transport/PlanHome/RPG/RPG14/View%20the%20Plan/RSSfinal%20on%20website/Chap9.pdf>)

ii) East of England Regional Waste Management Strategy 2002

The main purpose of the strategy is guide land use planning of waste management by considering what quantities of waste needs to be treated by different methods and what this means in terms of the scale of waste management needs. The waste collection and disposal plans of local authorities and the waste policy of private sector companies should be informed by this strategy.

(<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Planning%20and%20Transport/PlanHome/RPG/RPG14/RelStrat/RWMS/RWMS16-7.pdf>)

C. Essex Context

i) Essex County Council Minerals Local Plan, adopted 3rd January 1997

The plan relates to mineral extractions in Essex which are sand, gravel and related aggregates, brickearth, chalk, clay and silica sand related. This plan is the first review of the Minerals Subject Plan adopted in 1991 and explains what provisions must be made for future extractions and proposes policy to guide this process.

(http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/Minerals_Local_Plan.pdf?channelOid=null)

ii) The Essex and Southend on Sea Adopted Waste Local Plan 2001

The Waste Plan's role is to guide the minimising of waste by recycling / composting and other means, making adequate provision of necessary waste management facilities and to safeguard the environment of Essex.

(http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/waste_plan.pdf?channelOid=null)

iii) Draft Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Essex (2005 to 2030)

The strategy states that the current level of waste that is being produced is too high and the rate at which it is growing is too fast. It is recognised that a radical change in waste creation and disposal habits is needed. Landfill sites have a limited capacity and it is stated that continual landfill site creation is not sustainable. The strategy therefore highlights a number of initiatives to minimise and prevent waste production.

9.3 Baseline Information

Beginning with a look at the different types of agricultural soil present in Essex and Rochford District, the report moves on to a waste analysis. Both the amount of waste recycled and landfilled is analysed on a total amount and per dwelling basis between 1999 – 2000 and 2006 – 2007. The chapter concludes with a brief look at the type of mineral and waste applications which were submitted between 1st January and 31st December 2007 which had had a decision made by 1st February 2008.

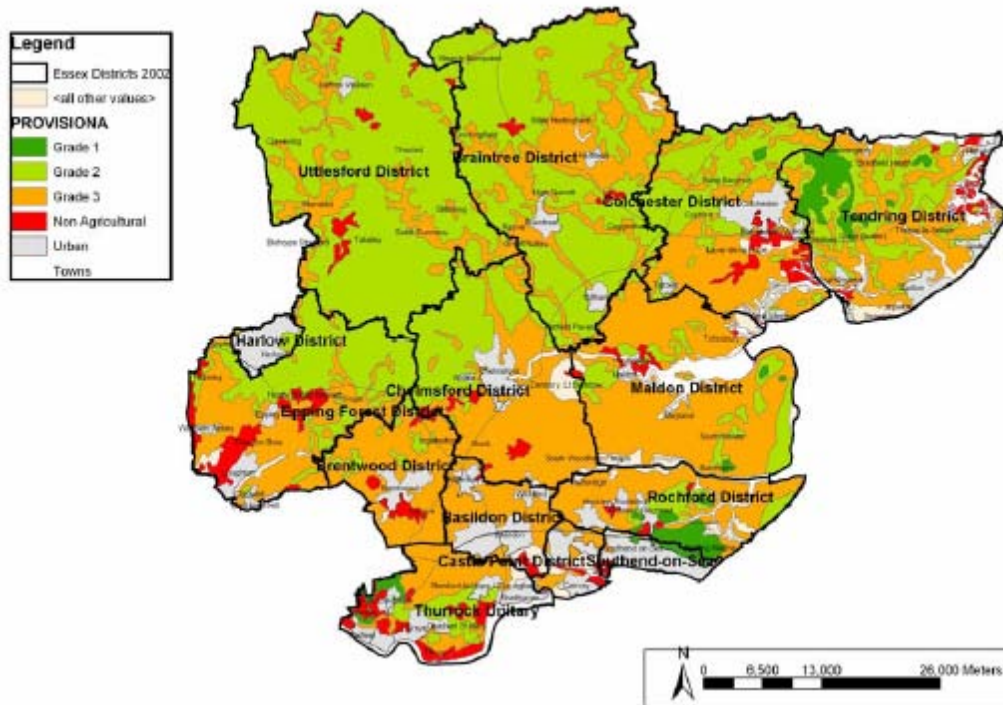
A. Agricultural Land in the East of England

The East of England contains 58% of the country's Grade 1 and 2 land, with 72% of agricultural land in the region under cultivation. This compares to 29% nationally (Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England. East of England Regional Assembly and East of England Environment Forum, July 2003). The East of England contains just 10% of the country's Grade 4 and 5 land.

B. Agricultural Land in Essex

The majority of agricultural land within Essex can be broadly classified as Grade 2 in the north and Grade 3 to the south, as defined by the Agricultural Land Classification System, published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), now the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). This is related to the location of the Essex till, with better quality land located in the north-west of the County. There are also significant areas of Grade 1 agricultural land within Tendring and Rochford District.

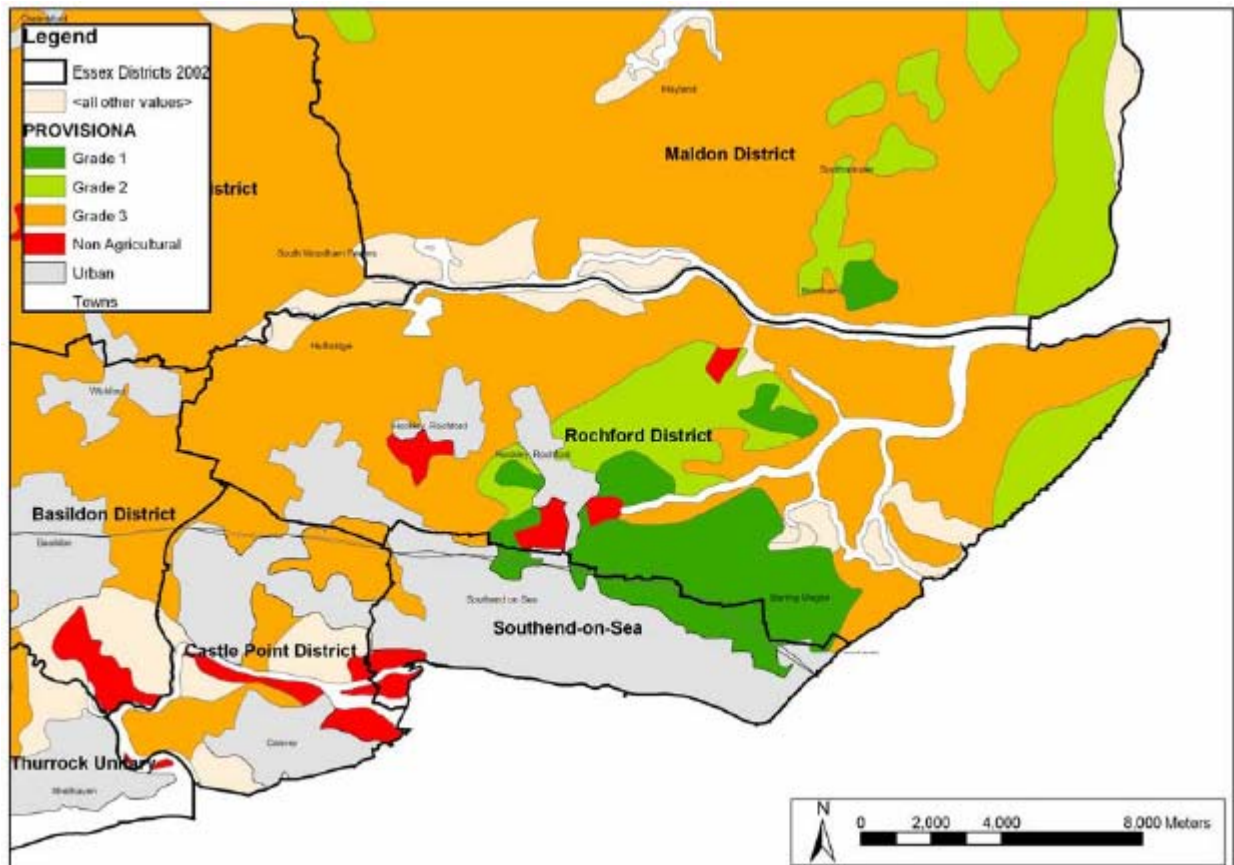
Figure 29: Agricultural Land Classification in Essex



Source: Essex County Council 2007

C. Agricultural Land in Rochford District

Figure 30: Agricultural Land Classification in Rochford District



Source: Essex County Council 2007

Agricultural land in Rochford District is classified as grades 1, 2 and 3 as defined by the Agricultural Land Classification System, published by the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Within Rochford District, 13.8% (2,352 hectares) of agricultural land is classified as Grade 1, 14.2% (2,417 hectares) as Grade 2, and 55.6% (9,488 hectares) is classified as Grade 3. The best land is found to the east of the settlements of Rochford and Ashingdon, between the Crouch estuary and the built-up areas of Southend-on-Sea, and between the settlements of Rochford and Hawkwell. This land falls into the 'best and most versatile' category in Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas, and should therefore be considered a national resource for the future and be given considerable weight when preparing development plans and in exercising development control.

Figure 26 shows that the majority of grade 1 listed agricultural soils can be found to the south of the District on the border with Southend On Sea Unitary Authority, with the majority of grade 2 listed land centrally located in the District and a small isolated area to the east.

Development proposals on Grade 1, 2 or 3a agricultural land would need to be considered in light of the policies in PPG7.

D. Waste Movements

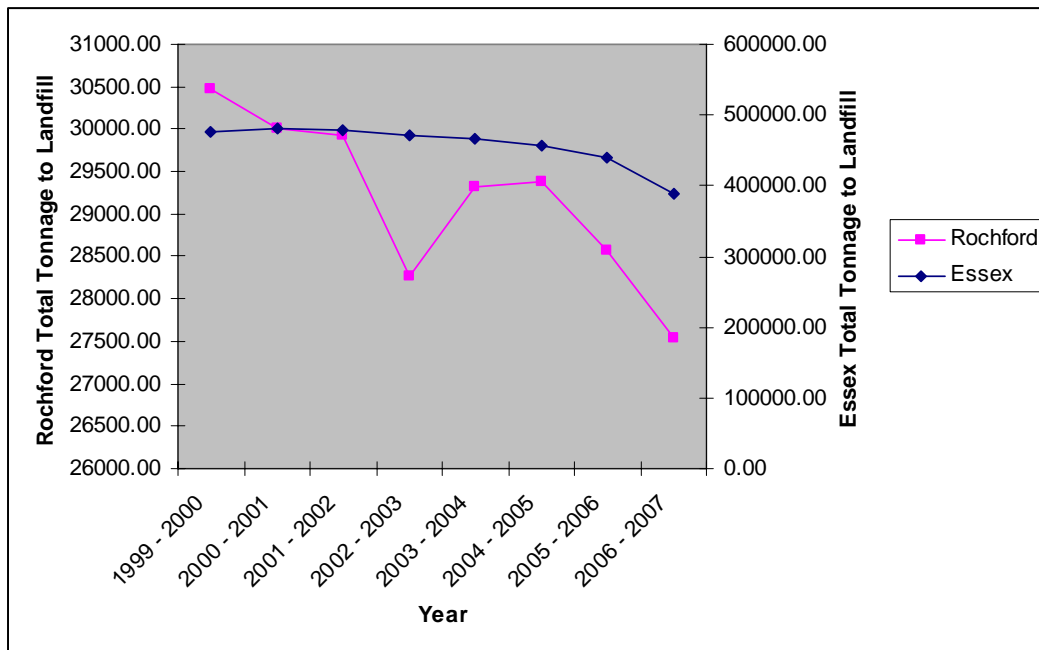
This section will look at the proportion of both total waste and total waste per dwelling which went to landfill and was recycled in Rochford and Essex between 1999 - 2000 and 2006 - 2007. Full results for the County will be included for 2006 – 2007. Each analysis will come in two parts, first waste collected from the home (otherwise known as District waste) and second, wastes collected from Household Waste Recycling Centres, formerly known as Civic Amenity sites. A wide range of items can be recycled at the centres, including glass, paper, plastic and garden waste.

Table 25: Total Waste Tonnage Sent to Landfill by Rochford District and Essex 1999 - 2007

District	Year							
	1999 - 2000	2000 - 2001	2001 - 2002	2002 - 2003	2003 - 2004	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006	2006 - 2007
Rochford	30465.23	30012.58	29918.04	28261.13	29321.28	29376.74	28566.54	27538.96
Essex	474996.42	481436.17	478852.04	471905.94	465789.95	457457.40	440096.33	388569.06

Source: Essex County Council, 2007

Figure 31: Total Waste Tonnage Sent to Landfill by Rochford District and Essex 1999 - 2007



Source: Essex County Council 2007

The amount of waste taken to landfill by both Rochford and Essex residents has decreased over the period of study. Across the 8 years studied, the total amount of waste sent to landfill by Rochford decreased from 30465.23 to 27538.96 tonnes. This means that Rochford sent 90.39% of its landfilled total waste in 1999 – 2000 to landfill in 2006 – 2007. The corresponding figure for Essex as a whole is 81.8%. The amount of waste sent to landfill in the District has not decreased uniformly and in fact rose between 2002 – 2003 and 2003 – 2004. It is a stated aim of the Waste Strategy for England 2007 that the amount of waste entering landfill is to be reduced. The strategy also considers the outcome of removing the ban on local authorities introducing household financial incentives for waste reduction and recycling. It is predicted that this could reduce annual landfilled waste by up to 15%.

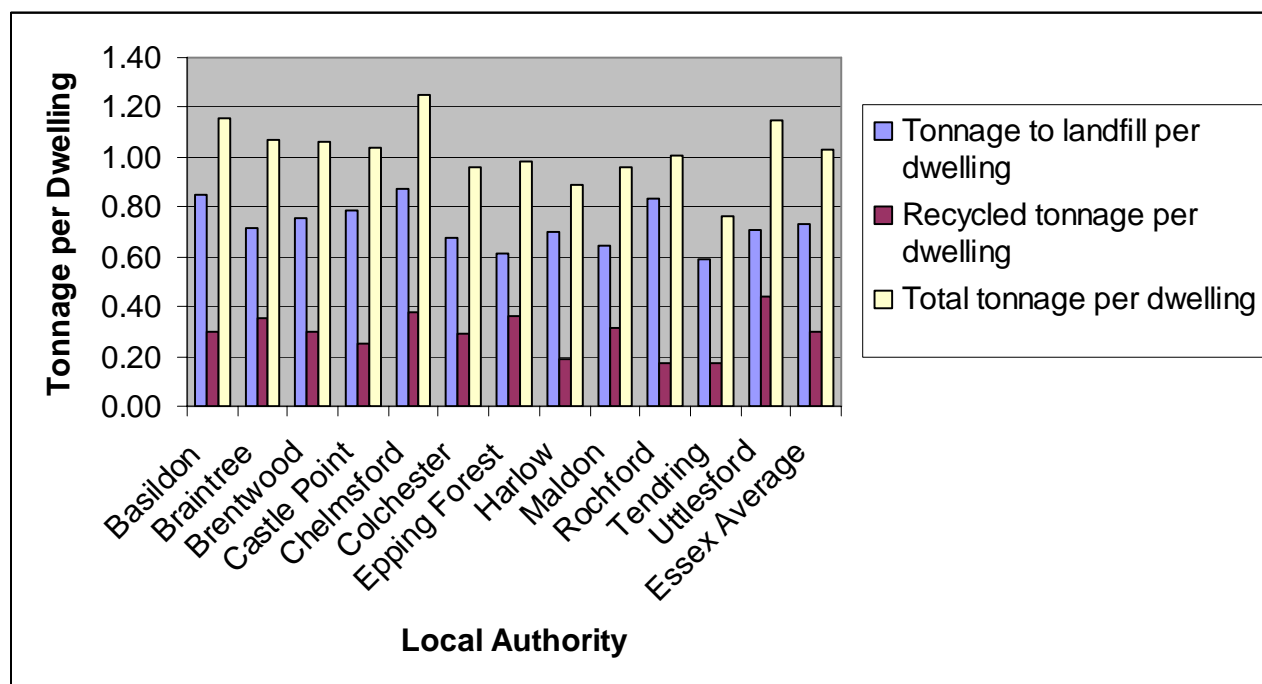
Table 26: District Waste Collection per Dwelling in Essex 2006 – 2007

District	Dwellings	Tonnage to landfill per dwelling	Ranking (1 = lowest per dwelling)	Movement from last year (+ = worse)	Recycled tonnage per dwelling	Ranking (1 = highest per dwelling)	Movement from last year (- = worse)	Total tonnage per dwelling	Ranking (1 = lowest per dwelling)	Movement from last year (+ = worse)
Basildon	71000	0.85	11	+1	0.30	7	0	1.15	11	+1
Braintree	57000	0.71	7	+1	0.35	4	-2	1.07	9	0
Brentwood	30000	0.76	8	+1	0.30	6	0	1.06	8	+2
Castle Point	36000	0.78	9	+1	0.25	9	-1	1.04	7	0
Chelmsford	67000	0.87	12	+1	0.38	2	-1	1.25	12	+1
Colchester	67000	0.67	4	-1	0.29	8	-4	0.96	4	-4
Epping Forest	51000	0.62	2	-2	0.36	3	+6	0.98	5	+1
Harlow	33000	0.70	5	+2	0.19	10	0	0.89	2	0
Maldon	25000	0.65	3	+1	0.32	5	0	0.96	3	0
Rochford	33000	0.83	10	+1	0.17	12	0	1.01	6	+1
Tendring	64000	0.59	1	0	0.18	11	0	0.77	1	0
Uttlesford	28000	0.71	6	-6	0.44	1	+2	1.15	10	-2
Essex Average	562000	0.73			0.30			1.03		

Note: “Per dwelling” values may not always fully equate to total waste values due to inaccuracies inherent in the rounding process.

Source: Essex County Council 2007

Figure 32: District Waste Collection per Dwelling in Essex 2006 – 2007



Source: Essex County Council 2007

For each dwelling in Rochford, 1.01 tonnes of waste was collected in 2006 – 2007. This is the 6th lowest in the County and just below the Essex average of 1.03 tonnes per dwelling. With 1.25 tonnes per dwelling, Chelmsford Borough produced the largest amount of waste per dwelling whilst Tendring District produced the least at 0.77 tonnes.

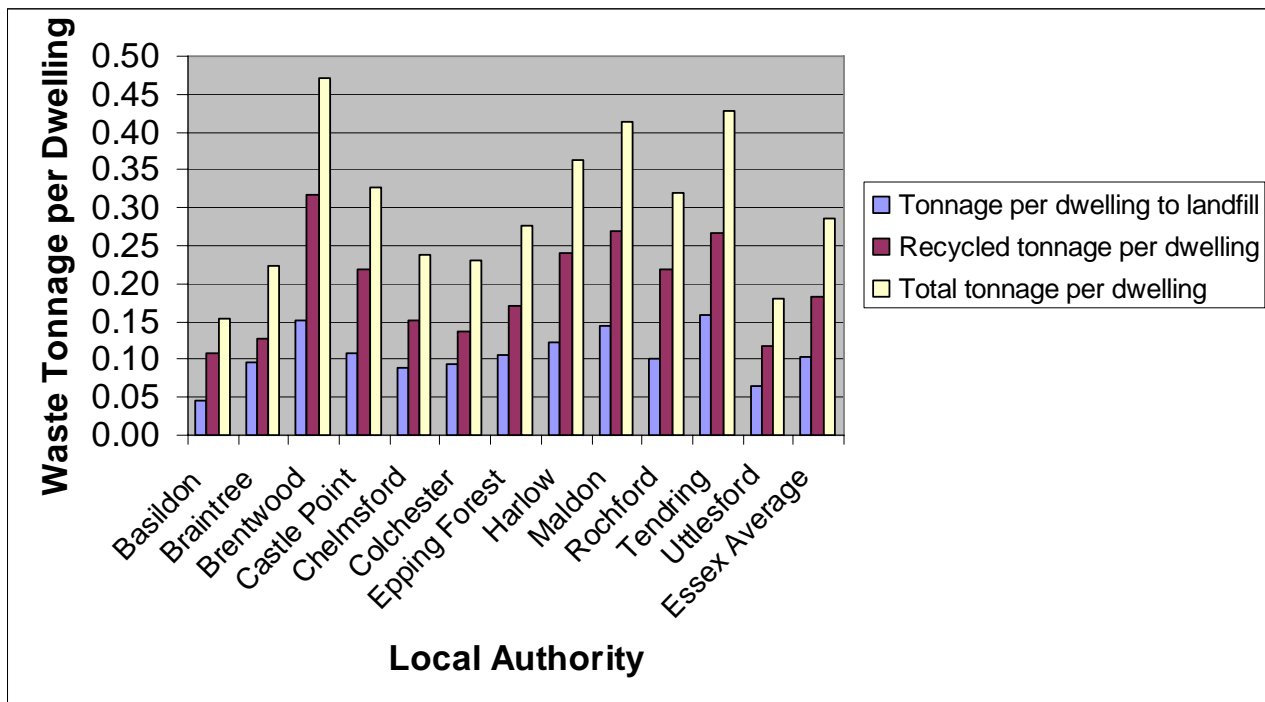
Of the 1.01 tonnes collected in Rochford, 0.83 tonnes went to landfill. This is again the 6th lowest amount in the County and similarly to that of total waste, represents an increase of one place relative to all Local Authority’s individual performance in 2005 – 2006. 0.73 tonnes per dwelling were sent to landfill across all of Essex on average. Rochford District residents recycled 0.17 tonnes of waste, the lowest amount per dwelling in Essex. The corresponding Essex figure is 0.3 tonnes per dwelling.

Table 27: Waste Collected from Household Waste Recycling Centres per Dwelling in Essex 2006 – 2007

District	Dwellings	Tonnage per dwelling to landfill	Ranking (1 = lowest per dwelling)	Movement from last year (+ = worse)	Recycled tonnage per dwelling	Ranking (1 = highest per dwelling)	Movement from last year (- = worse)	Total tonnage per dwelling	Ranking (1 = lowest per dwelling)	Movement from last year (+ = worse)
Basildon	71000	0.05	1	0	0.11	12	0	0.15	1	0
Braintree	57000	0.10	5	0	0.13	10	0	0.22	3	0
Brentwood	30000	0.15	11	0	0.32	1	0	0.47	12	0
Castle Point	36000	0.11	8	0	0.22	5	+1	0.33	8	0
Chelmsford	67000	0.09	3	0	0.15	8	0	0.24	5	+1
Colchester	67000	0.09	4	-2	0.14	9	0	0.23	4	-1
Epping Forest	51000	0.11	7	+3	0.17	7	0	0.28	6	0
Harlow	33000	0.12	9	0	0.24	4	0	0.36	9	0
Maldon	25000	0.15	10	0	0.27	2	+1	0.41	10	0
Rochford	33000	0.10	6	-1	0.22	6	-1	0.32	7	0
Tendring	64000	0.16	12	0	0.27	3	-1	0.43	11	0
Uttlesford	28000	0.06	2	0	0.12	11	0	0.18	2	0
Essex Average	562000	0.10			0.18			0.29		

Source: Essex County Council 2007

Figure 33: Waste Collected from Household Waste Recycling Centres per Dwelling in Essex 2006 – 2007



Source: Essex County Council, 2007

Rochford residents sent 0.32 tonnes of waste per dwelling to a recycling centre in 2006 – 2007. This was the 7th lowest amount in the County. The average across Essex was 0.29 tonnes. At 0.47 tonnes, Brentwood District delivered the largest amount of waste per dwelling to a recycling centre, with Basildon sending the least at 0.15 tonnes per dwelling.

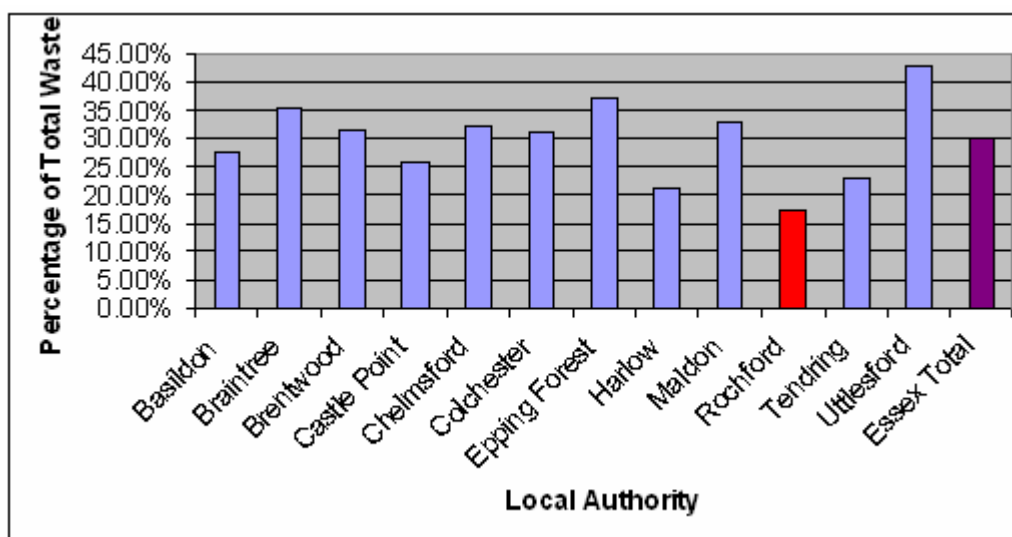
0.22 tonnes of the total 0.32 tonnes per dwelling (68.75%) of waste sent to recycling centres was able to be recycled. This was the 6th highest amount in the County although it represents a fall of one place relative to all Local Authority performance in 2005 – 2006. Brentwood recycled the highest amount at 0.32 tonnes per dwelling. The remaining 0.1 tonnes of waste sent to household waste recycling centres in Rochford District was landfilled. Again this was the 6th highest amount in the County although it is an increase of one place in performance relative to 2005 – 2006.

Table 28: Proportion of Total District Waste Recycled in Essex in 2006 – 2007

District	Total Waste Tonnage	Tonnes of Waste Recycled and Composted	Percentage of Waste Recycled and Composted
Basildon	77,904.55	21,355.80	27.41%
Braintree	56,852.64	20,119.74	35.39%
Brentwood	29,032.11	9,053.25	31.18%
Castle Point	35,640.40	9,169.88	25.73%
Chelmsford	78,746.87	25,426.76	32.29%
Colchester	62,475.76	19,341.11	30.96%
Epping Forest	50,006.67	18,546.08	37.09%
Harlow	29,278.30	6,232.35	21.29%
Maldon	24,048.81	7,903.13	32.86%
Rochford	33,251.87	5,712.90	17.18%
Tendring	48,905.71	11,229.75	22.96%
Uttlesford	28,883.72	12,367.58	42.82%
Total	555,027.41	166,458.35	29.99%

Source: Essex County Council 2007

Figure 34: Proportion of Total District Waste Recycled in Essex 2006 – 2007



Source: Essex County Council 2007

17.18% of Rochford District’s household waste was recycled or composted in 2006 – 2007. This was the lowest amount in the County, which had an average score of 29.99%. With 42.85%, Uttlesford recycled the highest proportion of their waste. The Household Waste Recycling Act gives a national target of 25% of all household waste to be recycled or composted by 2005. Rochford is not currently meeting this target. This target is to be raised to 30% in 2010 and 33% by 2015.

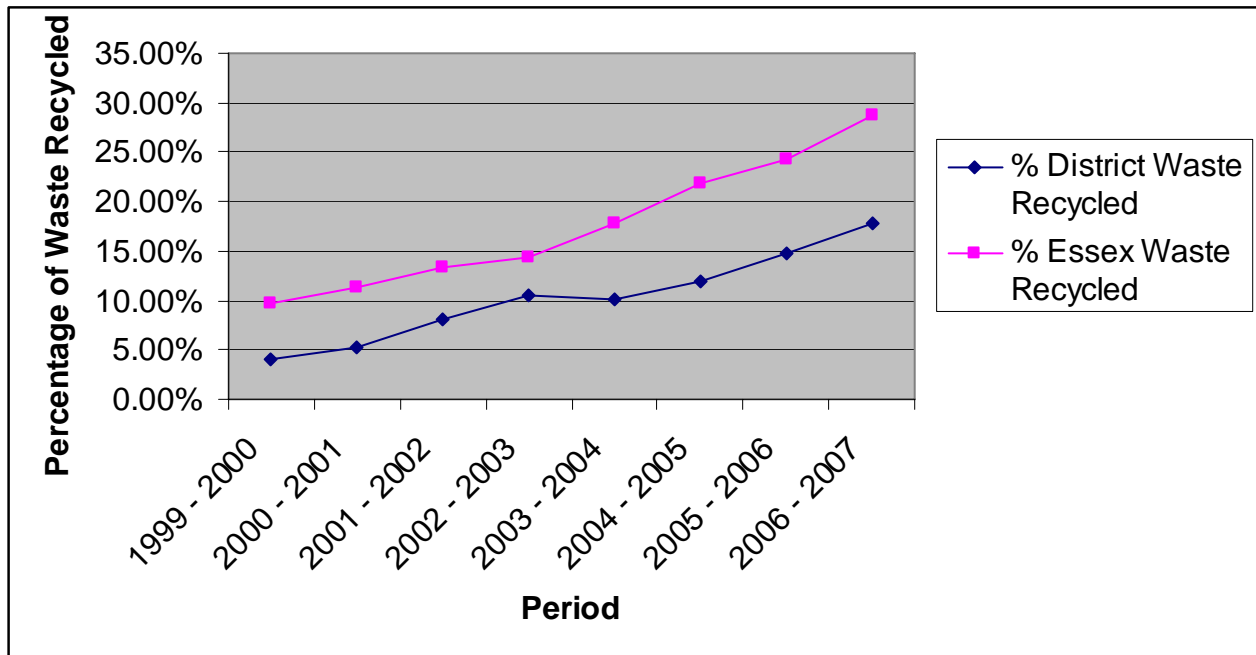
E. Comparison of Rochford District Landfilled and Recycled Waste Tonnage per Dwelling against Average Essex Performance 1999 - 2007

This section includes four separate tables with associated graphs. Each graph will display the total amount of waste collected per dwelling in Rochford and Essex as well as the total amount that was either recycled or landfilled. Separate graphs are included for household waste and waste taken from Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Table 29: Proportion of District Waste Recycled in Rochford per Dwelling 1999 - 2007

	1999 - 2000	2000 - 2001	2001 - 2002	2002 - 2003	2003 - 2004	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006	2006 - 2007
Rochford District Waste Tonnage Recycled	0.04	0.05	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.15	0.18
Rochford Total Tonnage	0.97	0.96	0.98	0.95	0.98	1.00	1.02	1.01
% District Waste Recycled	4.12%	5.21%	8.16%	10.53%	10.20%	12.00%	14.71%	17.82%
Essex Tonnage Recycled	0.09	0.11	0.13	0.14	0.18	0.22	0.25	0.30
Essex Total Tonnage	0.95	0.97	0.98	0.98	1.00	1.02	1.05	1.03
% Essex Waste Recycled	9.79%	11.34%	13.27%	14.29%	17.80%	21.79%	24.21%	28.79%

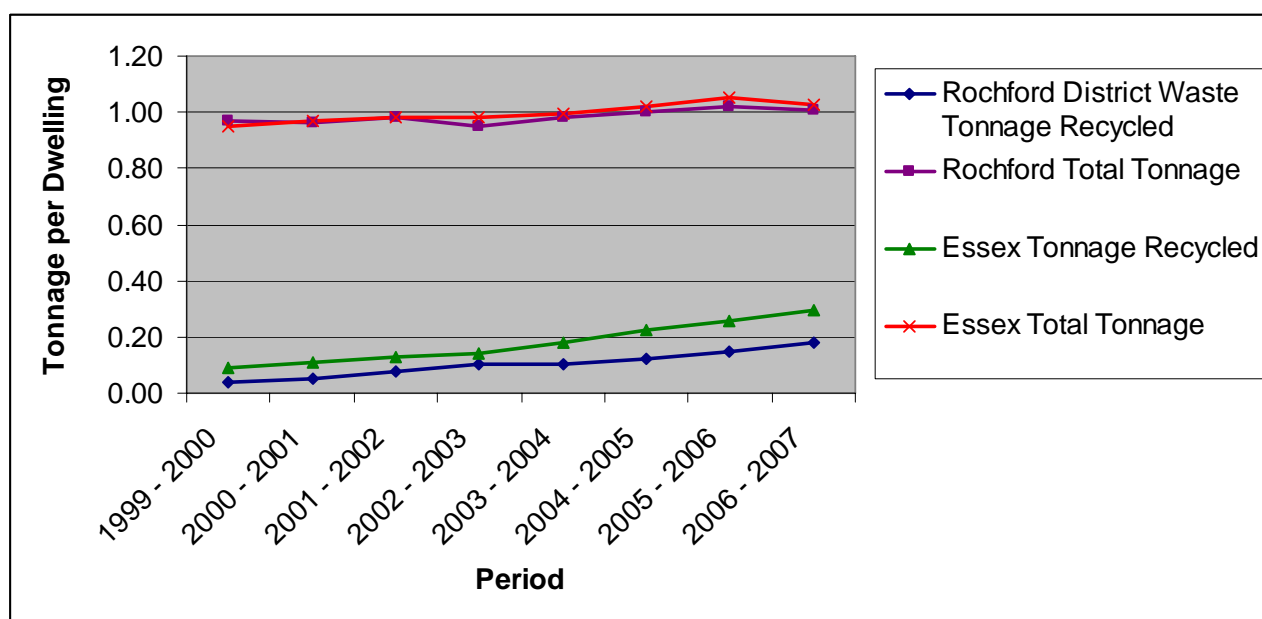
Source: Essex County Council 2007

Figure 35: Proportion of District Waste Recycled in Rochford per Dwelling 1999 – 2007

Source: Essex County Council 2007

The proportion of District Waste which was recycled has increased each year since 1999 at both District and County level. The Essex County proportional recycling average has been above that witnessed in Rochford District across the whole study, and the gap was wider in 2006 – 2007 than 1999 – 2000. 17.82% of waste was recycled in Rochford District in 2006 – 2007 compared to 28.79% in the County.

Figure 36: Total Recycled District Waste per Dwelling in Rochford District and Essex County 1999 – 2007



Source: Essex County Council 2007

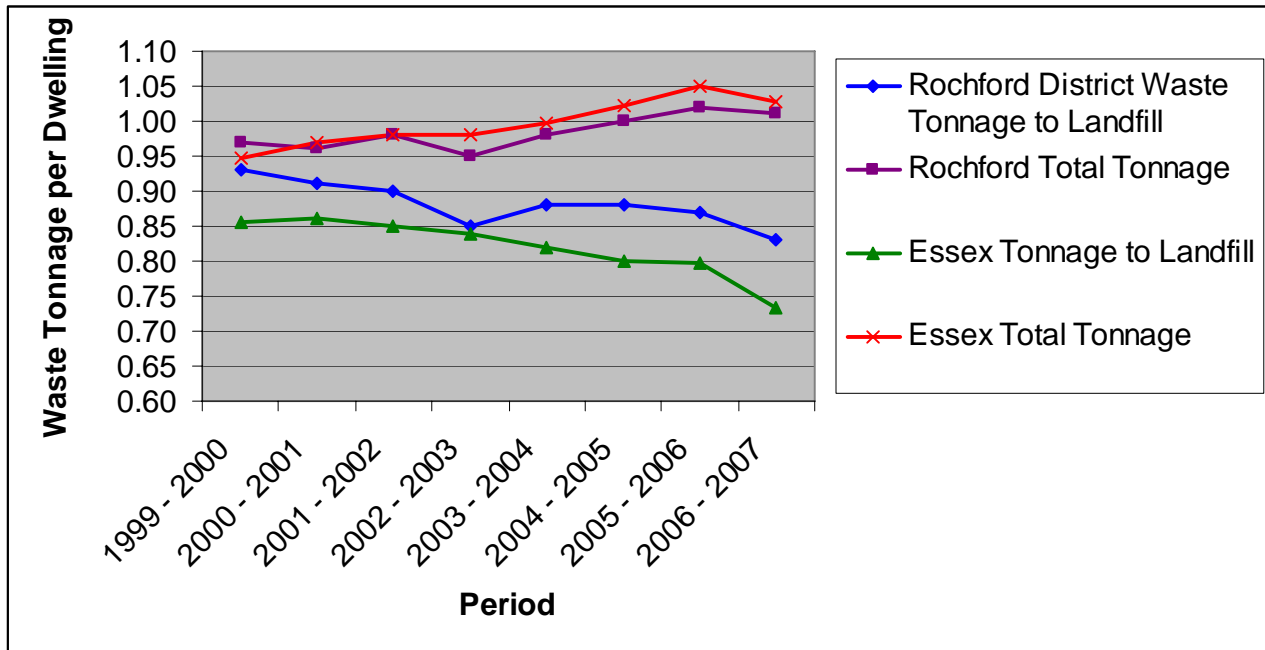
Since 1999, the amount of waste per dwelling that is being recycled has risen in both Rochford District and Essex County. Since 2003 – 2004, the amount of household waste recycled has risen at a faster rate in the County than the District despite the total amount of waste per dwelling being similar at County and District level across these years. 2006 – 2007 values are 0.18 tonnes per dwelling in Rochford and 0.3 tonnes per dwelling in Essex County. Please see Table 30: Proportion of District Waste Recycled in Rochford per Dwelling 1999 – 2007 and its accompanying figure for a more detailed analysis regarding the proportions of District waste recycled.

Table 30: District Waste Tonnage Sent to Landfill in Essex and Rochford District per Dwelling 1999 – 2007

	1999 - 2000	2000 - 2001	2001 - 2002	2002 - 2003	2003 - 2004	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006	2006 - 2007
Rochford District Waste Tonnage to Landfill	0.93	0.91	0.90	0.85	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.83
Rochford Total Tonnage	0.97	0.96	0.98	0.95	0.98	1.00	1.02	1.01
% District Waste Landfilled	95.88%	94.79%	91.84%	89.47%	89.80%	88.00%	85.29%	82.18%
Essex Tonnage to Landfill	0.86	0.86	0.85	0.84	0.82	0.80	0.80	0.73
Essex Total Tonnage	0.95	0.97	0.98	0.98	1.00	1.02	1.05	1.03
% Essex Waste Landfilled	90.21%	88.66%	86.73%	85.71%	82.20%	78.21%	75.79%	71.21%

Source: Essex County Council 2007

Figure 37: District Waste Tonnage Sent to Landfill in Essex and Rochford District per Dwelling 1999 – 2007



Source: Essex County Council 2007

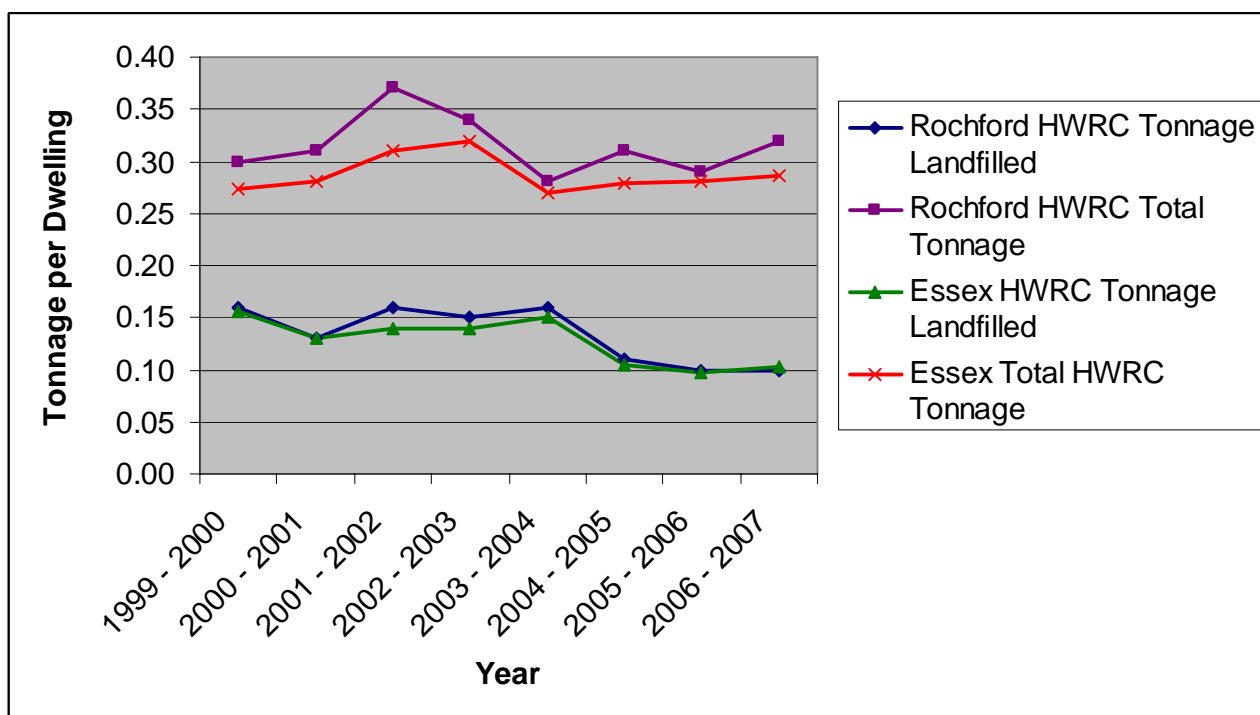
The total amount of waste produced per dwelling has increased within the District, from 0.97 in 1999 – 2000 to 1.01 in 2006 – 2007, giving an increase of 4.12%. However, the highest value of 1.02 tonnes was produced in 2005 - 2006. The amount of waste produced per dwelling in Essex has also increased for much of this study and has also been above that witnessed in Rochford since 2002 – 2003. 2006 – 2007 saw the first decrease in the total amount of waste produced per dwelling in Essex, 1.03 tonnes compared to 1.05 tonnes in 2005 – 2006. The amount of waste per dwelling being sent to landfill has decreased in the case of both Essex and Rochford. 0.93 tonnes of a total 0.97 tonnes (95.88% of total waste) was sent to landfill for every dwelling in Rochford District in 1999 – 2000. This had fallen to 0.83 tonnes of a total 1.01 tonnes (82.18% of total waste) in 2006 - 2007. Essex landfilled 71.21% of its total waste in 2006 – 2007, down from 90.21% in 1999 – 2000.

Table 31: Total Waste Tonnage from Household Waste Recycling Centres Sent to Landfill 1999 – 2007

	1999 - 2000	2000 - 2001	2001 - 2002	2002 - 2003	2003 - 2004	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006	2006 - 2007
Rochford HWRC Tonnage Landfilled	0.16	0.13	0.16	0.15	0.16	0.11	0.10	0.10
Rochford HWRC Total Tonnage	0.30	0.31	0.37	0.34	0.28	0.31	0.29	0.32
% District HWRC Waste Landfilled	53.33%	41.94%	43.24%	44.12%	57.14%	35.48%	34.48%	31.25%
Essex HWRC Tonnage Landfilled	0.16	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.10	0.10	0.10
Essex Total HWRC Tonnage	0.27	0.28	0.31	0.32	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.29
% Essex HWRC Waste Landfilled	56.98%	46.43%	45.16%	43.86%	55.45%	37.64%	34.40%	36.00%

Source: Essex County Council 2007

Figure 38: Total Waste Tonnage from Household Waste Recycling Centres Sent to Landfill 1999 – 2007



Source: Essex County Council 2007

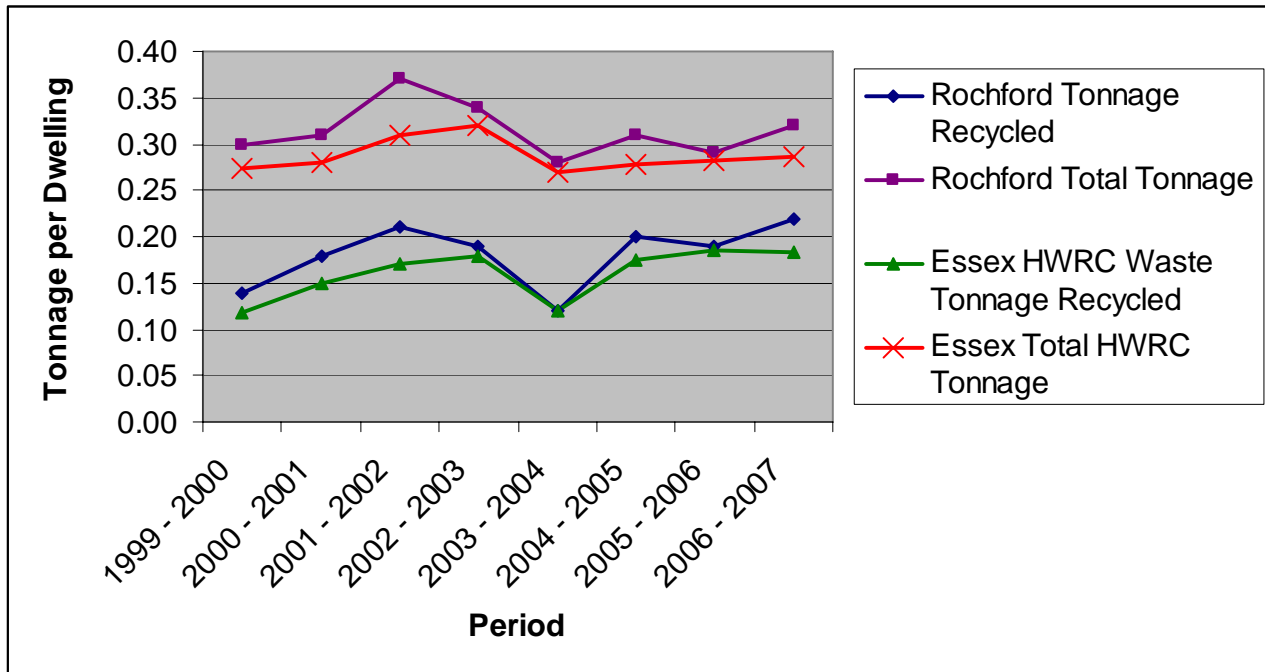
Residents across all of Essex have consistently sent less waste to Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) per dwelling than those in Rochford District. Across the study period in its entirety, the amount of HWRC waste which was subsequently landfilled has decreased at both County and Local Authority level. In 1999 – 2000, Rochford landfilled 0.16 tonnes of its HWRC waste total of 0.3 tonnes (53.33%) with Essex landfilling 56.98%. The corresponding figures for 2006 – 2007 are 0.1 tonnes out of a total 0.32 tonnes (31.25%) within Rochford, and 36% in Essex. The figure of 36% reported in Essex is however an increase on the 34.4% reported in 2005 – 2006.

Table 32: Waste per Dwelling Sent to Household Recycling Centres and Recycled in Rochford District and Essex County 1999 - 2007

	1999 - 2000	2000 - 2001	2001 - 2002	2002 - 2003	2003 - 2004	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006	2006 - 2007
Rochford Tonnage Recycled	0.14	0.18	0.21	0.19	0.12	0.20	0.19	0.22
Rochford Total Tonnage	0.30	0.31	0.37	0.34	0.28	0.31	0.29	0.32
% Rochford HWRC Waste Recycled	46.67%	58.06%	56.76%	55.88%	42.86%	64.52%	65.52%	68.75%
Essex HWRC Waste Tonnage Recycled	0.12	0.15	0.17	0.18	0.12	0.17	0.18	0.18
Essex Total HWRC Tonnage	0.27	0.28	0.31	0.32	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.29
% Essex HWRC Waste Recycled	43.02%	53.57%	54.84%	56.14%	44.55%	62.36%	65.60%	64.00%

Source: Essex County Council 2007

Figure 39: Waste per Dwelling Sent to Household Recycling Centres and Recycled in Rochford District and Essex County 1999 - 2007



Source: Essex County Council 2007

The amount of waste per dwelling sent to a HWRC is higher across Rochford District than in Essex. Since 2003 – 2004, the amount of waste sent to HWRCs that is subsequently recycled has increased relatively uniformly to the increase of total waste sent to HWRCs. 68.75% of Rochford District HWRC waste was recycled in 2006 – 2007, compared to 46.67% in 1999 – 2000. This figure of 68.75% is also higher than the 2006 – 2007 Essex equivalent figure of 64%.

F. Rochford District Performance against BVPI 82a and 82b

Table 33: Rochford District BVPI82a Performance 2005 – 2007

		2005 / 2006	2006 / 2007	2007 / 2008	2008 / 2009	2009 / 2010
BVPI 82a	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which have been recycled	14.01%	15.40%	N/A	N/A	N/A
BVPI 82a Target		16.76%	17.40%	20.00%	23.00%	30.00%

Source: Essex County Council 2007 and Rochford Annual Performance Plans 2006 and 2007 (Latest plan can be found at http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/PDF/plans_and_strategies_performance_plan.pdf)

Performance under BVPI 82a has improved from 14.01% to 15.4% across the two years studied. However neither of these figures were sufficient to meet the set BVPI target in either 2005 / 2006 or 2006 / 2007.

Table 34: Rochford District BVPI82b Performance 2005 – 2007

		2005 / 2006	2006 / 2007	2007 / 2008	2008 / 2009	2009 / 2010
BVPI 82b	Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which have been composted	0.54%	1.78%	N/A	N/A	N/A
BVPI 82b Target		9.20%	1.90%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%

Source: Essex County Council 2007 and Rochford Annual Performance Plans 2006 and 2007 (Latest plan can be found at http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/PDF/plans_and_strategies_performance_plan.pdf)

Performance under BVPI82b has also increased across the two years studied above. Similarly the BVPI 82b target was not met in either year. Rochford's Annual Performance Plan 2006 set a target of 9.2% for the year 2005 / 2006. The actual outcome under this measure was 0.54%. Whilst performance had more than trebled in 2006 / 2007, the BVPI82b target has evidently had to be revised. Despite this, 2006 / 2007 performance under BVPI 82b was not sufficient to meet the target.

G. Waste and Mineral Applications Submitted between 1st January and 31st December 2007 with Decisions Made by 1st February 2008

District / Borough	Sand and Gravel		Recycling Facilities		Waste Transfer		Composting		Mineral Processing		Sewage Works		Renewable Energy		Mineral Related		Land Reclamation		Other		
	Approved	Refused	Approved	Refused	Approved	Refused	Approved	Refused	Approved	Refused	Approved	Refused	Approved	Refused	Approved	Refused	Approved	Refused	Approved	Refused	
Basildon													1								
Braintree	2			1																	1
Brentwood																					
Castlepoint					1	1															
Chelmsford			1	1																	
Colchester	1		1		1		1								1						
Epping Forest							1														
Harlow					1				1												
Maldon															1						
Rochford					2						1				1						
Tendring	3				1		1													2	
Uttlesford	1												1		1		1				
TOTAL	7	0	2	2	6	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	4	0	1	0	2	1	

Essex County Council 2008

4 mineral and waste applications were made within Rochford District between January and December 2007 which had received a decision by 1st February 2008. These 4 applications are summarised below:

Table 35: Mineral and Waste Applications Made in Rochford District between January and December 2007 with a Decision Made by 1st February 2008

Application Reference	Application Description	Decision Made and Date
ESS/22/07/ROC	The replacement of an old sewage treatment plant with a new system comprised of up to date Submerged Aerated Filter Technology – National Grid, London Road, Rawreth	Granted 18/07/07
ESS/25/07/ROC	Continued use of Plots G4, G5 and G6 as an inert waste (inc asphalt) recycling centre with extension onto Plot 7. Also permanent retention of facilities and vehicle permissions – Plots G4, G5, G6 and G7 Purdeys way, Purdeys Industrial Estate	Granted 6/12/07
ESS/30/07/ROC	Proposed replacement of existing portable building as previously permitted under ESS/13/98/ROC by two portable buildings of similar gross floor area – Barling Quarry and Landfill Site, Barling Marsh, Barling Magna	Granted 14/09/07
ESS/61/07/ROC	The erection of a GRP control kiosk at Rayleigh Waste Water Treatment Works – Rayleigh Waste Water Treatment Works, Connaught Road, Rayleigh	Granted 29/01/08

9.4 Soils, Minerals and Waste Summary

- The majority of agricultural land within Essex can be broadly classified as Grade 2 in the north and Grade 3 to the south. Within Rochford District, 13.8% (2,352 hectares) of agricultural land is classified as Grade 1, 14.2% (2,417 hectares) as Grade 2, and 55.6% (9,488 hectares) is classified as Grade 3.
- The amount of landfilled waste has decreased in the District between 1999 and 2007. Rochford District sent 90.39% of its total landfilled waste in 1999 – 2000 to landfill in 2006 – 2007.
- From each dwelling in Rochford, 1.01 tonnes of waste was collected in 2006 – 2007. This is the 6th lowest in the County. 0.83 tonnes of this went to landfill, again the 6th lowest amount in the County
- Rochford residents sent 0.32 tonnes of waste per dwelling to a recycling centre in 2006 – 2007. This was the 7th lowest amount in the County.
- 17.18% of Rochford District's household waste was recycled or composted in 2006 – 2007. This was the lowest amount in the County, which had an average score of 29.99%.
- Since 2002 – 2003, Rochford District residents have sent less waste tonnage to landfill per dwelling than the Essex Average.

- Residents across all of Essex have consistently sent less waste to Household Waste Recycling Centres per dwelling than those in Rochford District.
- Since 2003 – 2004, the amount of District waste recycled has risen at a faster rate in the County than the District despite the total amount of waste per dwelling being similar at County and District level across these years.
- Rochford District has not met its BVPI82a or BVPI82b target since 2005 – 2006. Performance under these two indicators can however be seen to be improving between 2005 – 2006 and 2006 – 2007.
- 4 mineral and waste applications were submitted between January and December 2007 which had a decision made by 1st February 2008. All these have been approved.

PART TWO: Built Environment

10 CULTURAL HERITAGE AND TOWNSCAPE

10.1 Introduction

The historic environment should be effectively protected and valued for its own sake, as an irreplaceable record which contributes to our understanding of both the present and the past. Cultural heritage adds to quality of life, by enhancing the local scene and sustaining a sense of local distinctiveness and this is an important aspect of the character and appearance of towns, villages and countryside. It also has an importance for leisure and recreation.

Rochford contains a rich and varied heritage and archaeological resource. The Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by Essex County Council contains 6252 records relating to the County including 9 Registered Parks & Gardens, 38 Conservation Areas and 3067 archaeological records which includes 41 Scheduled Monuments.

10.2 Policy Context

A. International

There are a number of EU Treaties which have reference to the importance of the Historic Environment, including the Treaties of Rome (1957) and Maastricht (1992).

However there are no specific EU Directives covering cultural heritage. Most European countries have ratified the Council of Europe's Valletta Convention (1992) and the Granada Convention (1985) on Archaeological Heritage, and many (though not yet the UK) are signatories to the Florence Convention (2000) on European Landscape. Most European countries have signed (although several including the UK have not yet ratified) the UN Economic Commission for Europe Aarhus Convention (1998) on Environmental Information.

Increasingly, cultural heritage is being recognised as an important aspect of sustainable development, as is reflected in the Council of Europe's Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent (2002), in the EU SEA Directive (2001) and the EIA Directive (1985).

B. National Context

i) Planning Policy Guidance and Planning Policy Statements

National planning policies are published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in Planning Policy Statements (PPS), which are gradually replacing Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG). In respect of this topic, national guidance is presented in three documents:

- PPS 1 Delivering Sustainable Development (2005) states that sustainable development is the core principle underpinning planning and the protection of the environment is an integral part of this goal.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicystatement>

- PPG 15 Planning And The Historic Environment (1994) states that the historic environment is an irreplaceable record which contributes to an understanding of the past, adds to the quality of life, and is important for leisure and recreation.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicyguidance8>

- PPG 16 Planning And Archaeology says that the preservation of an ancient monument/listed building is a material planning consideration and development should take into account archaeological considerations within the planning process

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicyguidance9>

ii) “A Better Quality of Life: a Strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK” (DEFRA, 1999)

This is the current framework and refers to cultural heritage; however it is not a major aspect of UK sustainability at a strategic level. For further information regarding this document go to:

<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/uk-strategy99/index.htm>

iii) The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (DCMS, 2001)

The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future' highlights the importance of the historic environment to people's quality of life. It also highlights other reasons Heritage is important to be preserved. The document can be viewed at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2001/his_force_future.htm

iv) Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) was established in 1999, seeking to offer advice and guidance to the public and private sector to champion good design and space. Their list of publications and guidance notes can be found at:

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/publications.aspx>

v) Cross Department and Inter-Agency Working

The historic environment, biological resources and landscape features has to be managed, conserved and enhanced in a holistic way. Some of what is regarded as the natural environment is actually a human creation often of considerable antiquity, so that an integrated approach to the natural and historic environment is necessary. Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks provide mechanisms through which this can be achieved. This means there needs to be effective communication and co-working cross department and inter-agency working in management of the historic environment including (but not limited to):

- Countryside Agency,
- English Heritage,
- Natural England
- Environment Agency

These bodies have issued 'Environmental quality in Spatial Planning: incorporating the natural, built, and historic environment, and rural issues into plans and strategies' (Countryside Agency et al., 2005). This document can be viewed at:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/Envir_Quality.pdf

vi) The Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Outside the planning system a critical means for enhancing the conservation and management of the historic environment in rural areas is provided by the Environmental

Stewardship scheme administered by DEFRA. Environmental Stewardship provides funding to farmers who manage their land sensitively and effectively, with a primary objective being to protect the historic environment.

C. Regional / County Context

i) “Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England” (2003)

In the East of England there are 57,643 listed buildings, 211 registered parks and gardens, a registered battlefield at Maldon, approximately 1,600 scheduled monuments and 1,100 areas of special architectural or historic interest, designated as Conservation Areas. English Heritage has identified 2% of the region’s listed buildings as being ‘at risk of decay’ (Our Environment, Our Future: The Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England. East of England Regional Assembly and East of England Environment Forum, July 2003). It is difficult to quantify the archaeological resource, but there are approximately 150,000 archaeological sites currently recorded on County Sites and Monuments Records.

www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Environment/RENS.pdf

ii) Draft East of England Plan December (2004)

The Draft East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy), prepared by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), was submitted to Government in December 2004. Following a period of public consultation the Plan was subject of an Examination in Public (EiP) between November 2005 and March 2006. The Report of the EiP Panel was published in June 2006. In December 2006 the Secretary of State published Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for a period of public consultation to March 2007. Following consideration of the consultation response, the Secretary of State issued some Further Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for public consultation between October-December 2007. These Changes incorporate the recommendations of an additional Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Secretary of State’s publication of the final version of the East of England Plan is expected during the first quarter of 2008.

Current relevant policies include:

- Policy ENV1: Environmental Infrastructure
seek to identify environmental infrastructure, developed and implemented ensuring a healthy and enhanced environment
- Policy ENV5: The Historic Environment
seeks to identify, protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, significant in the East of England.
- Policy C1: Cultural Development
Seeks to ensure development plans and strategies of contain policies supporting the growth of the region’s cultural assets appropriately.

For the full document go to:

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=120>

iii) Historic Landscape Characterisation

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), sponsored by English Heritage, is being completed on a county-by-county basis. The HLC approach is related to two national

frameworks – the Countryside Agency's 'Countryside Character Map' which recognises the fundamental historic character of the countryside, and English Heritage's 'Atlas of Settlement Diversity'.

iv) Essex Design Initiative (EDI)

The Essex Design Initiative aims to deliver growth in a way that increases the urban vitality and townscape of Essex by improving the design quality of the built environment. It also aims to reduce the carbon emissions and create genuinely sustainable communities.

Using the EDI, Essex County Council, in partnership with the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) are creating a positive culture of planning and development. The EDI campaign and learning programme will influence the development sector, housing providers, the community and local authorities to work together collaboratively to create and deliver quality townscapes.

More information about the Essex Design Initiative can be found at:

<http://www.the-edi.co.uk/?section=homepage>

D. Rochford Context

i) Rochford District Replacement Local Plan, Adopted June 2006

This is the most recent Adopted Local Plan, relevant policies relating to Cultural Heritage and Townscape are:

- Policy CS2: Preserving and enhancing the Built Environment
- Policy CS6: Promoting Good Design and Design Statements
- Policy CS7: Conserving and Enhancing Heritage
- Policy CS8: Retaining the Character and Place
- Policy BC1: Conservation Areas
- Policy BC2: Demolition within Conservation Areas
- Policy BC3: Alterations to Listed Buildings
- Policy BC4: Demolition of Listed Buildings
- Policy BC5 & BC6: Development Affecting Archaeological Sites
- Policy SAT8: Shop Fronts
- Policy SAT10: Advertisements within Conservation Areas

10.3 Current Baseline Information

A. Listed Buildings

Listed buildings of special architectural or historic interest are important in contributing to the character of the Borough. A listed building is regarded as a structure that is of national or architectural interest therefore listed buildings are not purely older buildings.

The total number of listed buildings or groups of buildings that are listed Grade 1 and 2* in England was 30,491 (2005) an increase of 2% since the 1999 register (2005). There currently are a total of 14,239 listed buildings within Essex County Council's administrative area.

Table 36: The Listed Building Composition for Rochford District

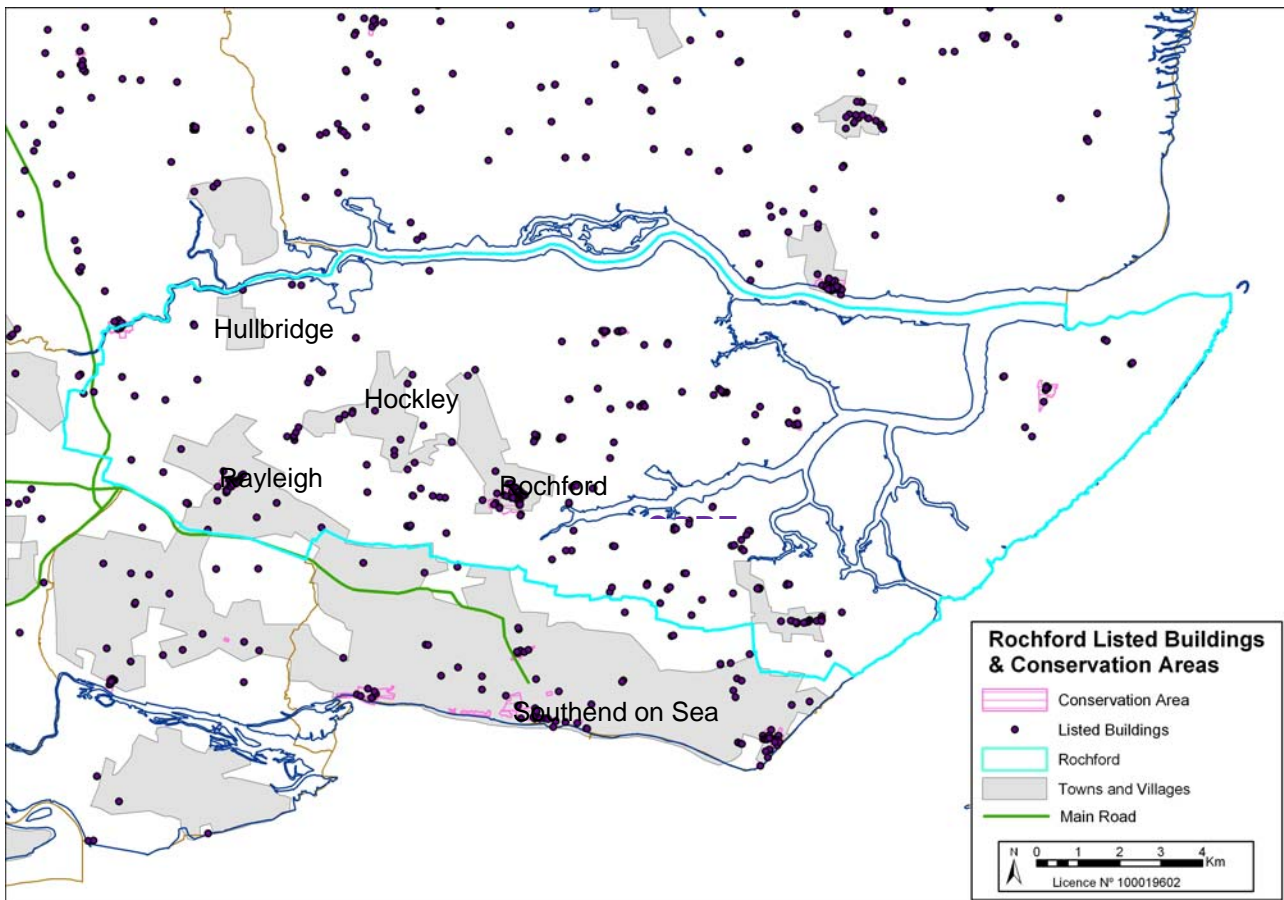
Type of Listed Building	Total Number
Grade I	2
Grade A	0
Grade II*	18
Grade B	0
Grade II	310
Grade C	0
Total	330

Note: Grade A = I, Grade B = II*, Grade C = II. These letter grades usually apply to churches and are gradually being phased out

Source: Essex County Council, Heritage, 2007

Rochford District has 330 listed buildings within its boundaries. The figure of 330 is significantly below that of the Districts with the largest amount of listed buildings, Braintree and Uttlesford, with 3182 and 3722 listed buildings respectively. There are two Grade I Listed buildings and 18 Grade II* which are the highest classifications for listed buildings.

Figure 40: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas in Rochford District



Source: Essex County Council, 2007

As can be seen from the figure above, there are clusters of listed buildings within the historic settlements with few in the more rural parts of the district.

i) Historic Buildings at Risk Register (BARR)

The Historic Buildings at Risk Register contains details of buildings known to be ‘at risk’ through neglect and decay, or vulnerable of becoming so. The objective of the Register is to outline the state of repair of these buildings with the intention of instigating action towards securing their long term conservation. Table 37 illustrates the number of buildings at risk, newly at risk and removed from the at risk register in 2005 2006 and 2007.

Table 37: Illustrates the Number of Buildings at Risk, Newly at Risk and Removed from the At Risk Register in 2004, 2005, and 2006

Administrative Area	At Risk			Newly At Risk			No Longer At Risk		
	2007	2006	2005	2007	2006	2005	2007	2006	2005
Basildon	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Braintree	24	31	32	3	3	4	10	5	4
Brentwood	9	11	10	0	2	2	4	1	0
Castle Point	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Chelmsford	12	5	6	4	11	0	4	1	2
Colchester	21	22	26	17	4	0	5	4	0
Epping Forest	15	14	15	0	1	1	0	1	0
Harlow	2	2	3	0	2	0	2	1	0
Maldon	10	11	11	0	0	2	1	2	0
Rochford	8	7	7	1	1	0	0	0	1
Tendring	22	20	27	4	7	0	5	7	2
Uttlesford	16	14	17	0	2	0	0	3	3
Total	158	156	173	39	33	11	21	27	15

Source: Adapted from Essex County Council, 2007

http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/Planning396/heritage_barr_introduction.pdf?channelOid=null

The register addresses a ‘moving target’ as whilst some buildings are repaired and taken off, others become ‘at risk’ and are added. The success of the Register may be measured by the number of buildings added, furthermore both the success and failure of the conservation measures employed is reflected in the numbers removed.

In 2007 there was a total of eight listed buildings registered as ‘at risk’. These are:

- Ridgemarsh Farmhouse, Court End, Foulness
- Barn SE of Ridgemarsh Farmhouse, Court End, Foulness
- Quay Farmhouse (Monkton Barns), Foulness
- Bake / Brewhouse 3m N of Quay Farmhouse, Foulness
- Dam and Tide Gate, off Chelmsford Rd, Battlesbridge
- Trenders Hall, Trenders Avenue, Rawreth
- Outbuilding at Apton Hall Farmhouse, Canewdon
- Clements Hall, Victor Gardens, Hawkwell
- Bay Tree Cottage, 50 Main Road, Hockley

This was an increase of one building as Bay Tree Cottage, Hockley was classed as newly at risk during 2007. There have been no buildings removed from the “at risk” register, since 2005. It is important to continually seek to remove buildings from the register.

B. Conservation Areas

Essex currently has 230 designated Conservation Areas of which Rochford District contains 10; with one designated jointly with Chelmsford. The Conservation Areas are defined as having ‘special architectural or historical interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance’. These are protected under the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act (1990). The objective of the Conservation Area designation is to ensure that the character of the defined area is preserved from developments which would not preserve or enhance its character.

Table 38 illustrates the name of the conservation area and the date of designation and/or last amendment, while Figure 40 shows the location of these.

Table 38: Conservation Area and the Date of Designation and/or Last Amendment

	Name	Date (amended)
1	Battlesbridge (with Chelmsford BC)	March 1992
2	Canewdon Church	March 1986
3	Canewdon High Street	March 1986
4	Foulness Churchend	March 1992
5	Great Wakering	March 1986 (March 2006)
6	Pagelsham Churchend	November 1973
7	Pagelsham East End	March 1986
8	Rayleigh	October 1969 (March 2001)
9	Rochford	June 1969 (March 2001)
10	Shopland Churchyard	March 1992

Rochford District Council 2007 <http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/main.asp?page=362&atoz=01>

C. Archaeology, Recorded sites and finds in Rochford

As with the rest of Essex, and indeed the rest of the UK it is true to say that the majority of archaeological sites and deposits in Rochford District remain buried, hidden and thus preserved. However, the known archaeological resource in the District is very varied and highly significant; there are approximately 3100 records of archaeological sites and finds, recorded on the Essex County Council’s Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). The archaeological deposits range in date from the Palaeolithic, through to structures related to the Cold War. However, it should also be remembered that the EHER records represent only the known deposits with many new sites being identified each year. Archaeological sites (and their setting) constitute a finite, non-renewable resource, vulnerable to damage.

D. Historic Landscape

The District is dominated by the urban areas of Rayleigh and Rochford. Both of these are mainly Post World War II developments, with smaller historic cores (both of which are designated Conservation Areas) located within them. The town of Rayleigh contains a fourteenth century church, and the moat of a Norman Royal Castle.

Beyond the urban areas there is generally a flat landscape around the coastal areas and gently undulating arable farmland around the rivers Crouch and Roach. There are many isolated farms and barns and small fringe villages.

Across the District, woodland is concentrated in large blocks in the centre of the area. Between the towns, narrow bands and broader areas of gently undulating arable farmland separate urban areas as does a complex network of major transportation routes.

The landscape of the District can be summarised into three categories; urban, farmland and coastal. Farmland areas, concentrated in areas surrounding the two rivers in the District, contain a network of lanes within which small settlements arise. The coastal areas of the District contain vast tidal mudflats and sands, extensive saltmarshes and arable farmland of reclaimed marshlands, intersected by ditches and dykes.

Information on exact locations of important sites can be found in the Historic Environment Record (HER).

i) Historic Landscape Character Assessment

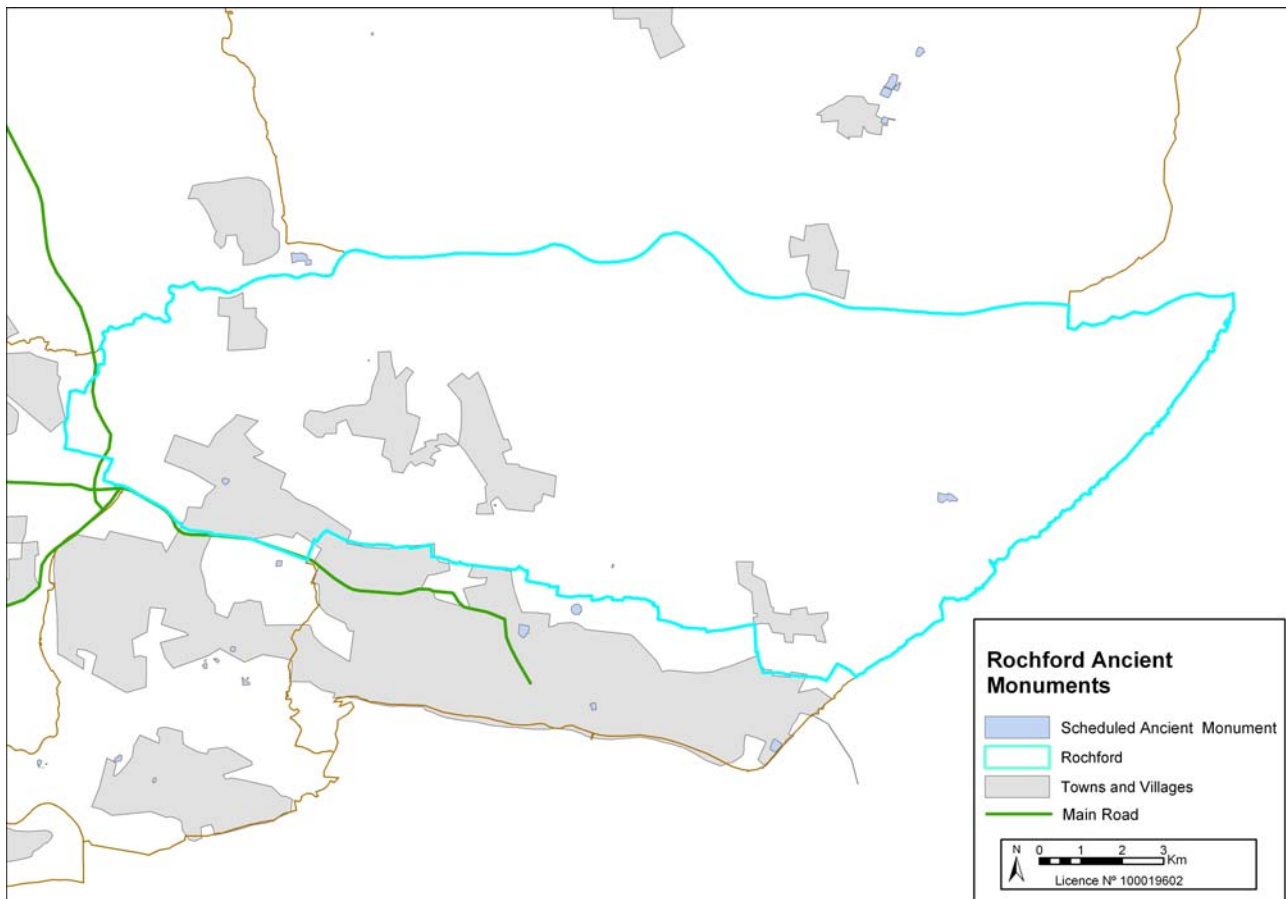
In development is the Essex Historic Landscape Character Area Descriptions. This is a document which focuses on the distinct Historic Landscape Character Areas of the County. It is similar to the Landscape Character Areas that are already well established.

E. Scheduled Monuments

Scheduled Monuments (SMs) are sites of national importance and protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The purpose of designating SMs is to preserve the monument for the future and protect it from damage, destruction or any unnecessary interference. Throughout Essex there are 300, ranging from prehistoric burial mounds to unusual examples of World War II defensive structures.

There are five SMs (Figure 41) in the District. These are:

- Plumberow Mount, Hockley (29397)
- Heavy Anti-aircraft gun site, 380m SE of Butler's Gate, Sutton (32430)
- Romano-British burial site on Foulness Island, Foulness (EX164)
- Rayleigh Castle, Rayleigh (EX39X)
- Rochford Hall (uninhabited portions), Rochford (EX41)

Figure 41: Scheduled Monuments

Source: Essex County Council 2007

F. Common Land and Registered Village Greens

Common land and Village Greens are defined as Cultural Assets in the Commons Act 2006. This Act replaces and clarifies the previous law on registering land as a town or village green and the laws relating to common land. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/20060026.htm>

Historically, 'common land' is land owned by one person over which another person is entitled to exercise rights of common (such as grazing animals or cutting bracken for livestock bedding). However legally this is more complicated, with varying legal definitions since the Metropolitan Commons Act 1866. An attempt to clarify the meaning of a right of common was to register all land under the 1965 Act. However, some common land was exempted from registration under the Act, and so is not registered as such, even though it is widely recognised as common land today (such as the New Forest and Epping Forest). Many commons are still important for agriculture and serve the economic interest of farming communities. At present there is a lack of effective mechanisms for managing agricultural activity, in particular grazing, on commons.

Village greens are defined as *any land on which a significant number of the inhabitants of any locality, or any neighbourhood within a locality, have indulged in lawful sports and pastimes, for 20 years*. Historically, many village greens developed when three principle roads meet in a village creating a triangular 'common' area, where *lawful pastimes* were established, such as village fetes and sports.

Within the Rochford district there are no registered village greens, or common land.

10.4 Cultural Heritage and Townscape Summary

- Rochford District holds 330 of Essex's total of 13,993 listed buildings. Of these 330, 2 are Grade 1 and 18 are Grade II*.
- In 2007, there were eight listed buildings on the Buildings at Risk register
- There was one listed building classed as newly at risk and no listed buildings removed from the register
- There are currently ten conservation areas in Rochford District.
- There are five Scheduled Monuments within the District
- Rochford District contains no registered village greens or commons.

11 HEALTH

11.1 Introduction

Health is of paramount importance to the sustainability of any community although until recently it hasn't formed a central part of the planning process. A good quality of health is inextricably linked to such factors as the potential for economic growth, poverty and other forms of deprivation, quality of life, population and housing.

11.2 Policy Context

A. National Context

i) National Planning Policies

National Planning Policies are published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in Planning Policy Statements (PPS) which are gradually replacing Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG). With respect to health, national guidance is presented in the following national planning policy document:

- Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005) states that sustainable development is the core principle underpinning planning, which affects everyone's quality of life.

(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147393>)

ii) Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation 1999

This government White Paper sets out how the Government proposes to save lives, promote healthier living and reduce inequality in health. This document is described as an action plan to tackle poor health. It is the first comprehensive Government plan focused on the main killers: cancer, coronary heart disease and stroke, accidents and mental illness. The document includes targets which have been set out by the Government which will need to be attained by 2010.

(<http://www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm43/4386/4386-00.htm>)

iii) Choosing Health: Making Healthy Choices Easier Government White Paper 2004

The Government White Paper emphasises the need to take positive action against ill health. It highlights that it is important to reduce the number of people who smoke, reduce obesity and improve diet and nutrition, increase exercise and encouraging sensible drinking.

(http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=2344&Rendition=Web)

iv) Draft Guidance on Health in Strategic Environmental Assessment, Department of Health, March 2007

This document has been written by the Department of Health, in collaboration with the Health Protection Agency, and has been prepared in consultation with the Department for Communities and Local Government. The guidance is intended to help local planning authorities assess the health effects of their plans and programmes.

(www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=136619&Rendition=Web)

v) A Guide to the NHS for Local Planning Authorities

This guide is to give planning authorities an overview of the NHS in England. It outlines the determinants of health and how planners impact on them. It also suggests how local planning authorities can interact with NHS organisations to deliver sustainable health and social care services.

(http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=150082&Rendition=Web)

B. Regional Context

i) Draft East of England Plan December 2004

The Draft East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy), prepared by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), was submitted to Government in December 2004. Following a period of public consultation the Plan was subject of an Examination in Public (EiP) between November 2005 and March 2006. The Report of the EiP Panel was published in June 2006. In December 2006 the Secretary of State published Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for a period of public consultation to March 2007. Following consideration of the consultation response, the Secretary of State issued some Further Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for public consultation between October-December 2007. These Changes incorporate the recommendations of an additional Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Secretary of State's publication of the final version of the East of England Plan is expected during the first quarter of 2008

- Policy SS3: Development in and adjoining urban areas
- Policy SS12: Health, education and social inclusion
- Policy SS16: Quality in the built environment
- Policy TG/SE2: Employment generating development
- Policy TG/SE5: Community Infrastructure
- Policy ST7: Implementation and delivery
- Policy H3: Phasing of housing development
- Policy ENV1: Environmental Infrastructure

(<http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=452>)

ii) Cultural South East Annual Report April 2003 – March 2005

The Regional Cultural Strategy states that there is a commitment to promoting the regenerative, health, learning and economic development benefits of cultural activity

(<http://www.culturesoutheast.org.uk/media/uploads/18/culture%20se%204.pdf>)

iii) Regional Housing Strategy 2005 - 2010

The Regional Housing Strategy recognises the relationship between poor housing and a range of physical and mental health conditions. An example of this is the need to design housing which will enable older people to live independently.

(<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Housing/2006-09-05%20Regional%20Housing%20Strategy%20Final.pdf>)

iv) Sustainable Futures – The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England October 2005

Crucial Regional Issue 6 in the Sustainable Futures strategy is that of health and well-being. It is suggested that there are substantial health inequalities in the East of England and that these can be correlated with measures of poverty. Economic growth can also be linked with health, with the 'long hour culture' considered to have adverse effects. A social infrastructure will need to be put in place which can support healthy communities and the housing needs of a wide range of people, which within the context of an ageing population may make the concept of 'lifetime homes' important. Transport is also identified as being linked to health as it is a barrier to escaping poverty and social exclusion through work.

The document states that health is influenced by 4 key groups. These are personal factors, individual behaviour and lifestyle choices, family, social and community support networks and living, working and environmental conditions.

([http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Integrated%20Regional%20Strategy/2005-10-06%20EERA%2031%20Sust%20Futures\(E\)%20Final.pdf](http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Integrated%20Regional%20Strategy/2005-10-06%20EERA%2031%20Sust%20Futures(E)%20Final.pdf))

v) Directions – The Vision and Strategy for Health and the NHS in Essex

The strategy sets out seven aims to improve the health service in Essex. This strategy was informed by both national and local consultation. For each of the seven aims, which include tackling smoking and obesity, planning health services in step with local development, and being able to achieve all aims within financial balance, there are sections which deal with both the current position of the health service within Essex and future action plans.

(<http://www.essex.nhs.uk/documents/howwefit/directions.pdf>)

C. Rochford Context

i) Rochford District Replacement Local Plan adopted 16th June 2006

The Rochford District Replacement Local Plan was formally adopted on 16th June 2006. The policies within the Local Plan of relevance to health are:

- Policy HP5 – Infrastructure
- Policy LT4 – Public Open Space
- Policy LT5 – New Public Open Space
- Policy LT6 – Private Open Space
- Policy LT7 – Safeguarding Open Space
- Policy LT8 – Indoor Sports & Leisure Facilities
- Policy LT9 – Children's Play Spaces
- Policy LT10 – New Play Space Provision
- Policy UT5 – Healthcare Provision
- Policy PN1 – Potentially Polluting Uses

(http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/pdf/planning_replacement_local_plan_small.pdf)

11.3 Baseline Information

The Health chapter opens with an analysis of age standardised mortality rates for cancer and heart disease. The expected life expectancy at birth within the District will be compared to Regional and National results as will the rate of teenage pregnancy. Following this will be an analysis of the proportion of Incapacity Benefit and Severe

Disablement Allowance to the total population. The chapter also includes information relating to sport participation and the availability of sport and leisure centres. The chapter concludes with a look at the public perception of the availability of leisure facilities, open space and activities for teenagers. This is looked at across the County and is broken down by Local Authority.

A. Directly Standardised Mortality Ratio

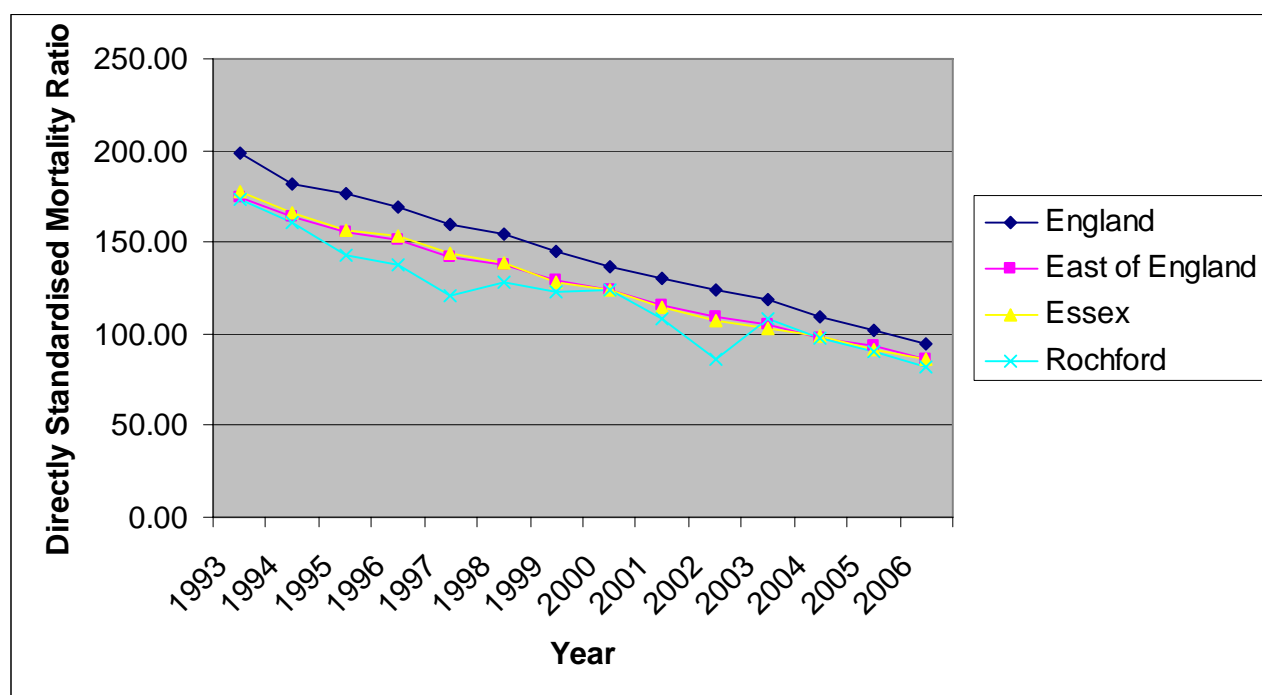
The directly standardised mortality rate is used for calculating the number of mortalities that would occur in a standard population (per 100,000) if that standard population had the age specific mortality rates of a given area. In this case the European standard population is used. Separate directly standardised mortality ratios are presented for coronary heart disease and cancer for both 'all ages' and those under 75. This distinction is made as deaths under the age of 75 are deemed 'early deaths' and are the most preventable.

Table 39: Directly Standardised Mortality Rate for Coronary Heart Disease across Essex 1993 – 2006 for All Ages

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England	198.17	181.87	175.96	169.53	159.82	154.79	145.15	136.18	130.05	124.40	119.18	109.40	101.91	94.11
East of England	174.36	163.77	155.54	151.03	142.06	138.09	129.72	123.50	116.01	109.30	104.91	98.07	93.50	86.06
Essex	177.40	165.83	156.37	152.87	144.36	138.26	128.63	123.57	114.73	106.97	102.52	98.56	91.83	86.64
Basilidon	195.82	178.82	171.25	163.20	152.05	142.41	147.93	122.40	109.73	111.11	99.92	100.89	90.29	97.60
Braintree	183.56	144.98	172.63	160.13	161.42	152.58	137.76	141.54	124.71	115.04	101.92	113.64	103.79	87.71
Brentwood	164.36	155.82	151.22	182.47	149.72	140.10	137.55	117.30	98.91	75.10	91.23	83.56	90.53	85.47
Castle Point	157.99	173.73	150.70	164.23	147.02	147.97	137.30	137.04	137.43	137.21	113.50	107.95	91.59	95.94
Chelmsford	159.15	164.35	157.89	147.77	140.59	145.27	110.78	120.29	120.18	97.60	102.55	87.13	77.54	70.60
Colchester	170.97	155.85	141.21	132.82	129.12	135.57	118.24	114.18	111.05	102.25	96.44	92.08	84.91	85.02
Epping Forest	170.59	173.04	143.59	141.74	131.15	132.45	122.70	117.81	98.38	105.38	91.26	97.13	93.71	95.48
Harlow	203.96	164.37	170.00	170.67	141.39	138.47	114.86	108.96	112.79	120.57	117.55	114.76	98.69	90.77
Maldon	189.28	190.00	175.69	152.64	160.61	140.07	130.92	134.13	115.12	107.63	118.71	117.74	102.38	82.74
Rochford	173.79	160.72	142.39	137.87	120.33	128.02	123.35	123.74	107.68	85.93	108.02	98.02	90.24	81.77
Tendring	182.15	167.15	153.19	143.83	141.42	134.88	134.74	125.52	113.25	118.58	96.29	96.94	101.40	92.06
Uttlesford	185.20	164.16	142.93	165.47	174.13	116.62	122.56	125.00	137.73	88.99	123.24	96.36	84.92	70.64

Source: Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base 2007 (<http://www.nchod.nhs.uk/>)

Figure 42: Rochford District Comparison of Directly Standardised Mortality Rate for Coronary Heart Disease 1993 – 2006 for All Ages



Source: Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base 2007 (<http://www.nchod.nhs.uk/>)

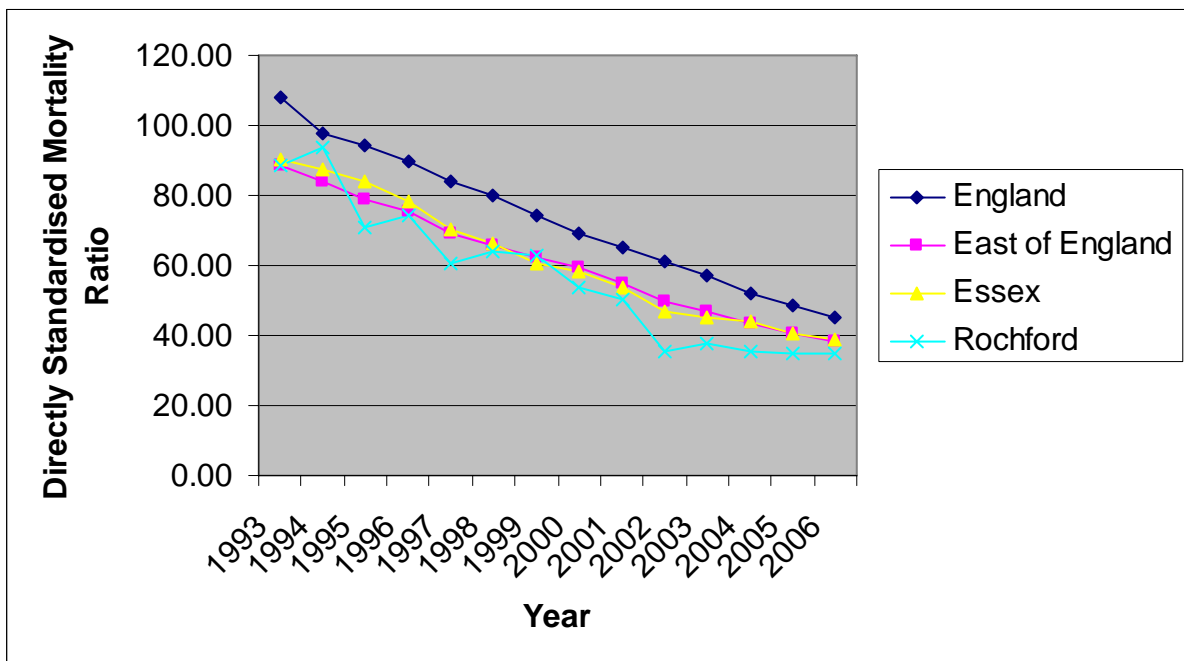
There has been a decrease in the number of deaths suffered by coronary heart disease at all geographical hierarchies represented in Figure 42. In 1993, 173.79 per 100,000 people could be expected to die from coronary heart disease in Rochford District. This had reduced to 81.77 by 2006. This is a lower 2006 mortality rate than that seen in England (94.11), East of England (86.06) and Essex (86.64). Between 1993 and 2006, mortality through coronary heart disease in Rochford District has largely been below that found in England, East of England and Essex. The only two exceptions to this rule can be found in 2000 and 2003. In the first instance, Rochford's mortality of 123.74 was 0.17 above that of Essex. In 2003 however, Rochford's mortality of 108.02 was above that of both Essex (102.49) and the East of England (104.87). The highest rate of mortality through coronary heart disease in Essex during 2006 can be found in Braintree District (97.6) and the lowest in Chelmsford (70.6). Across the study, mortality figures for England have been higher than that seen at the smaller geographical hierarchies. The mortality rate in Rochford District from coronary heart disease is the 6th lowest in the County.

Table 40: Directly Standardised Mortality Rate for Coronary Heart Disease across Essex 1993 – 2006 for People under 75.

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England	107.76	97.80	94.07	89.88	83.78	80.26	74.12	69.13	65.09	60.97	57.20	52.10	48.29	44.89
East of England	88.70	84.03	78.82	75.18	69.09	65.77	62.06	59.31	54.97	49.47	46.90	43.33	40.31	38.45
Essex	90.41	87.42	84.07	78.54	70.36	66.39	60.71	58.10	53.55	46.68	45.21	43.98	40.77	39.08
Basilidon	112.37	97.10	92.05	88.66	79.11	69.84	77.78	56.32	58.56	53.81	50.10	45.75	45.50	47.7
Braintree	96.18	72.39	96.33	81.97	73.63	62.14	56.37	62.18	48.39	48.47	43.79	48.48	43.92	39.99
Brentwood	78.12	71.49	77.77	88.58	64.77	62.34	57.56	55.39	46.77	27.10	42.11	29.88	49.72	32.86
Castle Point	79.19	114.35	89.27	75.64	72.73	78.29	70.18	68.61	54.74	62.89	47.07	43.22	35.32	39.63
Chelmsford	76.08	82.00	81.54	78.04	72.86	75.29	46.87	59.52	55.28	39.74	40.01	37.77	30.52	29.64
Colchester	82.69	78.04	75.27	63.88	62.29	65.39	53.54	51.26	57.77	39.63	41.38	39.06	35.13	36.71
Epping Forest	83.74	87.86	78.33	80.23	56.97	56.99	64.02	51.64	43.23	49.84	42.55	43.91	36.32	39.77
Harlow	107.60	96.99	109.66	96.97	87.04	81.77	65.65	57.57	52.28	57.87	58.65	58.38	50.46	41.46
Maldon	93.48	106.58	102.03	69.99	83.23	58.48	55.15	64.86	45.92	49.47	57.48	65.96	51.89	41.75
Rochford	88.49	93.71	71.03	74.33	60.36	64.01	62.72	53.94	50.02	35.40	37.87	35.44	34.64	35.13
Tendring	97.25	87.10	77.63	70.95	70.50	67.43	68.47	64.45	59.05	54.90	42.46	46.90	51.53	49.26
Uttlesford	80.72	71.79	64.21	79.44	68.21	51.13	40.96	52.80	58.25	32.35	49.85	45.27	29.05	28.48

Source: Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base 2007 (<http://www.nchod.nhs.uk/>)

Figure 43: Rochford District Comparison of Directly Standardised Mortality Rate for Coronary Heart Disease 1993 – 2006 for People under 75



Source: Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base 2007 (<http://www.nchod.nhs.uk/>)

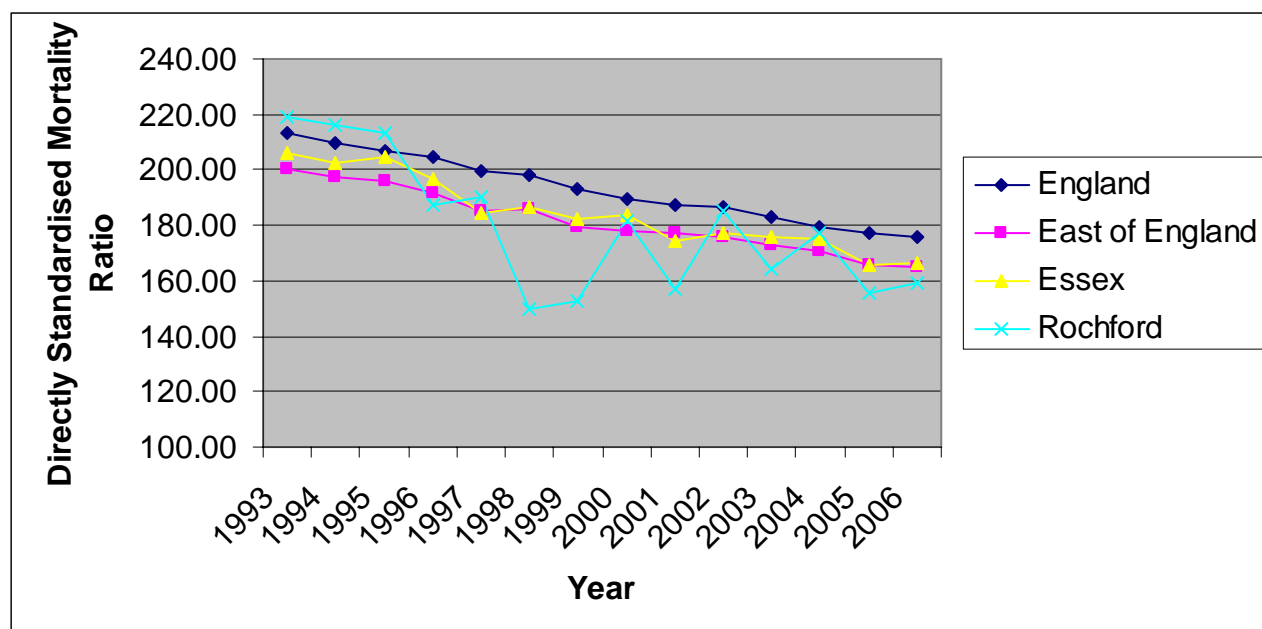
There has been a decrease in mortality from coronary heart disease in the under 75's between 1993 and 2006 at all geographical hierarchies. Excluding results from 1994 and 1999, Rochford District has had a lower cancer mortality rate in the under 75s than England, East of England and Essex. In 2006, Rochford District had a mortality rate of 35.13. This compares favourably to England (44.89), East of England (38.45) and Essex (39.08). Between 1999 and 2006 it can be seen that the mortality rate in England is decreasing at a quicker rate than that seen in the East of England and Essex. Across the period of study, the coronary heart disease mortality rate in the under 75s has more than halved in the District. This is also the case in England, the East of England and Essex. The 2006 mortality rate in Rochford District was the 4th lowest in the County, down from 3rd lowest in the County in 2005.

Table 41: Directly Standardised Mortality Rate for All Cancers across Essex 1993 – 2006 for All Ages

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England	213.28	209.97	206.99	204.88	199.23	198.23	193.05	189.37	187.51	186.73	182.90	179.45	177.14	175.6
East of England	200.31	197.53	195.72	191.76	185.37	185.95	179.59	178.02	177.05	176.07	173.13	170.96	165.69	164.69
Essex	205.81	202.41	204.70	196.59	184.62	186.87	182.27	183.67	174.60	177.35	175.63	175.10	165.35	166.69
Basildon	241.07	205.52	238.51	214.91	197.32	209.76	198.72	175.34	173.67	216.23	199.51	187.02	180.04	197.56
Braintree	167.56	205.13	190.70	167.52	169.28	189.13	182.97	176.36	174.15	183.73	208.93	153.22	156.40	149.7
Brentwood	177.74	205.17	200.66	201.56	181.71	169.69	178.86	193.17	136.60	165.86	145.19	163.11	145.91	170.95
Castle Point	189.95	224.08	213.57	223.51	195.71	189.15	195.62	205.31	182.06	191.39	190.41	189.38	151.52	174.1
Chelmsford	198.68	184.69	184.17	170.31	174.95	181.42	178.05	162.45	172.92	160.03	160.34	179.53	160.60	147.64
Colchester	197.94	204.26	194.66	190.00	183.43	189.66	179.51	189.04	168.44	160.09	161.28	158.42	160.60	157.06
Epping Forest	226.18	199.31	190.14	201.72	170.19	194.44	191.00	200.51	182.99	177.96	165.98	175.91	164.01	170.71
Harlow	243.97	205.53	208.72	247.03	213.03	189.52	188.23	217.22	214.24	180.00	199.17	160.78	179.41	176.71
Maldon	217.84	214.97	230.94	208.70	209.42	180.81	148.53	166.77	190.24	139.35	185.73	209.44	158.73	191.95
Rochford	219.41	216.49	213.40	187.42	190.00	149.76	152.77	181.65	156.92	185.08	164.37	177.57	155.89	158.85
Tendring	212.51	194.65	208.18	192.81	189.28	198.66	186.85	188.17	184.52	181.78	172.78	179.64	183.32	160.52
Uttlesford	181.60	202.43	194.94	192.38	161.26	156.22	176.91	163.54	165.93	160.88	146.96	179.68	169.82	166.45

Source: Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base 2007 (<http://www.nchod.nhs.uk/>)

Figure 44: Rochford District Comparison of Directly Standardised Mortality Rate for All Cancers 1993 – 2006 for All Ages



Source: Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base 2007 (<http://www.nchod.nhs.uk/>)

Whilst there appears to be more variance in the trend witnessed for Rochford District, it is recognised that direct standardisation (and indirect standardisation) will show a wider variation in its results when the calculations are made using a relatively smaller population and therefore a smaller number of deaths. The fact that directly standardised calculations

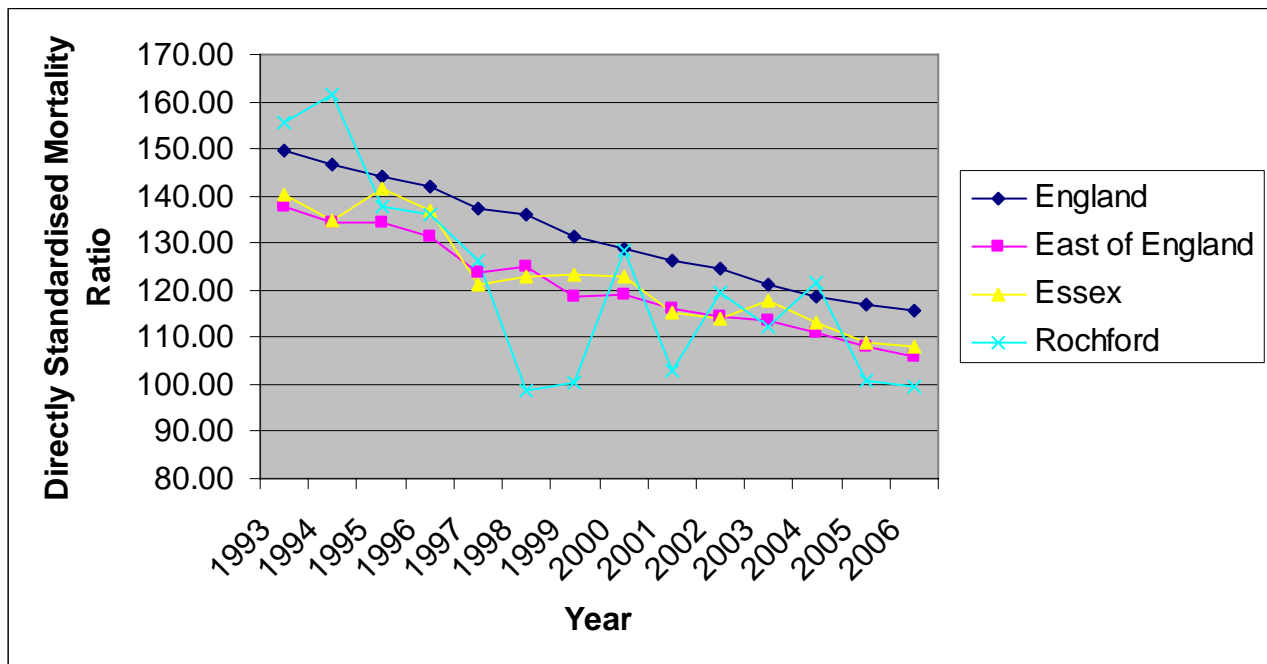
are also based on the number of deaths in separate age groups further exacerbates this problem. It can be said that mortality rates from cancer have reduced in the District, from 219.41 per 100,000 people in 1993 to 158.85 in 2006. Whilst Rochford District had the highest mortality rate for all cancers for people of all ages in 1993, it had the lowest by 2006. Rochford District's current mortality rate of 158.85 compares favourably to 175.6 in England, 164.69 in the East of England and 166.69 in Essex. The highest rate in Essex in 2006 was found in Basildon (197.56) and the lowest in Braintree (147.64). Rochford District's 2006 mortality rate was the 4th lowest in the County.

Table 42: Directly Standardised Mortality Rate for All Cancers across Essex 1993 – 2006 for People Under 75

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
England	149.56	146.63	144.21	142.18	137.23	135.96	131.52	128.66	126.07	124.76	121.34	118.82	116.84	115.54
East of England	137.80	134.16	134.24	131.55	123.76	125.12	118.67	119.17	116.29	114.44	113.58	110.93	108.18	105.91
Essex	140.22	134.58	141.59	136.88	121.25	122.80	123.16	122.67	115.17	114.06	117.75	113.15	108.55	108
Basildon	164.11	143.27	166.98	148.92	137.88	141.63	132.45	108.57	119.30	140.37	133.09	130.08	123.38	130.57
Braintree	110.66	137.58	132.77	113.16	113.74	114.42	124.33	108.73	112.74	122.75	137.40	92.36	102.06	102.03
Brentwood	113.39	123.52	130.72	139.84	97.76	110.10	112.48	124.11	83.84	112.38	92.04	99.38	95.60	116.29
Castle Point	131.42	141.60	147.43	162.10	133.04	129.02	129.34	135.68	110.83	111.37	121.93	126.57	100.63	114.07
Chelmsford	137.46	119.08	125.23	113.44	116.54	117.16	112.12	104.43	109.37	101.85	107.44	109.61	104.11	88.61
Colchester	127.43	141.33	136.99	125.07	117.11	122.94	129.61	128.06	106.29	100.56	110.02	95.33	100.78	107.76
Epping Forest	151.43	127.62	129.72	133.11	108.83	125.44	129.95	138.55	122.14	113.53	110.39	116.61	105.23	109.44
Harlow	147.98	123.03	142.29	178.49	136.22	130.63	129.98	152.95	150.71	113.83	137.56	102.64	118.35	120.62
Maldon	162.70	150.32	166.43	154.65	140.80	133.25	93.43	109.51	130.01	87.99	121.41	148.37	108.88	117.17
Rochford	155.77	161.66	137.71	135.94	126.15	98.88	100.35	128.35	102.90	119.57	112.22	121.53	100.96	99.44
Tendring	148.88	128.12	147.13	140.07	128.78	133.74	134.40	133.61	128.57	120.86	118.89	118.27	125.57	102.93
Uttlesford	135.65	135.71	135.19	129.77	94.12	92.32	109.93	108.17	108.63	100.07	103.44	108.52	107.04	97.26

Source: Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base 2007 (<http://www.nchod.nhs.uk>)

Figure 45: Rochford District Comparison of Directly Standardised Mortality Rate for All Cancers 1993 – 2006 for People Under 75



Source: Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base 2007 (<http://www.nchod.nhs.uk>)

There has been a decrease in mortality from all cancers in the under 75's between 1993 and 2006 at all geographical hierarchies. In 1993 it can be seen that Rochford District had a higher cancer mortality ratio (155.77) in the under 75's than England (149.56), East of England (137.8) and Essex (140.22). By 2006 however, Rochford District's mortality ratio had fallen to 99.44, lower than England (115.54), East of England (105.91) and Essex

(108). In 2006, Rochford District's mortality rate in the under 75s from all cancers was the third lowest in the County.

B. Life Expectancy

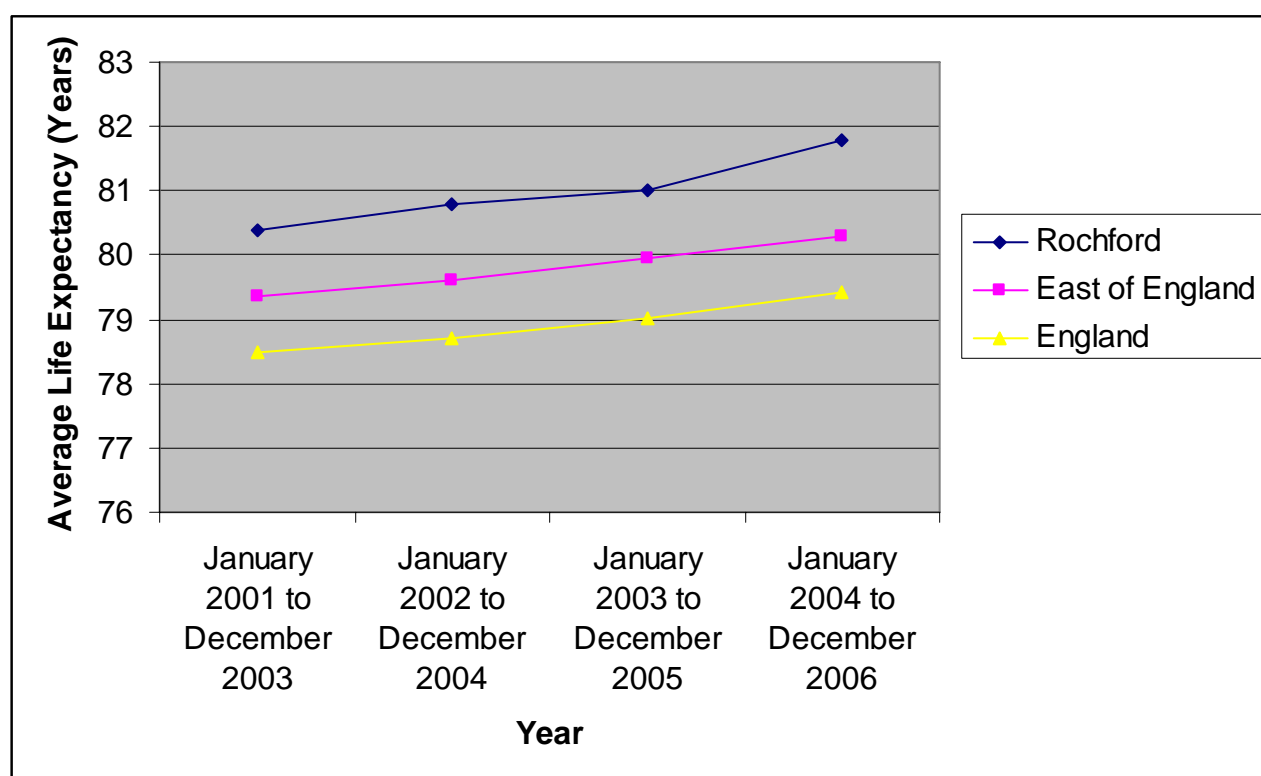
Table 43 below highlights the average life expectancy of Rochford District, East of England and England residents at birth. Male and female life expectancies have been amalgamated. Please note that all references to 'life expectancy' should be taken to mean 'life expectancy at birth' in the remainder of this section.

Table 43: Average Life Expectancy at Birth in Rochford District, East of England and England

Year	Rochford	East of England	England
January 2001 to December 2003	80.40	79.35	78.48
January 2002 to December 2004	80.80	79.60	78.72
January 2003 to December 2005	81.00	79.95	79.02
January 2004 to December 2006	81.80	80.30	79.44

Source: Office for National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>)

Figure 46: Average Life Expectancy at Birth in Rochford District, East Of England And England



Source: Office for National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>)

Life expectancy has increased in all geographic regions in the above graph, with 2001 – 2003 representing the period that each geographic region reported the lowest life expectancy, and 2004 – 2006 the highest. In 2001 - 2003, Rochford District residents had a life expectancy of 80.4 years, above both the 79.35 reported in the East of England and 78.48 reported in England. By 2004 – 2006, residents within Rochford District had an average life expectancy of 81.8. Again above the East of England value of 80.3 and the England value of 79.44. Between 2001 and 2006, Rochford has had a higher life

expectancy than that seen in the East of England, whilst both the East of England and Rochford District have reported a higher life expectancy than England across the study. The rate of increase witnessed in life expectancy remained relatively constant across all hierarchies until 2004 – 2006, where life expectancy increased at a quicker rate in the District relative to the East of England and England.

C. Teenage Pregnancy

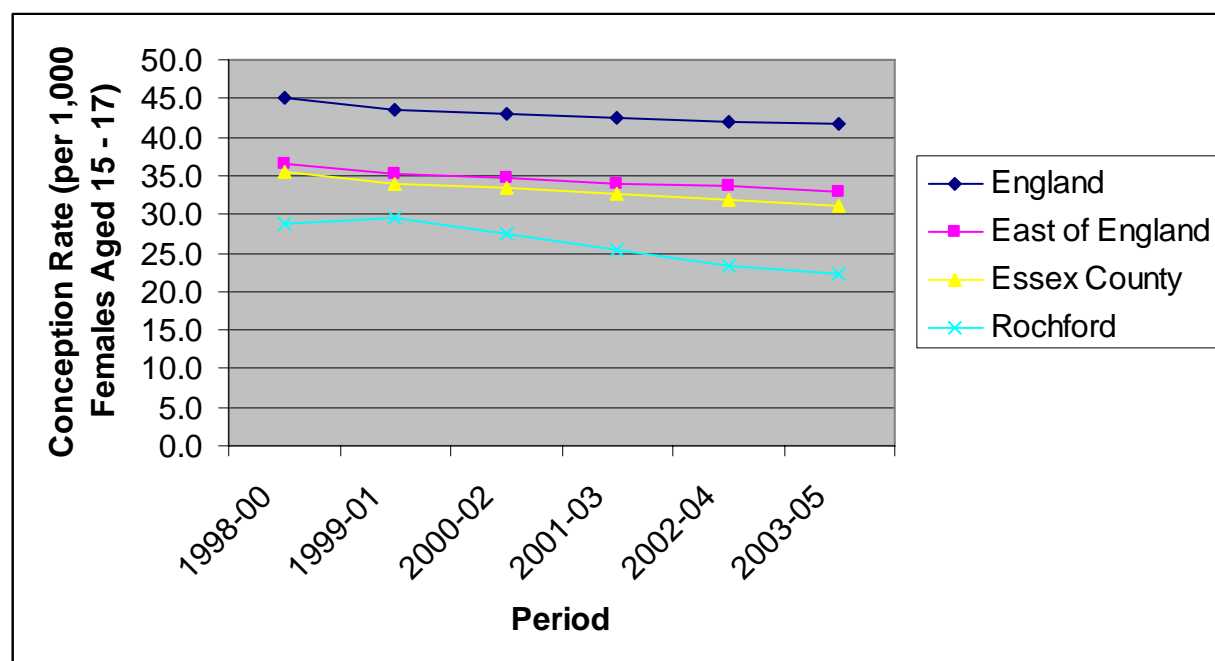
Table 44 highlights the number of teenage conceptions and the conception rate per 1,000 of the female population aged between 15 and 17 across Essex, with national and regional results included to allow comparison. A trend analysis for Rochford District is then presented covering the years 1998 – 2005, and then following this 2003 – 2005 results across Essex are graphed in Figure 48.

Table 44: Teenage Conception Rates Across Essex Per 1,000 Females Aged 15 - 17

Area of Residence	1998-00		1999-01		2000-02		2001-03		2002-04		2003-05	
	Number	Rate (per 1,000)	Number	Rate (per 1,000)	Number	Rate (per 1,000)	Number	Rate (per 1,000)	Number	Rate (per 1,000)	Number	Rate (per 1,000)
England and Wales	127,496	45.4	124,367	43.9	124,290	43.1	125,103	42.6	126,311	42.3	126,547	41.7
England	119,036	45.0	116,408	43.6	116,511	42.9	117,364	42.4	118,496	42.1	118,829	41.6
East of England	10,343	36.5	10,062	35.2	10,066	34.6	10,109	34.0	10,190	33.6	10,198	33.0
Essex County	2,407	35.4	2,319	33.9	2,327	33.5	2,322	32.6	2,343	31.9	2,340	31.0
Basildon	486	53.5	449	49.7	463	51.1	490	53.1	475	50.3	456	47.2
Braintree	220	33.0	209	31.6	201	29.5	210	29.6	209	28.0	241	31.3
Brentwood	79	22.1	78	21.8	81	22.9	81	22.5	80	21.6	68	17.8
Castle Point	148	32.6	148	31.6	150	30.8	154	30.3	162	31.2	166	31.9
Chelmsford	237	27.3	218	25.2	215	24.8	210	23.5	227	24.6	222	23.3
Colchester	329	40.4	330	40.9	331	40.9	304	36.5	287	33.2	297	33.2
Epping Forest	167	29.0	167	27.8	157	25.2	150	23.5	164	25.2	172	25.4
Harlow	216	49.3	207	46.6	205	45.7	204	45.0	228	49.8	227	49.6
Maldon	70	23.7	63	21.1	69	22.8	69	22.0	75	23.2	79	23.8
Rochford	118	28.7	121	29.6	114	27.4	108	25.3	102	23.4	100	22.4
Tending	274	44.1	275	43.5	288	44.2	287	42.7	277	39.8	256	35.6
Uttlesford	63	15.9	54	13.8	53	13.6	55	13.8	57	13.9	56	13.3

Source: Audit Commission 2007 ([http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/\(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55\)/DataProfile.aspx?entity=0](http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55)/DataProfile.aspx?entity=0))

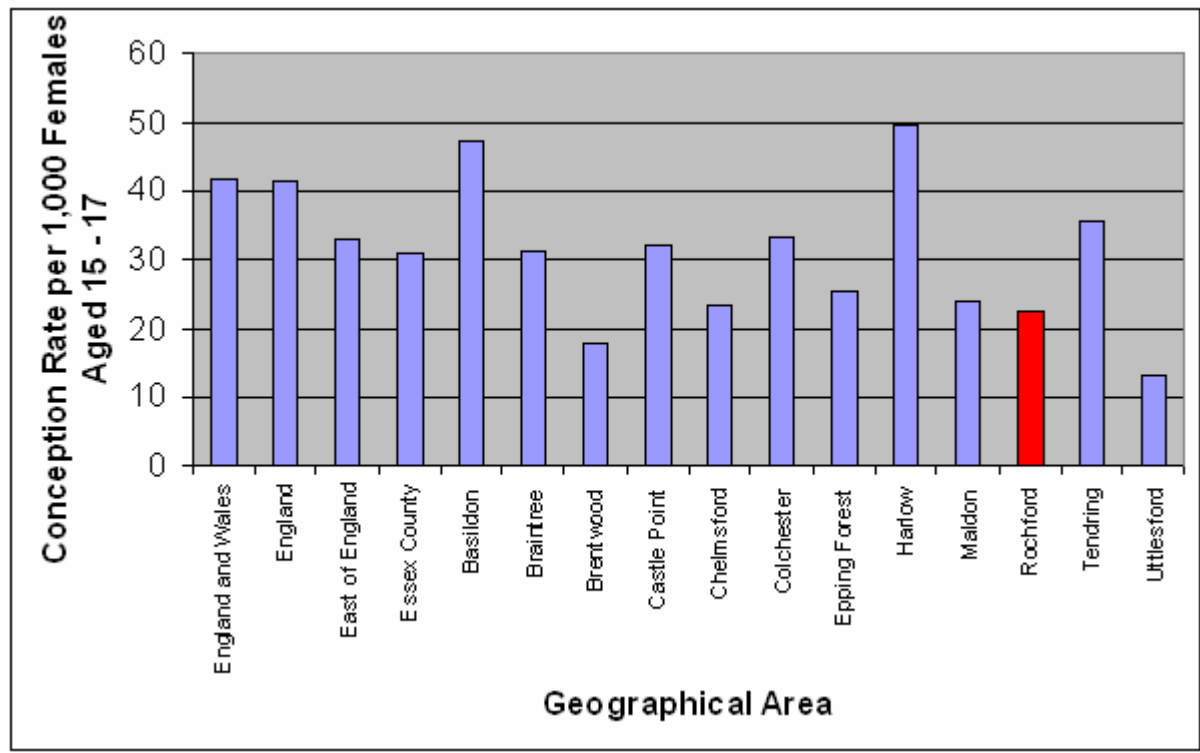
Figure 47: Teenage Conception Rate Trend Analysis 1998 - 2005



Source: Audit Commission 2007 ([http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/\(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55\)/DataProfile.aspx?entity=0](http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55)/DataProfile.aspx?entity=0))

Teenage conception rates have been lower in Rochford District than England, East of England and Essex County. Between 1999 and 2005, the teenage conception rate has fallen at a quicker rate in the District than at the other hierarchies. Between 1998 and 2001 there was a marginal increase in conception rate in the District, from 28.7 to 29.6. This is the only increase seen across all hierarchies in the above figure. The most recent figures report a teenage conception rate of 22.4 in the District, 31.0 in Essex, 33.0 in the East of England and 41.6 in England. Throughout the study, the national teenage conception rate has been above that of the East of England, itself marginally above that of Essex.

Figure 48: Teenage Conception Rate (Per 1,000 Females Aged 15 – 17) In 2003 - 2005



Source: Audit Commission 2007 ([http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/\(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55\)/DataProfile.aspx?entity=0](http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55)/DataProfile.aspx?entity=0))

Rochford District has the third lowest teenage conception rate in Essex. Harlow District had the highest rate at 49.6 per 1,000 females aged 15 – 17, and Uttlesford the lowest at 13.3. The Essex average was reported as 31 in 2003 – 2005.

D. Incapacity Benefit And Severe Disablement Allowance

Incapacity Benefit is paid to people who are assessed as being incapable of work due to six defined reasons. These are mental disorders, diseases of the nervous system, disease of the respiratory or circulatory system, muscular skeletal disease, injury or poisoning and ‘other’.

Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) claimants have to be aged between 16 and 65, been unable to work for at least 28 weeks and are unable to get Incapacity Benefit. Since April 2001 it has not been possible to make a new claim for SDA.

There now follows a table detailing the breakdown in Incapacity Benefit and SDA claimants in Rochford District, the East of England, and England.

Table 45: Total Incapacity Benefit and SDA Claimants in February 2007

	Rochford		East of England		England	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Working Age Population Estimate (June 2006)	51,540		3644800		33449740	
Total	2005	3.89%	179920	4.94%	2180940	6.52%
Claimant Type						
Total Incapacity Benefit Claimants	1775	88.53%	158260	87.96%	1958560	89.80%
Total Severe Disablement Allowance Claimants	230	11.47%	21660	12.04%	222380	10.20%
Male	1105	55.11%	101275	56.29%	1262040	57.87%
Female	900	44.89%	78645	43.71%	918900	42.13%
Age of Claimant						
Claimants Aged 16-24	130	6.48%	11915	6.62%	136660	6.27%
Claimants Aged 25-49	855	42.64%	85875	47.73%	1038750	47.63%
Claimants Aged 50-59	720	35.91%	58630	32.59%	724355	33.21%
Claimants Aged 60 and Over	300	14.96%	23495	13.06%	281110	12.89%
Claim Duration						
Claim Duration Less Than 6 Months	165	8.23%	17495	9.72%	206150	9.45%
Claim Duration 6 Months-1 Year	140	6.98%	11600	6.45%	128430	5.89%
Claim Duration 1-2 Years	185	9.23%	17085	9.50%	192535	8.83%
Claim Duration 2-5 Years	415	20.70%	38520	21.41%	462395	21.20%
Claim Duration 5 Years and Over	1100	54.86%	95220	52.92%	1191430	54.63%

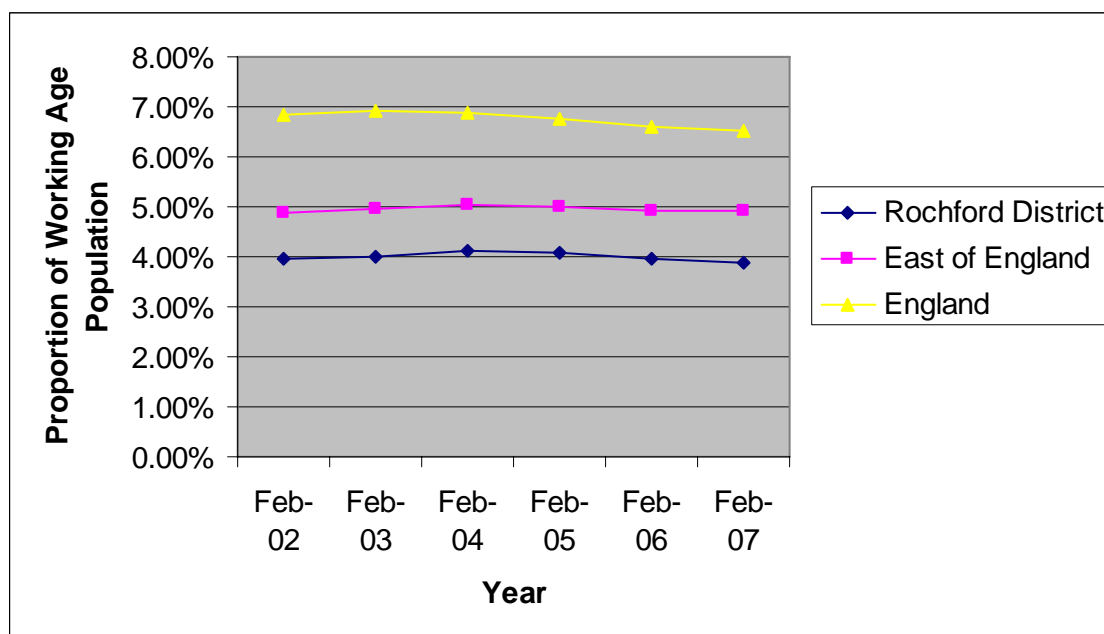
Source: Office of National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>) Please note that 'Working Age' includes people ages 16 – 65.

Table 45 highlights the fact that the proportion of residents in Rochford District receiving benefits, at 3.89%, is lower than that witnessed in the East of England (4.94%) and England (6.52%). The main deviation from the regional and national situation in the District is in the proportion of 25-49 year olds receiving benefit. This was recorded as 42.64% of all claimants in the District, below the 47.73% recorded in the East of England and 47.63% in England. All other categories are within approximately 2% – 3% of each other across the geographical hierarchies.

Table 46: Total Incapacity Benefit and SDA Claimants as a Percentage of Working Age Population

Geographical Region	Total Claimants as Percentage of Total Population					
	Feb-02	Feb-03	Feb-04	Feb-05	Feb-06	Feb-07
Rochford District	3.97%	3.99%	4.12%	4.10%	3.98%	3.89%
East of England	4.90%	4.95%	5.02%	5.01%	4.91%	4.94%
England	6.85%	6.90%	6.88%	6.78%	6.61%	6.52%

Source: Office of National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>) Please note that 'Working Age' includes people ages 16 – 65 and that a population estimate for June 2006 had to be used for February 2007 figures as this was the latest data available.

Figure 49: Total Claimants as a Percentage of Total Population

Source: Office of National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>)

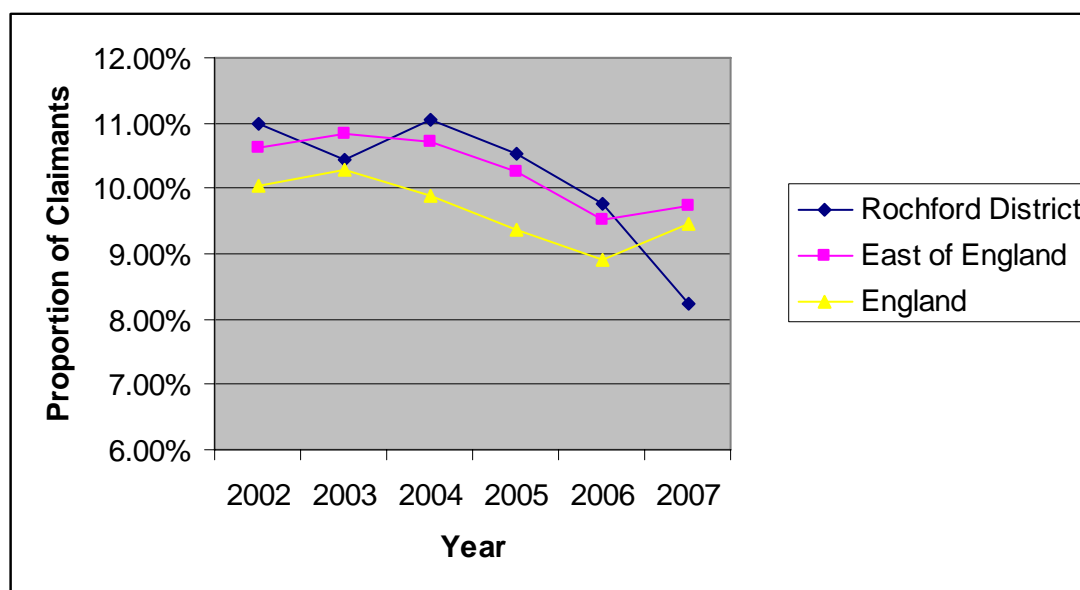
The proportion of people claiming benefits has consistently been lower in Rochford District than either the East of England or England. Across the period of study, the proportion of claimants has fallen in Rochford District and England but has risen from 4.90% to 4.94% in the East of England. The proportion of benefit claimants peaked in February 2004 within Rochford District at 4.12% and stood at 3.89% in February 2007. February 2007 figures for the East of England and England are 4.94% and 6.52% respectively. February 2004 also represents the peak of claimants in the East of England and England.

Table 47: Proportion of Claimants Claiming Incapacity Benefit / Severe Disability Allowance for a Period of Less Than Six Months

Year	Less Than 6 Months		
	Rochford District	East of England	England
Feb-02	11.00%	10.61%	10.05%
Feb-03	10.45%	10.82%	10.28%
Feb-04	11.06%	10.73%	9.89%
Feb-05	10.53%	10.27%	9.36%
Feb-06	9.76%	9.53%	8.90%
Feb-07	8.23%	9.72%	9.45%

Source: Office of National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>)

Figure 50: Proportion of Claimants Claiming Incapacity Benefit / Severe Disability Allowance for a Period of Less Than Six Months



Source: Office of National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>)

The proportion of short term claimants peaked in the District at 11.06% in 2004. This is also the highest percentage witnessed across any of the geographical hierarchies. By 2007, 8.23% of claimants in the District had been claiming for a period of less than 6 months. This is lower than both the East of England (9.72%) and England (9.45%) proportions in 2007, and is also the single lowest proportion across all hierarchies for all years.

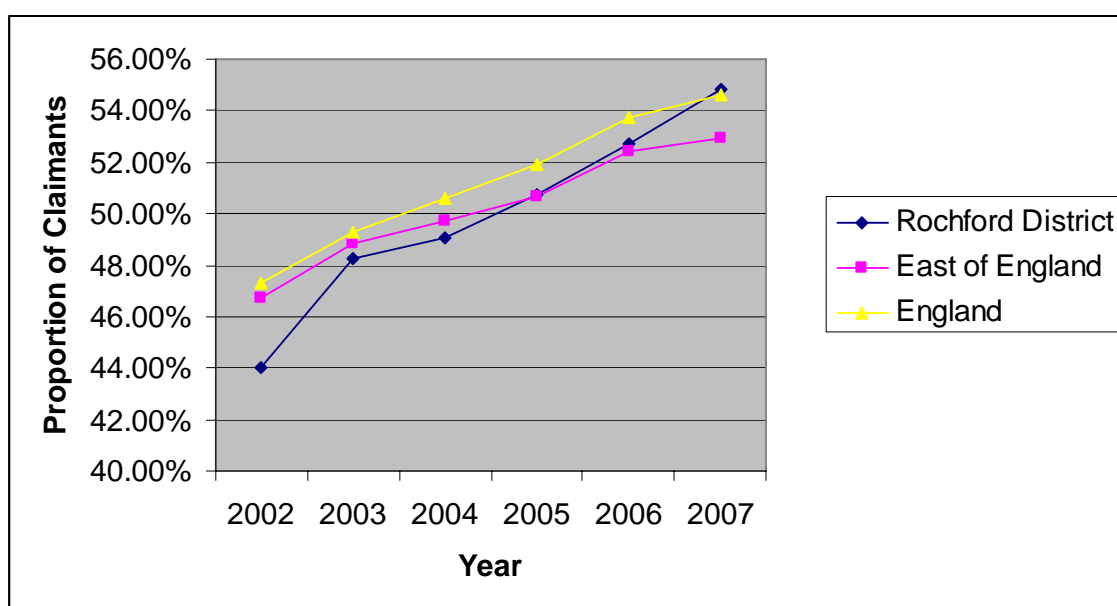
Both the East of England and England display a noticeable upturn in the proportion of short term claimants between 2005 and 2006. In both instances however, the result of this upturn in 2006 is still below the proportion of claimants in 2002, and is the single upturn in reported figures across the study.

Table 48: Comparison between Proportion Of Claimants Claiming Incapacity Benefit / Severe Disability Allowance For A Period Over 5 Years

Year	More Than 5 Years		
	Rochford District	East of England	England
Feb-02	44.00%	46.74%	47.28%
Feb-03	48.26%	48.82%	49.28%
Feb-04	49.04%	49.68%	50.61%
Feb-05	50.72%	50.67%	51.94%
Feb-06	52.68%	52.42%	53.76%
Feb-07	54.86%	52.92%	54.63%

Source: Office of National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>)

Figure 51: Proportion Of Claimants Claiming Incapacity Benefit / Severe Disability Allowance For A Period Over 5 Years



Source: Office of National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>)

The proportion of benefit claimants who have claimed for a period of over 5 years can be seen to have increased at all geographical hierarchies. In 2002, Rochford District, at 44% of all claimants, had the lowest proportion of long term claimants. In comparison, the East of England reported 46.74% and England 47.28%. By 2007, Rochford District had the highest proportion at 54.86%, compared to 52.92% in the East of England and 54.63% nationally. Across all hierarchies there has been a year on year increase in the proportion of claimants who have been claiming for a period of 5 years or longer.

E. Participation in Sport

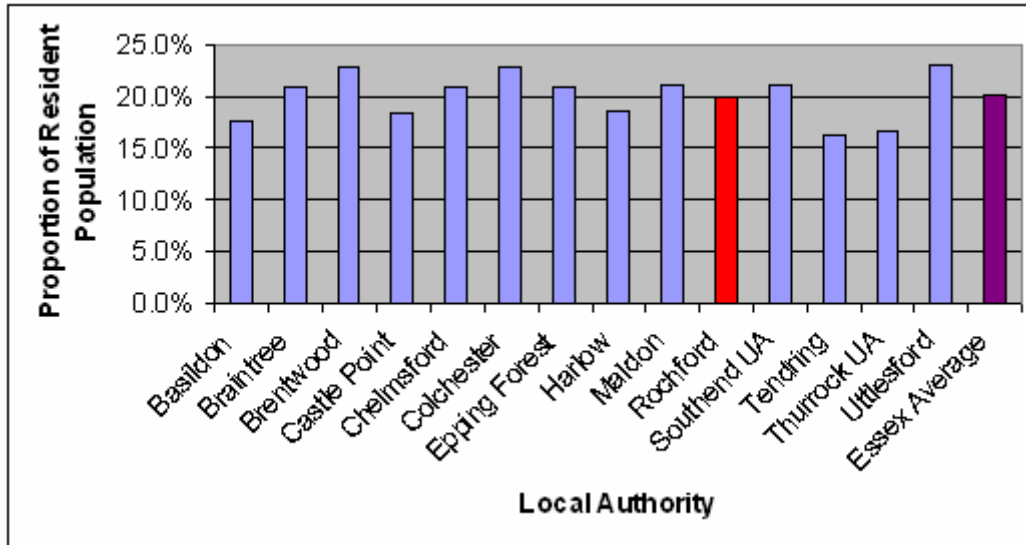
The following results have been taken from the Active People Survey carried out by Sport England in 2006. The definition of 'participation' in this instance is a measure of the percentage of the adult population who participate in at least 30 minutes of sport and active recreation of at least moderate intensity at least 3 days a week. Walking and cycling are included in this measure.

Table 49: Participation in Sport across Essex County October 2005 – October 2006

Local Authority	All	Gender		Age			Ethnic		Limiting disability	
		Male	Female	16 to 34	35 to 54	55+	White	Non white	Yes	No
Basildon	17.6%	21.7%	13.8%	25.6%	19.8%	8.1%	17.4%	20.9%	7.6%	19.3%
Braintree	20.9%	20.9%	21.0%	30.1%	23.3%	11.6%	21.0%	19.0%	9.7%	22.7%
Brentwood	22.7%	22.9%	22.6%	28.7%	25.5%	16.4%	22.8%	21.5%	7.7%	24.9%
Castle Point	18.3%	23.3%	13.7%	30.4%	21.3%	9.1%	18.0%	32.1%	6.0%	20.7%
Chelmsford	20.9%	21.7%	20.1%	31.3%	19.2%	13.8%	21.1%	15.1%	6.9%	22.7%
Colchester	22.9%	23.3%	22.6%	31.5%	28.1%	9.6%	22.7%	27.8%	15.0%	24.3%
Epping Forest	20.9%	23.1%	18.8%	30.9%	22.4%	12.2%	20.8%	22.4%	8.6%	22.6%
Harlow	18.5%	22.5%	14.8%	28.4%	18.6%	8.3%	18.2%	22.2%	8.5%	20.4%
Maldon	21.0%	23.5%	18.5%	31.0%	23.9%	12.5%	21.1%	14.8%	6.2%	23.5%
Rochford	19.9%	22.6%	17.4%	32.3%	23.7%	9.3%	20.2%	4.7%	10.5%	21.5%
Southend UA	21.0%	25.6%	16.7%	32.4%	21.5%	12.0%	21.1%	18.4%	7.3%	23.6%
Tendring	16.2%	17.3%	15.1%	29.0%	17.9%	9.9%	16.2%	13.2%	5.5%	18.8%
Thurrock UA	16.6%	18.7%	14.7%	22.4%	19.2%	7.7%	17.1%	12.2%	9.7%	17.9%
Uttlesford	23.1%	23.0%	23.1%	35.6%	23.5%	14.6%	23.5%	0.0%	5.8%	25.8%
Essex Average	20.0%	22.2%	18.1%	30.0%	22.0%	11.1%	20.1%	17.5%	8.2%	22.1%

Source: Sport England Active People Survey 2006 (http://www.webreport.se/apd/2/rt2_main.aspx)

Figure 52: Participation in Sport across Essex County October 2005 – October 2006



Source: Sport England Active People Survey 2006 (http://www.webreport.se/apd/2/rt2_main.aspx)

Figure 52 shows that the percentage of adults participating in sport across the District, at 19.9%, is below the Essex County average of 20%. This is the 5th lowest proportion in Essex. 22.6% of males are recorded as participating in sport, with 17.4% of females also participating. On a county wide basis, these figures are 22.2% and 18.1% respectively. Within the District, there is a higher proportion of 16 to 34 and 35 – 54 year olds participating in sport but a lower percentage of those aged 55 or above. Across Essex, 17.5% of ethnic minorities participate in sporting activity whilst the proportion in Rochford, at 4.7%, is less than a third of this. The District does however have a larger proportion of those with a limiting disability engaging in sport, 10.5% compared to 8.2%.

F. Choice of Sporting Facility

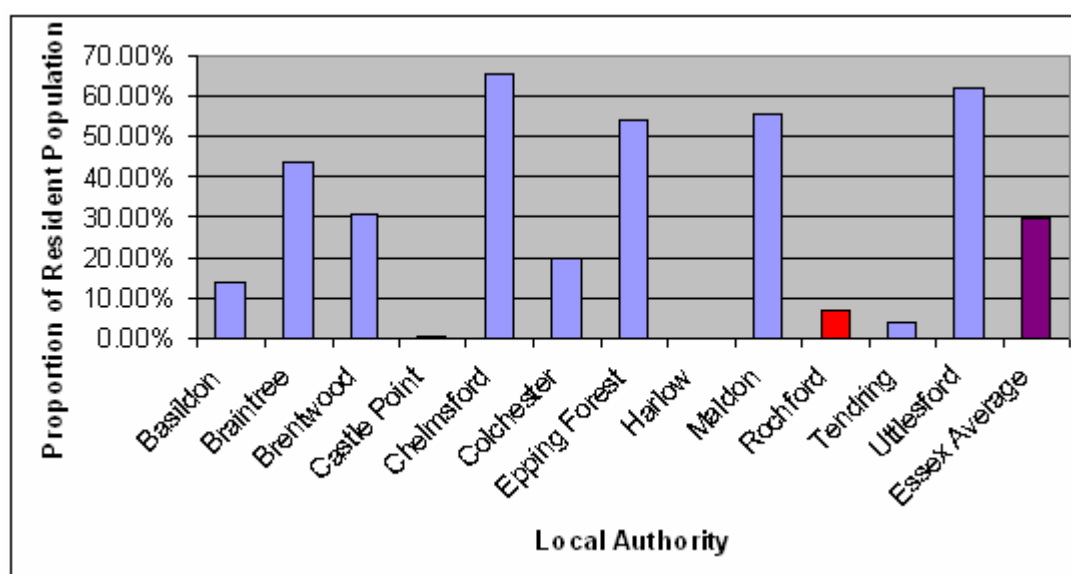
Residents who have a range of sporting facilities within a short journey of their residence are more likely to use such facilities and reap the health benefits of doing so. The following table highlights the percentage of residents in an area who have access to at least 3 sporting facilities within 20 minutes travel time, with at least one of these being awarded a quality mark. The 20 minute journey time constraint is dependent on the type of area lived in, meaning a 20 minute walk in urban areas and a 20 minute drive in rural areas.

Table 50: Percentage of Residents Living Within 20 Minutes Travelling Time of 3 Different Types of Sporting Facility of which At Least One Has a Quality Mark

	Dec-05	Dec-06	June -07 (interim)
Basildon	13.60%	13.63%	13.63%
Braintree	46.40%	53.37%	43.68%
Brentwood	30.80%	30.63%	30.63%
Castle Point	1.20%	1.44%	0.25%
Chelmsford	33.50%	59.79%	65.40%
Colchester	20.40%	19.77%	19.77%
Epping Forest	7.70%	53.90%	54.09%
Harlow	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Maldon	58.50%	56.49%	55.27%
Rochford	20.60%	6.95%	6.95%
Tendring	4.30%	4.12%	4.12%
Uttlesford	9.50%	62.07%	61.82%

Source: Audit Commission / Sport England 2007 ([http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/\(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55\)/DetailPage.aspx?entity=10004848](http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55)/DetailPage.aspx?entity=10004848))

Figure 53: Percentage of Population within 20 Minutes Travelling Time of Three Different Sporting Facilities (At Least One Awarded a Quality Mark) In June 2007



Source: Sport England 2007 (http://www.sportengland.org/cpa_scores_interim_june_2007-3.xls)

The proportion of people who live within 20mins travelling time of three different sporting facilities, of which one has to be awarded with a quality mark, has fallen in the District, from 20.6% to 6.95%. Through consultation with Sport England, it is likely that the removal of the 'Quest' quality mark from the Clements Hall Leisure Complex in Hawkwell is the main reason for this fall in proportion as this indicator is most affected by the awarding and removal of quality marks. Two public parks in Southend also lost quality marks. Both Chalkwell and Shoebury parks lost their Green Flag awards and this could also lower the overall proportion. Chelmsford and Uttlesford are the two highest performing local authorities at this time, with both reporting scores of over 60%. At 0% and 0.25% respectively, Harlow and Castle Point are the two lowest performing local authorities in June 2007. Rochford District is the 4th lowest performing Local Authority in Essex.

A single new sports centre was completed in the District between May 2006 and April 2007. This is located in Park School, Rawreth Lane in the Downhall and Rawreth Ward and totals 3100m². All of this development took place on greenfield land. Within the same period, planning permission was given for a fitness and health club. This is to be constructed on Aviation Way in Rochford Civil Parish and totals 1000m², with all development on previously developed land.

G. Public Perceptions Of Facilities In Their Local Area

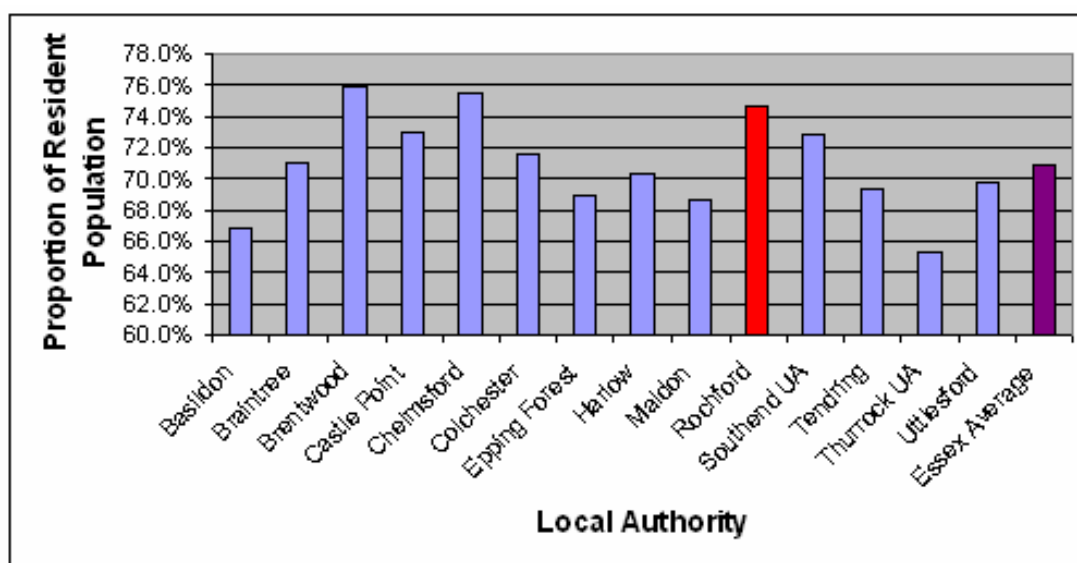
This section is concerned with how the residents of a local area perceive the range of facilities that are on offer to them. Examined here are residents' satisfaction with sports provision, the scope for activity provision for teenagers and the availability of open space. Residents were asked if they felt that these had improved or stayed the same over the last 3 years.

Table 51: Proportion of the Adult Population Who Are Satisfied or Very Satisfied with Sports Provision in Their Local Area October 2005 – October 2006

Local Authority	All	Gender		Age			Ethnic		Limiting disability	
		Male	Female	16 to 34	35 to 54	55+	White	Non white	Yes	No
Basildon	66.8%	65.3%	68.3%	61.7%	67.6%	71.5%	67.6%	50.3%	57.5%	68.3%
Braintree	71.1%	71.0%	71.2%	71.7%	67.8%	74.7%	71.8%	35.4%	67.9%	71.5%
Brentwood	75.9%	78.4%	73.5%	73.1%	76.2%	77.8%	76.4%	66.2%	66.3%	77.0%
Castle Point	72.9%	72.7%	73.2%	72.6%	69.8%	76.1%	73.1%	63.4%	72.1%	73.1%
Chelmsford	75.5%	75.7%	75.4%	71.5%	76.3%	78.7%	76.3%	55.7%	75.9%	75.5%
Colchester	71.5%	69.6%	73.4%	64.8%	75.0%	75.0%	72.1%	57.2%	62.3%	72.8%
Epping Forest	69.0%	66.2%	71.6%	63.4%	72.2%	70.0%	69.8%	53.8%	62.8%	69.7%
Harlow	70.4%	71.3%	69.5%	64.5%	67.7%	81.1%	71.6%	55.2%	73.6%	69.8%
Maldon	68.7%	68.9%	68.5%	67.0%	66.3%	72.4%	68.7%	70.3%	58.6%	70.3%
Rochford	74.7%	72.7%	76.8%	74.1%	73.2%	76.7%	74.9%	65.3%	63.4%	76.4%
Southend UA	72.8%	71.3%	74.3%	71.1%	70.7%	76.8%	73.4%	58.8%	72.1%	72.9%
Tendring	69.3%	69.4%	69.2%	62.8%	68.4%	73.4%	69.9%	35.4%	67.9%	69.5%
Thurrock UA	65.3%	63.9%	66.6%	63.6%	63.3%	70.1%	65.9%	58.9%	57.5%	66.5%
Uttlesford	69.8%	67.2%	72.3%	70.1%	66.7%	73.1%	70.1%	52.6%	64.8%	70.4%
Essex Average	71.0%	70.3%	71.7%	68.0%	70.1%	74.8%	71.5%	55.6%	65.9%	71.7%

Source: Sport England Active People Survey 2006 (http://www.webreport.se/apd/2/rt2_main.aspx)

Figure 54: Proportion of the Adult Population Who Are Satisfied or Very Satisfied with Sports Provision in Their Local Area October 2005 – October 2006



Source: Sport England Active People Survey 2006 (http://www.webreport.se/apd/2/rt2_main.aspx)

74.7% of Rochford District residents were satisfied or very satisfied with sports provision in their local area. This is above the average Essex value of 71% and is the third highest in the County. At 75.9%, Brentwood District residents were most satisfied with sports provision whilst Thurrock residents were the least satisfied at 65.3%. Satisfaction is rated above the Essex average across all age groups and genders although people recorded as having a limiting disability are less satisfied in the District than across Essex, with the District satisfaction value of 63.4% comparing to the Essex average of 65.9%.

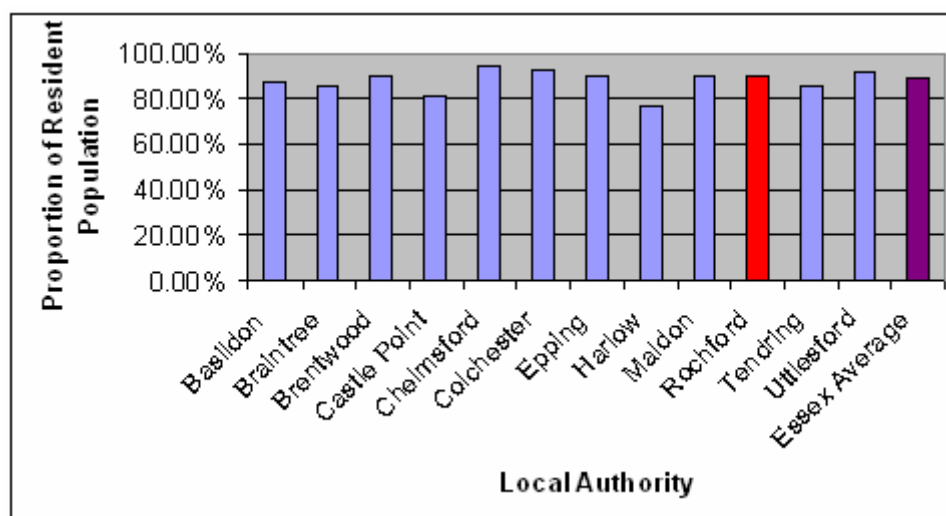
The figures in Table 52 and Table 53 have been taken from a survey carried out in 2003 / 2004, and therefore the 'last 3 years' refers to the period 2000 / 2001 – 2003 / 2004.

Table 52: Proportion Of Residents Who Think That The Availability Of Parks And Open Spaces Have Got Better Or Stayed The Same In The Last 3 Years In Their Local Area (2004)

Local Authority	Percentage
Basildon	87.06%
Braintree	85.62%
Brentwood	90.19%
Castle Point	80.63%
Chelmsford	93.77%
Colchester	92.31%
Epping	90.00%
Harlow	77.30%
Maldon	90.20%
Rochford	90.29%
Tendring	85.12%
Uttlesford	91.74%
Essex	88.60%

Source: Audit Commission 2007 ([http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/\(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55\)/DataProfile.aspx?entity=0](http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55)/DataProfile.aspx?entity=0))

Figure 55: Percentage Of Residents Who Think That Parks And Open Spaces Have Got Better Or Stayed The Same Over The Last Three Years, In Their Local Area (2004)



Source: Audit Commission 2007 ([http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/\(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55\)/DataProfile.aspx?entity=0](http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55)/DataProfile.aspx?entity=0))

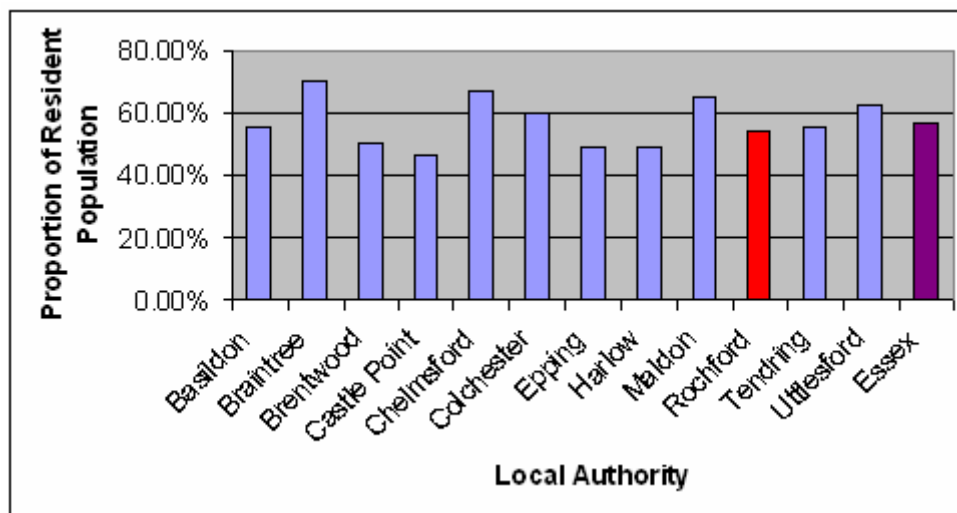
The public perception of the changing state of parks and open spaces has been largely positive. Over 75% of people in each Local Authority felt that the availability of parks and open spaces has either got better or stayed the same over the last 3 years. 90.29% of Rochford District residents gave positive responses in this area, placing them 4th highest in the District and in the 2nd quartile nationally. Chelmsford Borough achieved the highest score, 93.77%, with Harlow District's score of 77.3% being the lowest.

Table 53: Proportion of Residents Who Feel That Activities for Teenagers Have Got Better or Stayed the Same over the Last 3 Years (2004)

Local Authority	Percentage
Basildon	55.42%
Braintree	70.39%
Brentwood	50.11%
Castle Point	46.68%
Chelmsford	67.03%
Colchester	60.02%
Epping	49.07%
Harlow	49.26%
Maldon	64.90%
Rochford	54.26%
Tendring	55.59%
Uttlesford	62.41%
Essex	56.72%

Source: Audit Commission 2007 ([http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/\(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55\)/DataProfile.aspx?entity=0](http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55)/DataProfile.aspx?entity=0))

Figure 56: Percentage of Population Who Think That Activities For Teenagers Have Got Better or Stayed the Same Over the Last Three Years in Their Local Area (2004)



Source: Audit Commission 2007 ([http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/\(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55\)/DataProfile.aspx?entity=0](http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/(1ohxf545mbxala551z0nlk55)/DataProfile.aspx?entity=0))

Performance in this field is far more varied, ranging from 46.68% in Epping Forest to 70.39% in Braintree District. Evidently residents do not feel as though there are sufficient facilities for teenagers in many of their respective Local Authorities. 54.26% of Rochford District residents felt that activities for teenagers got better or stayed the same between 2000 / 2001 to 2003 / 2004, placing them 9th in the County.

11.4 Health Summary

- Between 1993 and 2005 the rate of mortality for people of all ages caused by coronary heart disease has decreased in the District, from 173.79 to 90.4 per 100,000 people. This decrease follows the trend witnessed in England, the East of England and Essex. The coronary heart disease mortality rate in people under 75 has also decreased between 1993 and 2005 in the District, from 88.49 to 34.89 per 100,000 people.
- Mortality caused by all cancers has fallen in the District, Region and nation in both people of all ages and those under 75. In 2005, the mortality rate for both all ages (156.29) and for those under 75 (101.4) in the District is above that seen regionally and nationally.
- Life expectancy has increased within the District between 1991 and 2005, from 77.4 years in 1991 – 1993 to 81 years in 2003 – 2005. This is 1.97 years above the average life expectancy in the country, and 1.1 years below that seen regionally.
- At 22.4 conceptions per 1,000 females aged 15 – 17, the rate of teenage conception in Rochford District is below that seen in England, the East of England and Essex County. The conception rate is the third lowest in the County.
- 3.98% of Rochford District residents are receiving benefits. This is below both the East of England and England proportions, at 5.13% and 6.74% respectively. 8.23% of claimants have been claiming for 6 months or less, a figure below the regional and national average. All geographical hierarchies are seeing an increase in the number of people on benefit for more than 5 years. Rochford has the highest proportion of claimants in this bracket at 54.86%.
- 19.9% of Rochford District residents engage in at least 30mins of sporting activity 3 days a week. This is below the Essex average of 20% and is the 5th lowest in Essex.
- 6.95% of Rochford District residents live within 20 minutes of at 3 different leisure facilities, of which at least one has received a quality mark. This is the 4th lowest in the County and below the Essex average.
- 3100m² of D2 floorspace was completed on greenfield land in Downhall & Rawreth Ward between May 2006 and April 2007. Planning permission has been granted for a further 1000m² of D2 floorspace to be developed on previously developed land in Rochford Civil Parish.
- 74.7% of Rochford District residents were satisfied or very satisfied with sports provision in their local area. This is above the Essex average of 71%. 90.29% of Rochford District residents felt that parks and open spaces had improved or stayed the same whilst 54.26% felt that activities for teenagers had got better or stayed the same. The former is above the Essex average of 88.6% whilst the latter is below the Essex average of 56.72%.

12 POPULATION AND SOCIAL

12.1 Introduction

This section focuses on the aspects of the population of Rochford District, and contains data on the population structure, number of pupils attending schools and their achievements, crime and indices of multiple deprivation (IMD's).

12.2 Policy Context

The policies applicable to the range of topics contained within this chapter are as follows.

A. National Planning Policy

i) National Planning Policy Statements/Guidance

- PPS3: Housing (December 2006) wishes to promote designs and layouts which are safe and take account of public health, crime prevention and community safety considerations.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/planningpolicystatement3>

- PPG13: Transport (March 2001) states that Local Authorities in partnership with the police should promote designs which are safe in terms of personal security and also take into account crime prevention.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/155634>

ii) National Community Safety Plan 2006-2009

The National Community Safety Plan 2006-2009 highlights 5 key priorities. These are listed below:

- 1. Making Communities Stronger And More Effective
- 2. Further Reducing Crime And Anti-Social Behaviour
- 3. Creating Safer Environments
- 4. Protect The Public And Building Confidence
- 5. Improving Peoples Lives So They Are Less Likely To Commit Offences or Re-offend

<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/communitysafety01a.pdf>

iii) Safer Places – The Planning System and Crime Prevention 2004

This sets out a large number of techniques that can be implemented to 'design out' crime, including clearly sign posting routes, ensuring a sufficient amount of lighting and incorporating gated areas in alleyways to only allow access to residents.

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1144724

iv) National PSA targets for GCSE attainment

- 60% of pupils to achieve five or more GCSEs or equivalent by 2008
- In every individual school, at least 20% of pupils will achieve five or more A*-C GCSEs or equivalent by 2004, 25% by 2006 and 30% by 2008.

<http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/ts/docs/rev08.doc>

v) Department for Education and Skills: Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners July 2004.

The strategy promotes a better link up of childcare and education to support a child throughout the beginning of their lives. It calls for 'dawn-to-dusk' schools, to enable parents to juggle work commitments with looking after their children. For secondary schools, the wish is increased freedom and independence, as well as to provide greater flexibility in the curriculum.

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/5yearstrategy/docs/DfES5Yearstrategy.pdf>

B. Regional / County Context

i) Draft East of England Plan December 2004

The Draft East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy), prepared by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), was submitted to Government in December 2004. Following a period of public consultation the Plan was subject of an Examination in Public (EiP) between November 2005 and March 2006. The Report of the EiP Panel was published in June 2006. In December 2006 the Secretary of State published Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for a period of public consultation to March 2007. Following consideration of the consultation response, the Secretary of State issued some Further Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for public consultation between October-December 2007. These Changes incorporate the recommendations of an additional Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Secretary of State's publication of the final version of the East of England Plan is expected during the first quarter of 2008

Relevant policies in the Draft Plan, are:

- Policy SS16: Quality In The Built Environment states that local development documents will deliver new development of high quality in urban and rural areas. They will ensure that new built development addresses crime prevention, community safety and public health.

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Planning%20and%20Transport/PlanHome/RPG/RPG14/View%20the%20Plan/RSS14Finalversion.pdf>

ii) The Draft Essex School Organisation Plan 2007-2012

Mirroring the policy at national level, and in tune with other Learning Skills Councils, the Essex LSC is overseeing a DfES funded Increased Flexibility Programme to try to ensure that pupils remain inspired in their school. The aim of this programme is to create enhanced vocational and work based learning schemes.

http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/SOP/DraftSOP07_12.pdf?channelOid=null

C. District Context

i) Community Strategy for the District of Rochford

The strategy includes six key themes which are:

- Feeling Safe – To reduce both the level and the fear of crime and to make the District a safer place for people to live in, work in or visit.
- Looking After Our Environment – To protect and enhance the natural and built environment for present and future generations.

- A Good Education, Good Skills and Good Jobs – To enable all residents of the District to access high quality education, training and skills development opportunities to ensure a thriving local economy now and in the future.
- Healthy Living – To improve and promote the social, physical and mental health of everyone in the District by providing a variety of choices for leisure, free time pursuits and first class healthcare.
- Getting Around – Improving people’s ability to get across and around the District.
- An Inclusive Community – To promote active and responsible citizenship, creating a community inclusive of all groups, and enabling everyone to participate in activities that improve their quality of life.

http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/PDF/plans_and_strategies_community_strategy.pdf

12.3 Baseline Information

This chapter incorporates data and analysis on population, education, crime and deprivation within the District of Rochford. Population data will include ONS mid-year estimates to 2006, ONS projections and EERA forecasts from 2001 to 2021 and a comparison between the two. Education data will detail school attendances and capacity within the District as well as GCSE and equivalent qualifications for the school-year 2005-2006. Deprivation data includes Rochford’s average rank within the Essex County Council area as well as a more detailed breakdown of the character of deprivation throughout the county.

A. Population Change since 2001

The ONS publishes annual mid year population estimates and biannual projections. Consideration of these figures is important in many facets of sustainable planning because they indicate the number of people likely to be living in an area and provide a base for estimating activity levels.

This sub-section looks at population change from 2001 in the form of the ONS’ latest mid year estimates and the ONS projections to 2021.

Table 54: ONS Mid-Year Estimates 2001-2006

	2001	2006	Difference	Percentage Change
Rochford District Council	78,700	81,100	2,400	3.05%
Essex County Council Area	1,312,600	1,361,200	48,600	3.70%
East of England Region	5,400,500	5,606,600	206,100	3.82%
England	49,449,700	50,762,900	1,313,200	2.66%

Source: Source: ONS, 2007

Table 54 identifies the population change between the 2001 and 2006 mid-year estimates for Rochford District, Essex and regionally and nationally. The figures show that population growth in Rochford at 3.05% is slightly less than that of the county and the east of England region at 3.70% and 3.82% respectively but larger than the national figure of 2.66%.

Table 55: ONS Mid-Year Estimates Population Structure 2001-2006

	Rochford		East of England		England	
	MID 2001	MID 2006	MID 2001	MID 2006	MID 2001	MID 2006
All Persons; Aged 0-4	5.7%	5.2%	5.9%	5.8%	5.9%	5.8%
All Persons; Aged 5-14	12.8%	12.7%	12.9%	12.2%	12.9%	11.9%
All Persons; Aged 15-19	5.6%	6.2%	5.9%	6.3%	6.2%	6.6%
All Persons; Aged 20-44	31.6%	30.6%	34.3%	33.6%	35.5%	35.2%
All Persons; Aged 45-64	26.4%	27.0%	24.5%	25.4%	23.7%	24.6%
All Persons; Aged 65+	17.7%	18.6%	16.5%	16.7%	15.8%	15.9%

Source: <http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=276956&c=rochford&d=13&e=13&q=443259&i=1001x1003x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1201193632371&enc=1&dsFamilyId=1813>

The above table identifies the population change between the 2001 mid year estimates, and the 2006 mid year estimates for Rochford District. They show that Rochford District has a lower proportion of the population aged 15-44 than the East of England average and national figures. There is a slightly higher percentage than regionally and nationally people aged 45-64. The implications of these ages are relevant to economic policies within the District. Within the District, there are slightly lower percentages of the overall population of the ages of 0-14 than regionally and slightly higher figures than the national average. This can have implications on school capacities (see below) and educational attainment, leading on to future employment prospects for this generation.

i) ONS Projections

The ONS projections for 2021 are trend based projections. Generally this means that future populations are based on assumptions that births, deaths and migration will continue observed trends over the previous five years. They show what the future population of an area will be if these trends continue. They do not reflect any future policy intentions. The currently available ONS population projections are revised 2004-based projections published by ONS on 27th September 2007.

Table 56: ONS Revised 2004-Based Population Projections

	2001	2021	Difference	Percentage Change
Rochford District Council	78,700	87,000	8,300	10.55%
Essex County Council Area	1,312,600	1,504,800	192,200	14.64%
East of England Region	5,400,500	6,221,100	820,600	15.19%
England	49,449,700	54,604,800	5,155,100	10.42%

Source: ONS, 2007

Table 56 indicates that the Rochford District population will rise by 10.55% to 87,000 in 2021. This percentage increase is lower than the county average of 14.64% and the regional average of 15.19%, but slightly higher than the nationwide average of 10.42%.

ii) Chelmer Forecasts

In December 2006 EERA commissioned population forecasts from the Population and Housing Research Group (PHRG) at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU). The forecasts illustrate the population consequences of the implementation of the housing provisions (Policy H1) of the Proposed Changes to Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (December 2006).

Table 57: EERA Population Forecasts – Based on Proposed Changes to the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy.

	2001	2021	Difference	Percentage Change
Rochford District Council	78,400	81,400	3,000	3.83%
Essex County Council Area	1,311,200	1,392,500	81,300	6.20%
East of England Region	5,400,100	5,973,100	573,000	10.61%

Source: EERA, 2007

Table 57 indicates that with the adoption of Policy H1 from the Draft RSS, Rochford's population would rise to 81,400, an increase of 3.83%. Essex's overall population is expected to rise by 6.20% to 1,392,500 and the regional population by 10.61% to 5,973,100.

iii) Comparison of ONS Projections and Chelmer Forecasts

The differences between the ONS projections and the EERA forecasts are largely due to the difference in approach between the two datasets. The ONS projections reflect continuations of recent trends into the future. The EERA forecasts reflect future policy in respect of housing provision.

Table 58: Comparison of Population at 2021

		AGES				Total
		0-- 14	15-- 44	45-- 64	65+	
ROCHFORD	ONS Projections	13,800	28,500	24,000	20,700	87,000
	EERA Forecasts	12,700	24,000	21,600	23,200	81,400
ESSEX	ONS Projections	248,400	532,400	400,700	323,400	1,504,900
	EERA Forecasts	277,900	596,600	453,500	390,900	1,718,900
EAST of ENGLAND	ONS Projections	1,039,200	2,252,000	1,628,700	1,301,200	6,221,100
	EERA Forecasts	975,000	2,129,500	1,571,000	1,297,500	5,973,000

Source: ONS, 2007 & EERA, 2007

Table 58 indicates the differences between the ONS population projections for 2021 and the Chelmer population forecasts for 2021. The ONS figures indicate a higher District population in Rochford than the Chelmer figures across all ages with the exception of those of retirement age. In the county as a whole, the Chelmer figures forecast a higher population than the ONS figures project across all ages, particularly in the 45-64 year old category with a difference of approximately 52,000. Regionally, the ONS data projects a higher population in 2021 than the Chelmer figures forecast.

B. Education

Table 59: Number Attending and Capacity of Schools in Rochford

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007 Capacity
Primary	7,286	7,143	7,046	6,883	6,728	7,352
Secondary	5,473	5,522	5,617	5,724	5,694	5,674
District total	12,759	12,665	12,663	12,607	12,422	13,026

Source: http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/SOP/DraftSOP07_12.pdf?channelOid=null

The numbers attending and the capacity of schools is important in light of the population age profile estimates previously mentioned. The number of those attending primary

schools has steadily decreased over the period 2003-2007 by 558 pupils. The numbers attending secondary schools have risen annually between 2003 and 2006 by 251 pupils but decreased by 30 pupils between 2006 and 2007. Capacity figures for 2007 indicate that on a District wide basis there are enough primary school places for the current year, although there is a shortfall of 20 pupils for secondary schools. For capacity figures of individual schools please refer to the full Draft School Organisational Plan at Appendix 1a.

Table 60: GCSE or Equivalent Qualifications Achieved By All Pupils (on roll), 2005-2006

	Rochford		East of England		England	
	Sept '03 - Aug '04	Sept '05 - Aug '06	Sept '03 - Aug '04	Sept '05 - Aug '06	Sept '03 - Aug '04	Sept '05 - Aug '06
15 Year Old Pupils; Total;	987	1,053	64,124	65,469	645,386	648,942
All 15 Year Old Pupils Achieving 5+ A* - C;	69.4%	78.3%	54.4%	59.1%	53.6%	58.5%
All 15 Year Old Pupils Achieving 5+ A* - G;	95.1%	94.0%	90.7%	91.5%	88.5%	89.4%
All 15 Year Old Pupils Achieving 5+ A* - G Including English and Mathematics;	93.8%	..	89.0%	..	86.4%	86.8%
All 15 Year Old Pupils With Any Passes;	98.4%	99.1%	96.7%	97.4%	96.1%	96.7%
All 15 Year Old Pupils with No Passes;	1.6%	0.9%	3.3%	2.6%	3.9%	3.3%

Source: <http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=276956&c=rochford&d=13&e=5&g=443259&i=1001x1003x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1199960559773&enc=1&dsFamilyId=1470>

The above table shows that the number of those taking GCSEs in the District had risen between 2003/04-2005/06, a trend matched regionally and nationally. The figures show that the District is performing above the East of England region and nationally in the attainment of 5+ A*-C grades and most notably significantly above the regional and national percentage increases between 2003/04-2005/06. The number of pupils receiving no passes is considerably lower than the wider region and the country as a whole.

C. Crime

Table 61: Offences in District per 1000 population

	Rochford District Council	English National average
Population	80,000	n/a
Households	33,000	n/a
Violence against the person	7.6	16.7
Robbery offences	0.2	1.2
Theft of a motor vehicle offences	1.8	2.9
Sexual offences	0.4	0.9
Burglary dwelling offences	1.8	4.3
Theft from a vehicle offences	4.0	7.6

Source: <http://www.upmystreet.com/local/police-crime/figures/l/rochford-4734.html>

Offences per 1000 population in the District are lower than the national average for all of the offences listed. Data such as this is important in the possible adoption of designing out crime initiatives and the recommendation of natural surveillance and safe, useable environments.

D. Deprivation

Table 62: Essex Boroughs/Districts Ranking on IMD2007 Measures

Rank Essex	Average Score		Average Rank		Extent		Local Concentration	
	2004	2007	2004	2007	2004	2007	2004	2007
1	Tendring 103	Tendring 103	Tendring 98	Tendring 91	Basildon 106	Basildon 114	Tendring 111	Tendring 109
2	Harlow 120	Harlow 121	Harlow 101	Harlow 105	Tendring 127	Tendring 126	Basildon 116	Basildon 134
3	Basildon 132	Basildon 136	Basildon 142	Basildon 151	Harlow 180	Harlow 186	Colchester 189	Colchester 200
4	Colchester 217	Colchester 224	Colchester 221	Epping Forest 220	Colchester 193	Colchester 202	Harlow 207	Harlow 207
5	Epping Forest 234	Epping Forest 229	Braintree 228	Colchester 224	Epping Forest 256	Epping Forest 247	Epping Forest 243	Epping Forest 246
6	Braintree 237	Braintree 239	Epping Forest 232	Braintree 232	Braintree 263	Castle Point 263	Braintree 247	Braintree 252
7	Castle Point 245	Castle Point 249	Castle Point 243	Castle Point 246	Castle Point 273	Braintree 265	Castle Point 258	Castle Point 261
8	Maldon 280	Maldon 255	Maldon 280	Maldon 252	Rochford 271	Chelmsford 270	Chelmsford 286	Chelmsford 276
9	Brentwood 312	Chelmsford 312	Brentwood 312	Brentwood 312	Maldon 298	Rochford 285	Rochford 299	Maldon 294
10	Rochford 316	Rochford 314	Rochford 319	Chelmsford 314	Brentwood 295	Brentwood 295	Maldon 301	Brentwood 293
11	Chelmsford 320	Brentwood 315	Chelmsford 321	Rochford 315	Chelmsford 274	Maldon 309 =	Brentwood 307	Rochford 305
12	Uttlesford 341	Uttlesford 347	Uttlesford 342	Uttlesford 347	Uttlesford 298	Uttlesford 309 =	Uttlesford 352	Uttlesford 352

Source: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/xls/576506>

The above table shows the national ranking of Essex Districts for four measures from the IMD. The number alongside each District name is the district's national rank for that measure. A lower rank means a greater incidence of deprivation within the authority. Rochford is the third best ranked District out of the 12 in the County.

Table 63: Character of Deprivation

	IMD	Income	Employment	Health & Disability	Education, Skills & Training	Barriers to housing & services	Living Environment	Crime
Essex CC	14.04	0.11	0.07	-0.53	20.15	21.85	9.75	-0.37
Basildon	20.62	0.16	0.09	-0.02	31.83	20.29	6.28	0.17
Braintree	13.71	0.11	0.07	-0.56	21.04	25.99	9.40	-0.58
Brentwood	9.30	0.08	0.06	-1.10	9.10	21.41	9.13	-0.33
Castle Point	13.03	0.11	0.07	-0.57	24.11	12.80	11.01	-0.41
Chelmsford	9.26	0.09	0.06	-0.97	11.94	17.36	11.05	-0.49
Colchester	14.81	0.11	0.07	-0.31	19.07	26.90	11.42	-0.41
Epping Forest	14.15	0.11	0.07	-0.62	17.52	26.24	11.92	0.01
Harlow	21.67	0.16	0.10	0.15	31.85	24.56	6.97	0.37
Maldon	12.20	0.10	0.06	-0.49	18.67	23.07	8.68	-0.73
Rochford	9.35	0.09	0.06	-0.81	15.66	13.90	8.52	-0.65
Tendring	23.32	0.16	0.12	0.21	33.78	24.81	14.72	-0.27
Uttlesford	7.05	0.07	0.04	-1.27	7.19	24.84	7.87	-1.08

Source: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/zip/indices2007.zip>

Rochford District scores low on the IMD index indicating a comparatively low level of deprivation in the District. The District is less deprived than the county average in all of the categories.

Table 64: Deprivation Character by Sub-Domain

	Child Poverty' (IDAC)	Older people poverty'	Education sub-domain: children & young people	Education sub-domain: working age skills	Barriers sub-domain: geog barriers to services	Barriers sub-domain: wider barriers to housing	Environment sub-domain: 'indoors'	Environment sub-domain: 'outdoors'
Essex CC	0.15	0.15	18.79	21.48	0.31	-0.20	8.28	12.68
Basildon	0.23	0.20	30.12	33.54	0.21	-0.12	3.15	12.56
Braintree	0.13	0.16	19.57	22.51	0.48	0.02	9.07	10.05
Brentwood	0.11	0.12	7.96	10.24	0.34	-0.23	8.38	10.62
Castle Point	0.15	0.16	18.47	29.47	0.03	-0.49	4.47	24.09
Chelmsford	0.12	0.12	11.18	12.70	0.26	-0.48	9.93	13.30
Colchester	0.16	0.16	20.60	17.53	0.16	0.34	9.18	15.89
Epping Forest	0.15	0.14	15.39	19.66	0.30	0.21	9.68	16.40
Harlow	0.24	0.19	33.12	30.59	0.00	0.34	4.49	11.92
Maldon	0.13	0.15	17.36	19.99	0.63	-0.48	9.79	6.45
Rochford	0.11	0.13	11.30	20.02	0.18	-0.72	5.72	14.12
Tendring	0.21	0.17	35.21	32.34	0.18	0.16	15.41	13.36
Uttlesford	0.08	0.11	5.25	9.13	0.93	-0.96	10.12	3.35

Source: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/zip/subdomains07.zip> and <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/xls/576508>

The District performs well in the Environment indoor sub-domain at 5.72 which is below the county average of 8.28. The District performs poorly however in the Environment outdoor sub-domain at 14.12 and above the county average of 12.68 making Rochford the fourth most deprived District / Borough in the county. This is an improvement on the IMD2004 ranking however, where Rochford was the second most deprived District in this category. This sub-domain contains two criteria consisting of air quality and road traffic accidents. Further poor performance can be seen in the Geographical Barriers to Small Services Sub Domain where the District performs below the mean county score and is the joint fourth worst District / Borough in the County.

12.4 Population and Social Summary

- ONS Mid-year estimates for Rochford District between the 2001 and 2006, Essex and regionally and nationally show that population growth in Rochford at 3.05% is slightly less than that of the county and the east of England region at 3.70% and 3.82% respectively but larger than the national figure of 2.66%.
- Rochford District has a lower proportion of the population aged 15-44 than the East of England average and national figures. There is a slightly higher percentage of people aged 45 – 64 in the District than seen regionally and nationally.
- The Rochford District population will rise by 10.55% to 87,000 in 2021. This percentage increase is lower than the county average of 14.64% and the regional average at 15.19%, but slightly higher than the nationwide average of 10.42%.
- With the adoption of Policy H1 from the Draft RSS, Rochford's population would rise to 81,400, an increase of 3.83%. Essex's overall population is expected to rise by 6.20% to 1,392,500 and the regional population by 10.61% to 5,973,100.
- The ONS figures indicate a higher District population in Rochford than the Chelmer figures across all ages with the exception of those of retirement age. In the County as a whole, the Chelmer figures forecast a higher population than the ONS figures project across all ages, particularly in the 45-64 year old category with a difference of approximately 52,000. Regionally, the ONS data projects a higher population in 2021 than the Chelmer figures forecast.
- The number of those attending primary schools has steadily decreased over the period 2003-2007 by 558 pupils. The numbers attending secondary schools have risen annually between 2003 and 2006 by 251 pupils but decreased by 30 pupils between 2006 and 2007.
- Capacity figures for 2007 indicate that on a District wide basis there are enough primary school places for the current year, however there is a shortfall of 20 pupils for secondary schools.
- The number of those taking GCSEs in the District had risen between 2003/04-2005/06, a trend matched regionally and nationally.
- The District is performing above the East of England region and nationally in the attainment of 5+ A*-C grades and most notably significantly above the regional and national percentage increases between 2003/04-2005/06.
- Offences per 1000 population in the District are lower than the national average for all of the offences listed.
- Rochford is the third best ranked District out of the 12 in the County in the IMD2007.
- The District performs well in the Environment indoor sub-domain at 5.72 which is below the County average of 8.28.

- The District performs poorly in the Environment outdoor sub-domain at 14.12 and above the County average of 12.68 making Rochford the fourth most deprived district/borough in the county.
- Poor performance can be seen in the Geographical Barriers to Small Services Sub Domain where the District performs below the mean county score and is the joint fourth worst District / Borough in the County.

13 ECONOMY

13.1 Introduction

For an area to be sustainable, it must be able to attract industry and commerce in order for its citizens to gain employment and contribute to a successful local economy. This chapter presents information on the types of industry and commerce in Rochford District, including an analysis of the types of employment available in Rochford District, floorspace vacancy rates and employment levels.

13.2 Policy Context

A. National Context

i) National Planning Policies

National Planning Policies are published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in Planning Policy Statements (PPS) which are gradually replacing Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG). With respect to the economy, national guidance is presented in the following national planning policy documents:

- PPS 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005) states that sustainable development is the core principle of planning. One of the four aims of this PPS is the maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147393>)

- PPG4: Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms (1992) states that one of the Government's key aims is to encourage continued economic development in a way which is compatible with its stated environmental objectives. Development plans provide the policy framework, weighing the importance of industrial and commercial development with that of maintaining and improving environmental quality.

(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/ppg4>)

- PPS6: Planning for Town Centres (2005) states that the Government's key objective for town centres is to promote their vitality and viability by planning for the growth and development of existing centres; promoting and enhancing existing centres by focusing development in such centres and encouraging a wide range of services in a good environment, accessible to all. Other Government objectives include enhancing consumer choice by making provision for a range of shopping, leisure and local services as well as supporting efficient, competitive and innovative retail, leisure, tourism and other sectors

(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147399>)

- PPS7: Sustainable Development for Rural Areas (1997) states that the Government's objectives for rural areas include the promotion of sustainable economic growth and diversification and to promote the development of the English regions by improving their economic performance so that all are able to reach their full potential by developing competitive, diverse and thriving rural enterprise that provides a range of jobs and underpins strong economies.

(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/147402>)

ii) European and International Sustainability Development Strategy June 2006

This strategy focuses on the continuous improvement of the quality of life and well-being on Earth for present and future generations. To that end it promotes, amongst other things, a dynamic economy.

(http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/docs/renewed_eu_sds_en.pdf)

iii) European Constitution 2005

It is stated that the Union shall, “work for the sustainable development of Europe based on balanced economic growth, a social market economy, highly competitive and aiming at full employment and social progress, and with a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment”. It also promotes scientific and technological advancement.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/09_01_05_constitution.pdf

iv) Sustainable Communities Plan 2003

A key objective of this plan is to accommodate the economic success of London and the wider South East. A further aim is to provide sustainable, high quality and attractive places in which people will positively choose to live and work.

(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/sustainablecommunitiesbuilding>)

v) Securing the Future – Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy March 2005

A guiding principle for the 2005 UK Sustainable Development Strategy is to achieve a sustainable economy. It states that since 1999, the UK has maintained a strong economic performance where it has enjoyed an unbroken period of economic growth. A strong economy brings its own rewards – it supports jobs, pays for services and prevents the wasting of resources which a more sluggish economy can create. It also helps to achieve personal wellbeing. There is a wish to create a strong sustainable economy whose environmental and social costs fall on those who impose them and where efficient resource use is incentivised.

(<http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/publications/uk-strategy/index.htm>)

B. Regional Context

i) Draft East of England Plan December 2004

(<http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=452>)

The Draft East of England Plan, prepared by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), was submitted to Government in December 2004. Following a period of public consultation the Plan was subject of an Examination in Public (EiP) between November 2005 and March 2006. The Report of the EiP Panel was published in June 2006. In December 2006 the Secretary of State published Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for a period of public consultation to end in March 2007. Following consideration of the consultation responses, the Secretary of State issued some further propose changes to the Draft Plan for public consultation between October and December 2007. These changes incorporate the recommendations of additional Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EC. The Secretary of State's publication the final version of the East of England Plan is expected during the first quarter of 2008 The relevant proposed policies are as follows:

- Policy E2: Job Growth
- Policy E3: Approach to Employment Land Allocation
- Policy E5: Supporting Economic Diversity and Business Development
- Policy E7: Supporting Cluster Development
- Policy E10: Retail Strategy
- Policy E11: Retail Distribution
- Policy E12: Out of Town Retail
- Policy E13: Tourism

ii) A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England 2001

Stated high level objectives include the achievement of sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth and to deliver more sustainable patterns of location of development, including employment and housing.

(http://www.gos.gov.uk/goee/docs/193713/193722/Regional_Strategy/Regional_Sustainable_Develo1.pdf)

iii) East of England Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action January 2003

The Framework for Regional Employment highlights the importance of a region being able to supply sufficiently skilled workers. If they cannot be supplied, a region could be expected to experience social and environmental problems. Demand for higher skill sets invariably leads to higher wages, whilst those with lower level skills may not be given the training to enable them to develop theirs. Higher wages can drive up house prices in the region, making it difficult for low earners to be able to afford to buy. If the demand for skills cannot be met within the region, jobs are likely to be filled by workers from outside the area who may then not contribute to the local economy. Table 65 lists the issues harming employee development that have been given the highest priority in the Framework.

Table 65: Priority Issues in the Framework for Regional Employment

Top Priority – Both urgent and important priority requiring greater action, co-ordination and funding	High – Considerable action underway but still in need of either increased co-ordination or funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing participation in higher education. • Response to redundancies • Skills for employability • Workforce development (WFD) and 'In Work' progression • Young people and career choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future labour force • Higher level skills • Impact of housing on skills shortages • Increase of take-up of training by employees in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) • Inward investment • Sector skills

Framework for Regional Employment, January 2003

(<http://www.skillsforum.org.uk/PDFs/1.%20FRESA.pdf>)

iv) Regional Economic Strategy (RES) December 2004

(http://www.englandsrdas.com/filestore/Regional_Economic_Strategy/eeda.pdf)

This strategy has eight goals of which four are relevant here:

- Goal 1 – A skills base that can support a world-class economy
- Goal 2 – Growing competitiveness, productivity and entrepreneurship
- Goal 5 – Social inclusion and broad participation in the regional economy
- Goal 8 – Exemplary and efficient use of resources

C. District Context

i) Rochford District Replacement Local Plan adopted 16th June 2006

- Policy CS5 – Encouraging Economic Regeneration
- Policy SAT1 – New Retail, Commercial and Leisure Development
- Policy EB1 – Existing Sites and the Allocation of New Sites
- Policy EB2 – Making the Best Use of Available Land
- Policy EB5 – Design Statements
- Policy EB6 – Landscaping

(http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/pdf/planning_replacement_local_plan_small.pdf)

ii) Economic Development Strategy for Rochford District

The aim of this strategy is to ‘maximise the economic prospects of businesses in the area, making the District a better place to work.’ There are 7 key objectives, including the need to develop the skills of the local workforce, maintain low levels of unemployment, develop tourism and heritage initiatives and take advantage of inward investment opportunities.

(http://www.rochford.gov.uk/rdc/PDF/plans_and_strategies_economic_development.pdf)

13.3 Baseline Information

The chapter begins with an overview of the type and number of businesses in the District. A count of VAT local units, also by type, is presented first. The amount of floorspace assigned to each business type is also examined. Businesses are then looked at by employment size and an analysis of the proportion of total employees in each business class and Standard Occupational Classification type is presented. The job density between 2000 and 2005 within the District is also analysed here as are business vacancy rates. Economic activity of residents, including average wage and unemployment levels follow this. Concluding the report is a look at all new completed and outstanding A1 – A2, B1 and B1 – B8 development between April 2006 and March 2007

Please note that the Office of National Statistics frequently round data in order to protect confidentiality. Therefore it is possible that unit counts may not equate across data sets.

A. Count of VAT Based Industries

Table 66: Count of VAT Based Local Units in Rochford District March 2005 – March 2007

Year	Rochford
March 2005	2660
March 2006	2640
March 2007	2660

Source: Office for National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>)

The maintenance of stable levels of economic growth is a part of one of the four aims set out in PPS 1: Delivering Sustainable Development. Within the District, the number of VAT registered local units present has remained at 2660 between March 2005 and March 2007, despite the number of units reducing to 2640 in March 2006.

Table 67: VAT Registered Local Units by Industry Type in Urban and Rural Locations in Rochford District March 2007

	Rochford District		East of England		England	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
All VAT Based Enterprises	2660		206550		1792265	
Agriculture	80	3.01%	11600	5.62%	89825	5.01%
Production	245	9.21%	15970	7.73%	132825	7.41%
Construction	510	19.17%	25790	12.49%	175940	9.82%
Motor Trades	105	3.95%	8595	4.16%	66485	3.71%
Wholesale	150	5.64%	12600	6.10%	108165	6.04%
Retail	285	10.71%	24070	11.65%	231800	12.93%
Hotels & Catering	125	4.70%	12575	6.09%	126250	7.04%
Transport	110	4.14%	7950	3.85%	62365	3.48%
Post & Telecommunications	30	1.13%	2655	1.29%	20480	1.14%
Finance	20	0.75%	2665	1.29%	29480	1.64%
Property & Business Services	695	26.13%	57815	27.99%	520460	29.04%
Education	45	1.69%	4605	2.23%	39405	2.20%
Health	40	1.50%	3700	1.79%	33315	1.86%
Public Admin & Other Services	220	8.27%	15960	7.73%	155470	8.67%

Source: Office for National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>)

The wide range of employment opportunities within the District is in accord with Policy E3 of the East of England plan which states that employment land is to be allocated to a range of business types. The composition of Rochford District's industry is broadly similar to both the Regional and National composition although there are exceptions. Property and Business services are the most prevalent in the District at 26.13% of all VAT registered businesses. This is however below that found regionally (27.99%) and nationally (29.04%), where this business type is also the most prevalent. At 3.01%, Rochford District can be seen to have an agricultural sector which is proportionately just over half of the size of that found regionally and nationally respective to the entirety of the business sector. The District does display a relative overrepresentation of Construction enterprises. 19.17% of all businesses in Rochford District are related to construction, compared to 12.49% in the East of England and 9.82% in England. All other industry types in the District are present in broadly the same proportions as that found in the East of England and England.

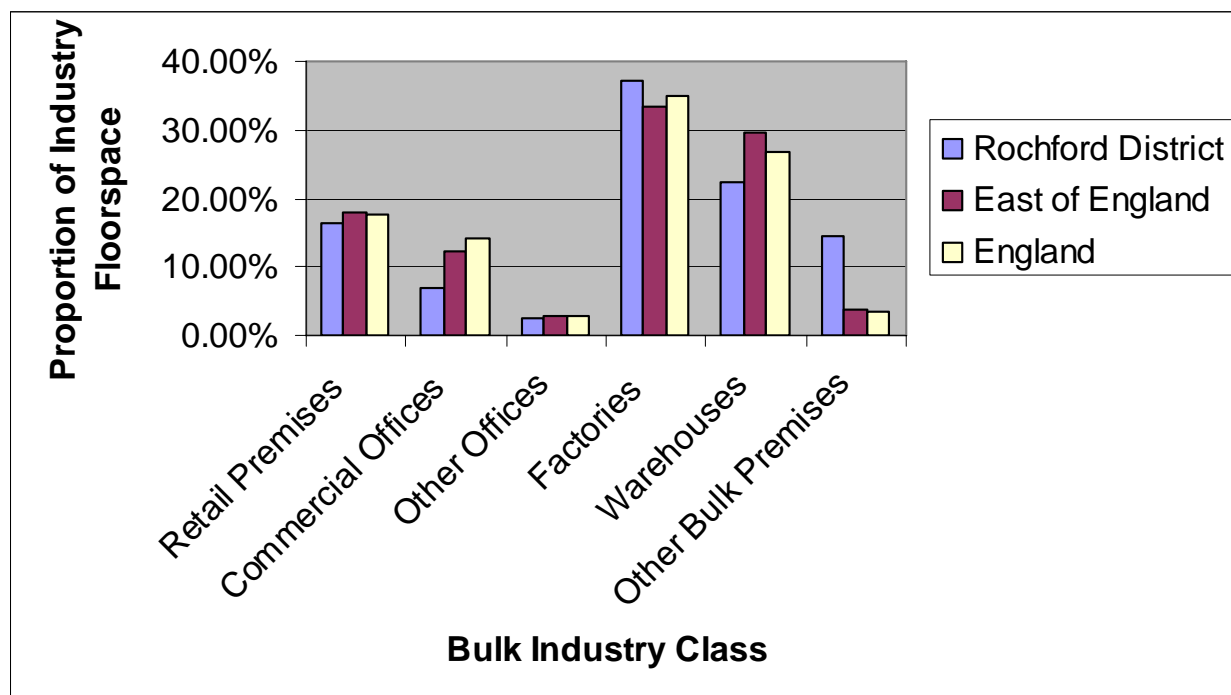
B. Industrial Floorspace Composition by Bulk industry Class in April 2007

Table 68: Proportion of Floorspace by Bulk Industry in April 2007

	Rochford		East of England		England	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
All Bulk Classes	486		56514		563116	
Retail Premises	80	16.46%	10171	18.00%	99376	17.65%
Commercial Offices	34	7.00%	7019	12.42%	80360	14.27%
Other Offices	12	2.47%	1570	2.78%	16340	2.90%
Factories	181	37.24%	18919	33.48%	196669	34.93%
Warehouses	108	22.22%	16785	29.70%	151273	26.86%
Other Bulk Premises	71	14.61%	2049	3.63%	19099	3.39%

Source: Office for National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>)

Figure 57: Proportion of Floorspace by Bulk Industry Class in April 2007



Source: Office for National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>)

Factories and warehouses account for the majority of industrial floorspace at all geographical hierarchies. The single largest commercial and industrial floorspace allocation is to factories in the District. 37.24% of commercial and industrial floorspace is used in this way within the District, above the 33.48% reported regionally and 34.93% nationally. 'Commercial Office' floorspace, at 7% in the District, shows the greatest under representation when compared to the other geographical hierarchies, with 12.42% of floorspace being utilised by offices in the East of England and 14.27% in England. 9.47% of industry floorspace is comprised of offices, below both the East of England (15.19%) and England (17.05%) Many of these deficits can be accounted for by the relatively larger 'Other Bulk Premises' class, measured at 14.61% in the District, 3.63% in the East of England and 3.39% nationally. 'Other Bulk Premises' include garden centres, halls and social clubs.

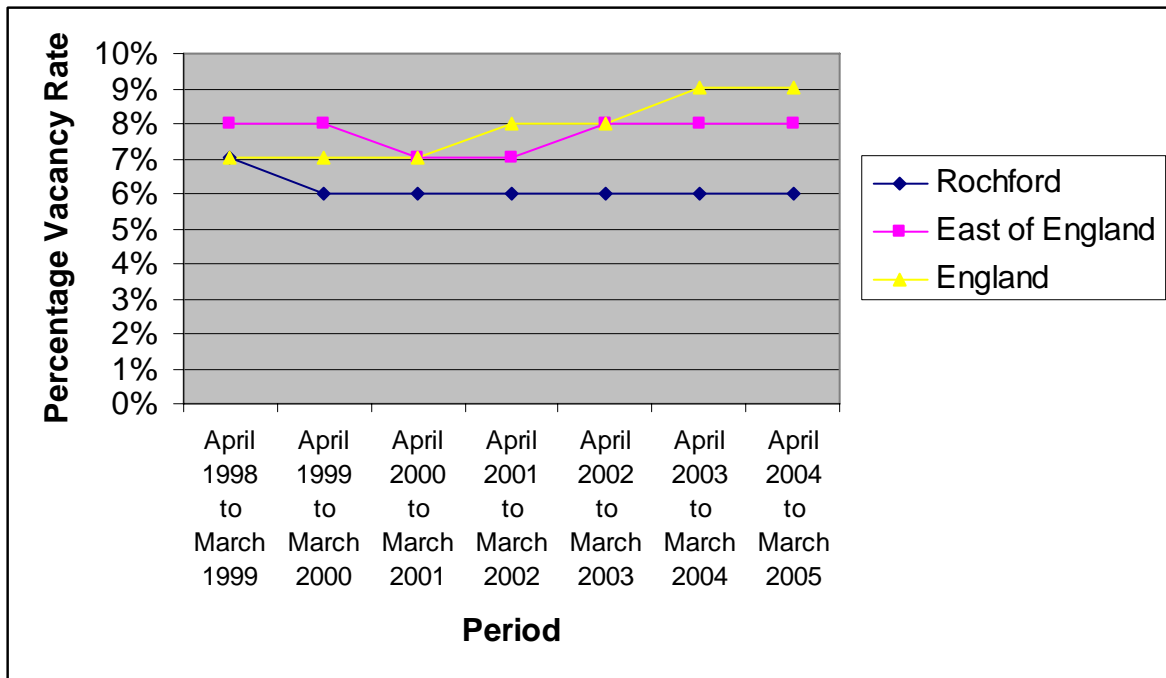
C. Commercial and Industrial Property Vacancies

Table 69: Commercial and Industrial Vacancy Rates in Rochford District

Time Period	Rochford	East of England	England
April 1998 to March 1999	7%	8%	7%
April 1999 to March 2000	6%	8%	7%
April 2000 to March 2001	6%	7%	7%
April 2001 to March 2002	6%	7%	8%
April 2002 to March 2003	6%	8%	8%
April 2003 to March 2004	6%	8%	9%
April 2004 to March 2005	6%	8%	9%

Source: Office for National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>)

Figure 58: Commercial and Industrial Vacancy Rates in Rochford District April 1998 – March 2005



Source: Office for National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>)

The percentage of commercial and industrial property vacant in the District has remained stable between April 1999 and March 2005 at 6%. At no point in the above study did vacancy rates in the East of England and England drop below 7%. Despite a slight fluctuation the vacancy rate in the East of England during April 1998 – March 1999 and April 2004 – March 2005 was recorded as 8%. Vacancy rates in England as a whole have slowly increased across the study, from 7% to 9%. Policy E3: Approach to Employment Land Allocation of the draft East of England Plan states that there must be a provision of land for a range of employment types.

Table 70 highlights the employment sites which are currently vacant within Rochford District

Table 70: Vacant Employment Sites within Rochford District by Ward

Ward/Parish	Site Easting	Site Northing	Address	Proposed Use Code Description	Identified	Development Plan	PDL	Site Area (Ha)
Downhall and Rawreth Ward	579621	192510	Adjacent Superstore, Rawreth Industrial Estate	Industry / Warehouse (B1 or B2 or B8)	2005 / 04	Y	N	0.44
Downhall and Rawreth Ward	579662	192303	Rawreth Industrial Estate, Opposite Stirling Close	Industry / Warehouse (B1 or B2 or B8)	2005 / 04	Y	N	0.09
Rochford Ward	585906	189161	Plot B, East of B1013, Aviation Way Industrial Estate	Industry / Warehouse (B1 or B2 or B8)	2005 / 04	Y	N	1.38
Rochford Ward	585950	189253	Plot C, Aviation Way Industrial Estate	Industry / Warehouse (B1 or B2 or B8)	2005 / 04	Y	N	1.08
Rochford Ward	586256	189342	Plot G, Aviation Way Industrial Estate	Industry / Warehouse (B1 or B2 or B8)	2005 / 04	Y	N	0.57
Rochford Ward	585997	189007	Plot H, Aviation Way Industrial Estate	Industry / Warehouse (B1 or B2 or B8)	2005 / 04	Y	N	0.57
Rochford Ward	588068	189972	Plot Gb, Purdeys Industrial Estate	Industry / Warehouse (B1 or B2 or B8)	2005 / 04	Y	N	1.02
Rochford Ward	588906	190059	Plot B, Sutton Wharf	Industry / Warehouse (B1 or B2 or B8)	2005 / 04	Y	N	1.4

Source: Essex County Council 2007

There is currently 6.55ha of land earmarked for non-residential landuses in employment areas. These sites are currently vacant and are identified in the adopted Local Plan. All of the sites have a development plan and neither of them are located on previously developed land.

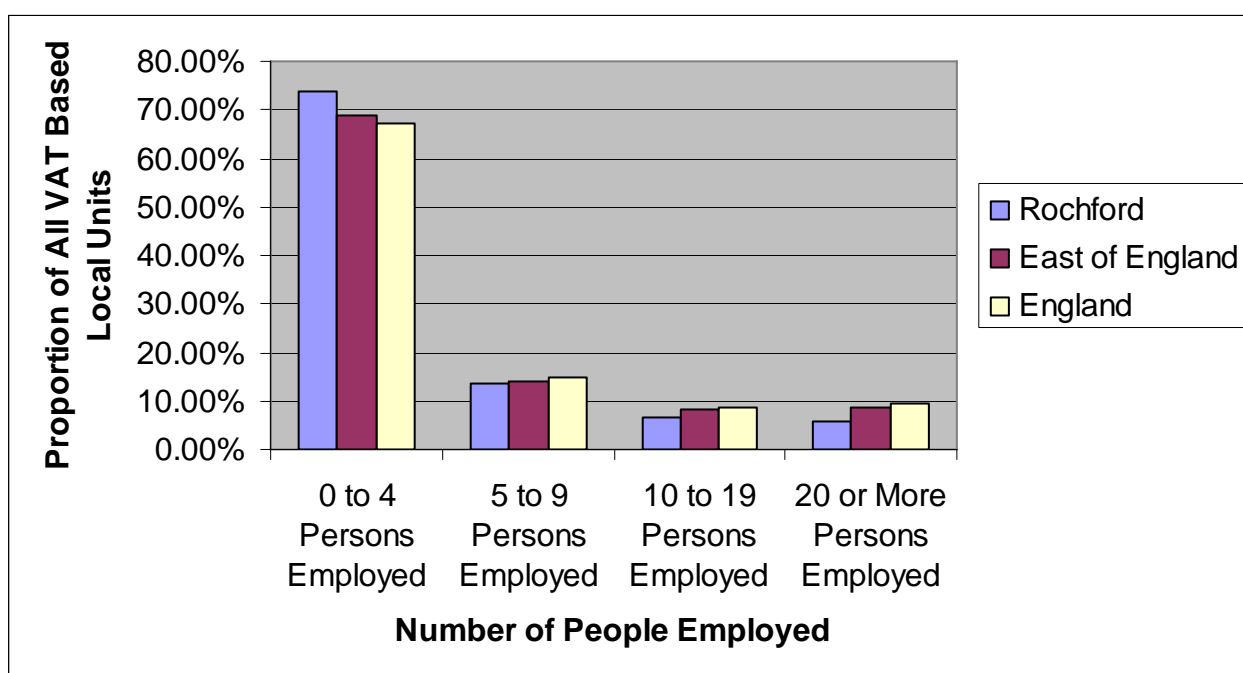
D. Business Comparison by Employment Size

Table 71: VAT Based Local Unit Comparison by Employment Size in Rochford District, East of England and England March 2007

	Rochford		East of England		England	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
All VAT Based Enterprises	2655		206245		1788670	
0 to 4 Persons Employed	1965	74.01%	141705	68.71%	1200540	67.12%
5 to 9 Persons Employed	365	13.75%	29065	14.09%	264165	14.77%
10 to 19 Persons Employed	175	6.59%	17220	8.35%	156770	8.76%
20 or More Persons Employed	150	5.65%	18255	8.85%	167195	9.35%

Source: Office for National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>)

Figure 59: VAT Based Business Enterprise Comparison by Employment Size in Rochford District, East of England and England March 2007



Source: Office for National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>)

Businesses which employ between 0 and 4 people are by far the most prevalent at all geographical hierarchies and account for at least 67% of all VAT registered business enterprises. 74.01% of all VAT registered businesses in Rochford District are of this kind, the highest across all three hierarchies. The District shows a deficit in all other employment groups, with the largest being in the proportion of local units who employ 20 persons or more.

Table 72: VAT Based Local Unit Comparison by Employment Size in Rochford District, East of England and England March 2005 – March 2007

	Rochford District			East of England			England		
	Mar-05	Mar-06	Mar-07	Mar-05	Mar-06	Mar-07	Mar-05	Mar-06	Mar-07
0 to 4 Persons Employed	73.87%	73.11%	74.01%	68.49%	68.66%	68.71%	66.83%	66.97%	67.12%
5 to 9 Persons Employed	13.91%	14.39%	13.75%	14.64%	14.37%	14.09%	15.20%	15.05%	14.77%
10 to 19 Persons Employed	6.39%	6.63%	6.59%	8.10%	8.12%	8.35%	8.52%	8.52%	8.76%
20 or More Persons Employed	5.83%	5.68%	5.65%	8.78%	8.85%	8.85%	9.46%	9.46%	9.35%

Source: Office for National Statistics 2007 (<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>)

Table 72 highlights that there has not been a significant shift in the proportion of VAT based enterprises by employment size across the period 2005 – 2007. However, it can be seen that there is a small increase in the proportion of local units employing 0 to 4 persons between March 2005 and March 2007 at all geographical hierarchies.

E. Job Density

Job density is the term given to the ratio of total jobs to the working age population. These figures include employees, self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces.

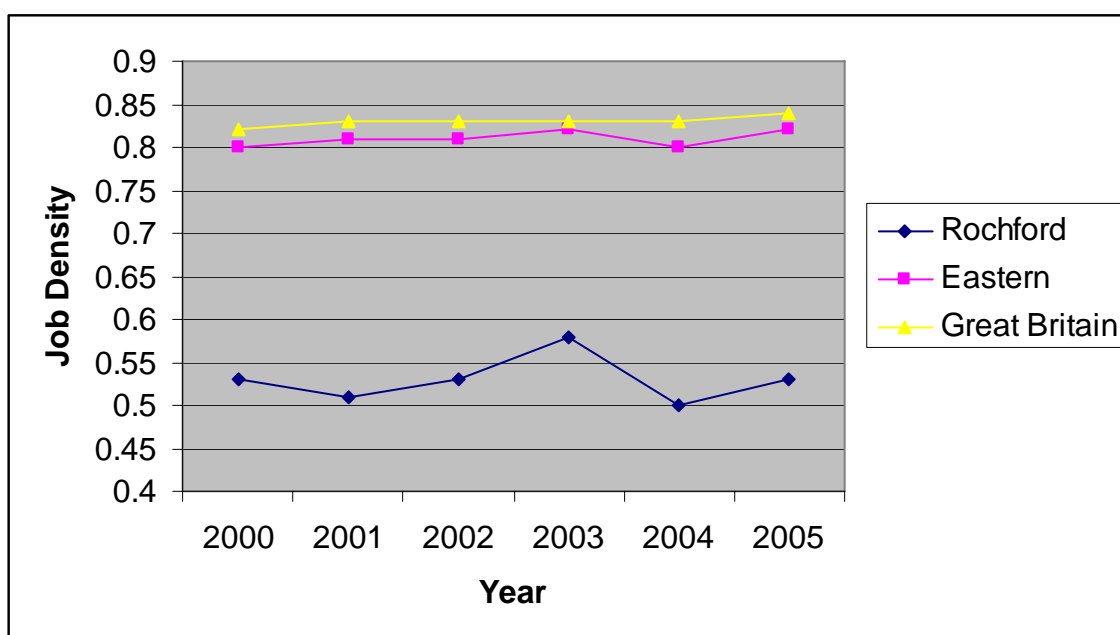
Table 73: Job Density 2000 – 2005

	Rochford	Eastern	Great Britain
2000	0.53	0.80	0.82
2001	0.51	0.81	0.83
2002	0.53	0.81	0.83
2003	0.58	0.82	0.83
2004	0.50	0.80	0.83
2005	0.53	0.82	0.84

Source: NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/jd_time_series/report.aspx?)

Figure 60: Job Density 2000 – 2005



Source: NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/jd_time_series/report.aspx?)

The job density witnessed within Rochford District has been below that seen in both the East of England and England across the period of study. Job density peaked in the District in 2003 at 0.58. At no point in the study has job density in the East of England or England fallen below 0.8, with job density at the national level typically being around 0.83. Following a decrease in 2004, Rochford District job density rose in 2005 to 0.53, the second highest value witnessed across the District in the above study.

F. Employment by Industry Class

The following information has been collated from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) and is hosted on the Nomis internet site. The ABI records a job at the location of an employee's workplace rather than by an employee's residence.

Table 74: Employment by Industry Class 2006

Employment Type	Rochford		Eastern Region	Great Britain
Total employee jobs	19,000	-	-	-
Full-time	12,800	67.3%	68.6%	68.9%
Part-time	6,200	32.7%	31.4%	31.1%
Employee jobs by industry				
Manufacturing	2,500	13.3%	11.0%	10.9%
Construction	1,200	6.3%	5.3%	4.8%
Services	14,700	77.5%	82.1%	82.9%
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	4,500	24.3%	25.0%	23.5%
Transport & communications	1,100	5.5%	6.3%	5.9%
Finance, IT, other business activities	3,000	15.9%	20.3%	21.2%
Public admin, education & health	4,900	25.7%	25.5%	26.9%
Other services	1,200	6.1%	4.9%	5.3%
Tourism-related [†]	1,500	8.2%	7.8%	8.3%

Source: NOMIS 2007 (<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/report.aspx?town=rochford>)

- Notes: 1. Tourism-related includes employees also counted as part of the Services Industry Class.
 2. Employee jobs excludes self employed, government supported trainees and HM Forces.
 † Tourism consists of industries that are also part of the service industry

The above table has split employment into 4 main categories, namely 'Manufacturing', 'Construction', 'Services' and 'Tourism-related'. Rochford District can be seen to have an above average proportion of people employed in the 'Manufacturing' and 'Construction' sectors. 77.5% of employees are employed in the 'Services' sector within the District. This is below the regional proportion of 82.1% and the national proportion of 82.9%. Analysis of the breakdown of service industries shows us that this under representation is not uniform across the entirety of the service sector. For example, the District, at 25.7%, can be found to have a larger proportion of people employed within the 'public admin, education and health' sector compared to the region at 25.5%. In addition, the District can be found to have a smaller proportion of people employed within the 'Distribution, hotels and restaurants' sector despite the District having an over-representation in the tourism related sector, itself comprised partly of hotels and restaurants, compared to the Region. Figures from 2004 show that there has been an increase in public admin jobs, from 4,319 to 4,900. This has been despite an overall reduction in the number of available jobs, from 19,428 to 19,000. It has been the manufacturing industries which have seen the largest reduction, from 3,020 to 2,500. The general proportion of full-time to part time jobs, at approximately 2:1, is in line with regional and national averages, although there is a slightly greater emphasis on part time jobs in the District when compared to the East of England and England (32.7%, 31.4% and 31.1% respectively)

The District can be seen to be providing a range of employment opportunities, in line with Policy E3 of the draft East of England Plan. Policy E5 of the same plan states the need to support the growth of a variety of economic sectors

G. Employment by Occupation

A Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) scheme has been devised in order to be able to classify workers into occupational categories. The 9 Major SOC categories are summarised in Table 75. SOC Major Categories can be amalgamated into 4 distinct groups, as shown in the table below.

Table 75: SOC Classification Scheme

SOC Group	Occupation
1	Managers and Senior Professionals
2	Professional Occupations
3	Associate Professional and Technical
4	Administrative and Secretarial
5	Skilled Trades Occupations
6	Personal Service Occupations
7	Sales and Customer Service Occupations
8	Process Plant and Machine Operatives
9	Elementary Occupations

Source: NOMIS 2007 (<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/report.aspx?town=rochford>)

Table 76: Employment by Occupation April 2006 – March 2007

	Rochford		Eastern Region	Great Britain
Soc 2000 major group 1-3	13,900	38.1%	42.8%	42.3%
1 Managers and senior officials	4,900	13.4%	15.4%	15.1%
2 Professional occupations	5,300	14.4%	12.9%	13.0%
3 Associate professional & technical	3,800	10.4%	14.5%	14.3%
Soc 2000 major group 4-5	12,100	33.2%	23.3%	22.9%
4 Administrative & secretarial	4,900	13.3%	11.5%	12.0%
5 Skilled trades occupations	7,300	19.8%	11.8%	10.9%
Soc 2000 major group 6-7	5,200	14.2%	15.1%	15.7%
6 Personal service occupations	3,500	9.5%	7.6%	8.1%
7 Sales and customer service occs	#	#	7.5%	7.6%
Soc 2000 major group 8-9	5,300	14.5%	18.6%	18.7%
8 Process plant & machine operatives	#	#	7.1%	7.2%
9 Elementary occupations	4,100	11.1%	11.5%	11.5%

Source: NOMIS 2007 (<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/report.aspx?town=rochford>)

denotes fields where the sample size was too small for a reliable estimate

Figures are for those ages 16+

The greatest deviation from regional and national results seen in the District can be found within SOC Major Group 4-5. 33.2% of District employees can be found in this sector, compared to 23.3% regionally and 22.9% nationally. Much of this overrepresentation is due to the fact that 19.8% of Rochford District residents are employed in the 'Skilled trade occupations' group, almost double the 11.8% found regionally and 10.9% nationally. Rochford District can be seen to be underrepresented in all other SOC major groups with the largest underrepresentation being found within SOC major groups 1-3. Analysis of the individual groups within SOC Major Group 1-3 shows that this underrepresentation is not

uniform across all 3 major groups. The District has a higher proportion of people in 'Professional Occupations' (SOC Group 2), at 14.4%, than that witnessed regionally (12.9%) or nationally (13%). It is in the 'Associate professional and technical' group (SOC Group 3) where this relative shortfall is most apparent.

The following set of tables and figures analyse the proportion of workers in Rochford District, the East of England and Great Britain who work in each of the four Major SOC Groups over the period March 2001 to March 2007.

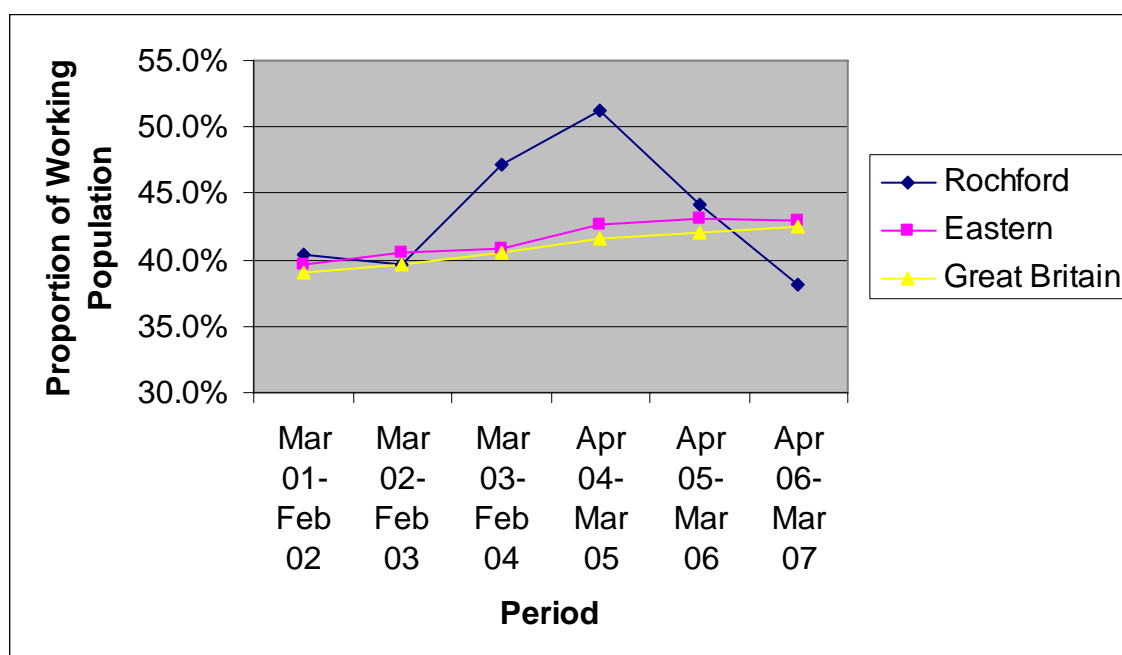
Table 77: Proportion of Workers Present in SOC Major Group 1 – 3

Date	Rochford		Eastern Region	Great Britain
Mar 01-Feb 02	15,000	40.4%	39.7%	39.1%
Mar 02-Feb 03	15,000	39.7%	40.6%	39.7%
Mar 03-Feb 04	18,900	47.1%	40.8%	40.5%
Apr 04-Mar 05	19,800	51.3%	42.6%	41.6%
Apr 05-Mar 06	17,800	44.2%	43.1%	42.0%
Apr 06-Mar 07	13,900	38.1%	42.9%	42.5%

Source: NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/empocc_time_series/report.aspx)

Figure 61: Proportion of Workers Present in SOC Major Group 1 – 3



Source: NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/empocc_time_series/report.aspx)

The proportion of people employed in SOC Major Groups 1 – 3 has fallen since the high of 51.3% recorded in April 2004 – March 2005. This is in contrast to the Eastern Region and Great Britain which have witnessed a general increase in people employed in this group across the study. Between March 2003 – February 2004 and April 2005 – March 2006, Rochford District had a higher percentage of people employed in this SOC group. The latest figures however, covering the period April 2006 – March 2007, report that 38.1% of workers were employed in SOC Major Groups 1 – 3, a figure below the Eastern Region

value of 42.9% and national figure of 42.5%. The Eastern Region has had a higher proportion of SOC Major Group 1 – 3 employees than England across the study.

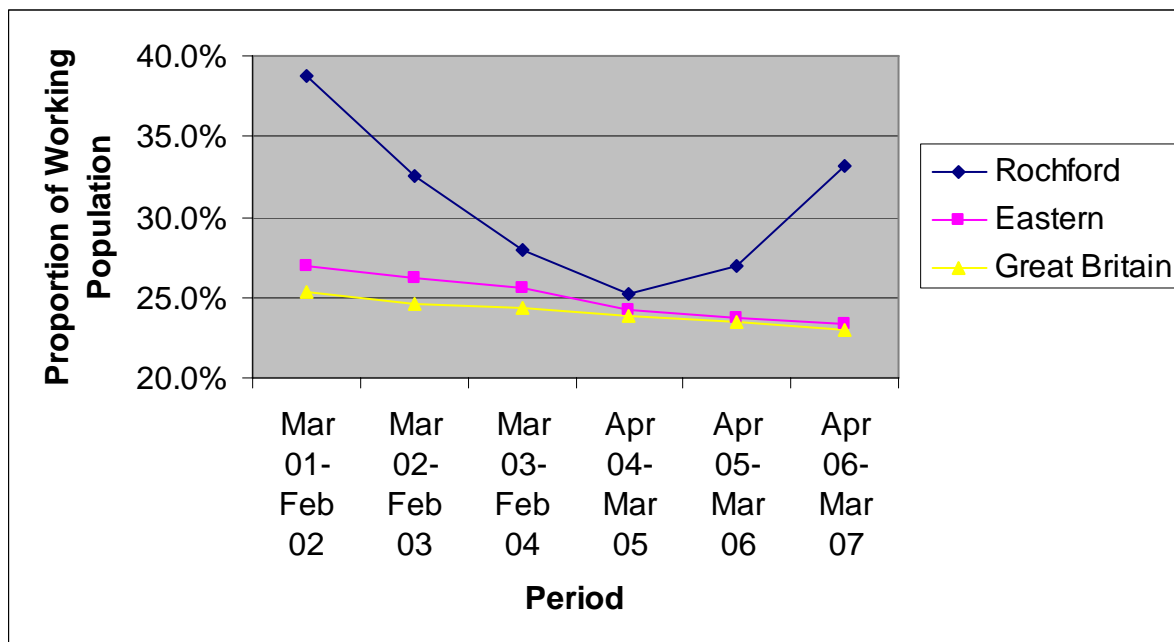
Table 78: Proportion of Workers Present in SOC Major Group 4 – 5.

Date	Rochford	Eastern	Great	
Mar 01-Feb 02	14,000	38.8%	27.0%	25.3%
Mar 02-Feb 03	13,000	32.5%	26.2%	24.6%
Mar 03-Feb 04	11,200	27.9%	25.6%	24.4%
Apr 04-Mar 05	9,700	25.2%	24.2%	23.8%
Apr 05-Mar 06	10,800	27.0%	23.7%	23.5%
Apr 06-Mar 07	12,100	33.2%	23.4%	23.0%

Source: NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/empocc_time_series/report.aspx)

Figure 62: Proportion of Workers Present in SOC Major Groups 4 – 5



Source: NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/empocc_time_series/report.aspx)

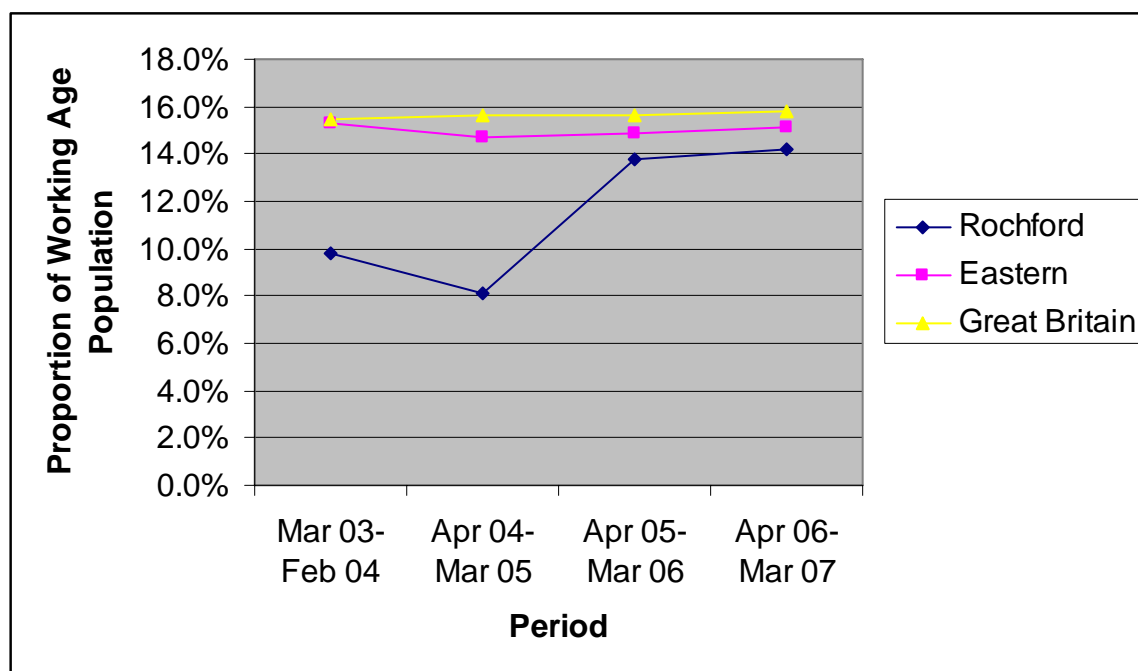
The proportion of the working population who are employed in SOC Major Groups 4 – 5 has varied quite considerably over the period of study in Rochford District. In March 2001 – February 2002, 38.8% of people were employed in this Group, compared to 27% in the Eastern Region and 25.3% in Great Britain. This is the single highest result recorded across the study for any geographical region. By April 2004 - March 2005, this figure had fallen to 25.2% in the District, a figure more in line with that seen regionally and nationally although it also represents the lowest proportion of workers employed in this SOC Major Group in the District across the study. Between the aforementioned date and April 2006 – March 2007, the proportion of workers in this group again rose in the District to 33.2%. This is above the regional value of 23.4% and national value of 23%. The proportion of SOC Major Groups 4 – 5 workers both regionally and nationally across the study can be seen to be reducing year-on-year, with the Eastern Region reporting a higher proportion than Great Britain in each year.

Table 79: Proportion of Workers Present in SOC Major Groups 6 – 7

Date	Rochford		Eastern	Great
Mar 01-Feb 02	#	#	14.4%	15.3%
Mar 02-Feb 03	#	#	14.6%	15.3%
Mar 03-Feb 04	3,900	9.8%	15.3%	15.5%
Apr 04-Mar 05	3,100	8.1%	14.7%	15.6%
Apr 05-Mar 06	5,500	13.8%	14.9%	15.6%
Apr 06-Mar 07	5,200	14.2%	15.1%	15.8%

Source: NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/empocc_time_series/report.aspx)

Figure 63: Proportion of Workers Present in SOC Major Groups 6 – 7

Source: NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/empocc_time_series/report.aspx)

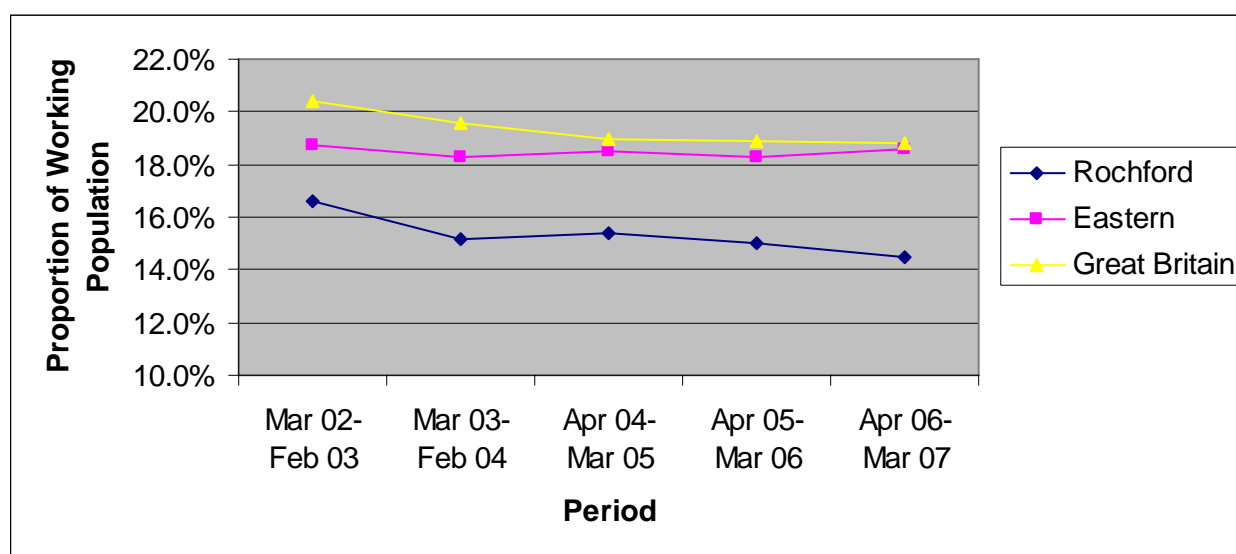
The proportion of workers in SOC Major Groups 6-7 has generally risen within the District across the period of study. 9.8% of District workers were employed in this group in April 2004 – March 2005. This is below the 15.3% and 15.5% reported by the Eastern Region and Great Britain respectively. Following a reduction in the proportion of workers in this SOC Major Group within the District in April 2004 – March 2005 to 8.1%, the proportion can be seen to rise in each following year. The latest figures show an increase in the proportion of District workers, from 13.8% to 14.2%. This is below both regional and national figures, at 15.1% and 15.8% respectively. Figures at both the regional and national level show a general increase in this employment group, with Great Britain figures being above those in the Eastern Region in each year.

Table 80: Proportion of Workers Present in SOC Major Groups 8 – 9

Date	Rochford		Eastern	Great
Mar 01-Feb 02	#	#	18.9%	20.4%
Mar 02-Feb 03	6,000	16.6%	18.7%	20.4%
Mar 03-Feb 04	6,100	15.2%	18.3%	19.6%
Apr 04-Mar 05	5,900	15.4%	18.5%	19.0%
Apr 05-Mar 06	6,000	15.0%	18.3%	18.9%
Apr 06-Mar 07	5,300	14.5%	18.6%	18.8%

Source: NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/empocc_time_series/report.aspx)

Figure 64: Proportion of Workers Present in SOC Major Groups 8 – 9

Source: NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/empocc_time_series/report.aspx)

The proportion of workers in SOC Major Groups 8-9 in the District has been below that seen regionally and nationally. At each geographical hierarchy there has been a reduction in the proportion of workers within this SOC Major Grouping across the whole period of study. This reduction has been the greatest within the District, with the proportion falling from 16.6% in March 2002 – February 2003 to 14.5% in April 2006 – March 2007. April 2006 – March 2007 results for the remaining hierarchies are 18.6% in the Eastern Region and 18.8% in England. Whilst the proportion of workers in the group in the Eastern Region has been below that in Great Britain, the Eastern Region is the only geographical hierarchy to show any increase in proportion between two consecutive periods. The last increase can be seen between April 2005 – March 2006, and this increase has resulted in the proportion of workers in the Eastern Region being as close to that seen in Great Britain across the period of study.

H. Economic Activity of Residents

Table 81: Economic Activity of Residents between April 2006 and March 2007

	Rochford	Eastern Region	Great Britain	
All people				
Economically active [†]	38,500	77.3%	80.4%	78.5%
In employment [†]	36,500	73.1%	76.6%	74.2%
Employees [†]	29,500	58.8%	65.3%	64.5%
Self employed [†]	6,700	13.8%	11.0%	9.3%
Model-based unemployed [§]	1,500	4.0%	4.5%	5.3%
Males				
Economically active [†]	20,300	80.5%	86.2%	83.3%
In employment [†]	19,600	77.6%	82.2%	78.5%
Employees [†]	13,400	53.1%	65.8%	64.7%
Self employed [†]	6,200	24.4%	16.2%	13.4%
Unemployed [§]	!	!	4.5%	5.7%
Females				
Economically active [†]	18,200	74.0%	74.3%	73.4%
In employment [†]	16,900	68.5%	70.7%	69.7%
Employees [†]	16,100	64.8%	64.9%	64.3%
Self employed [†]	!	!	5.5%	5.1%
Unemployed [§]	#	#	4.5%	4.9%

Source: NOMIS 2007 (<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/report.aspx?town=rochford>)

Notes. # Sample size is too small for reliable estimate

! Estimate not available as sample size is disclosive

† Numbers are those aged 16 and over, % for those of working age

§ Numbers and % for those ages 16 or over. % proportion of those economically active

People are defined as being 'economically active' whether they are employed or unemployed. The definition for 'In employment' in this case means the proportion of people who undertook paid employment in the reference week or had a job they were temporarily away from. Unemployment figures at a District level are based on very small samples and so could prove unreliable. To combat this, the Office for National Statistics has developed a statistical model to provide a more robust estimate for unemployment figures and it is these model based figures which are included in Table 81.

Between April 2006 and March 2007, 77.3% of Rochford District residents were economically active, a lower figure than that found in the Eastern Region (80.4%) and Great Britain (78.5%). The District also records a lower proportion in employment generally, although the proportion of people who are self employed, 13.8%, is above the 11% recorded in the Eastern Region and 9.3% recorded in Great Britain. The proportion of males who are economically active in the District was recorded as 80.5%. This is also below both regional and national figures, recorded as 86.2% and 83.3% respectively. Whilst the proportion of males in employment can again be seen to be lower than regional or national levels, there is a higher instance of male self employment in the District. 24.4% of Rochford District males are self employed, compared to 16.2% regionally and 13.4% nationally. The proportion of females who are economically active in the District is again lower than that seen regionally, 74% compared to 74.3%, but above the 73.4% recorded across Great Britain. The proportion of females in employment in the District is below that regionally and nationally although with 64.8% of females being employees, there is a higher instance of female employees than that witnessed regionally (64.9%) and nationally (64.3%).

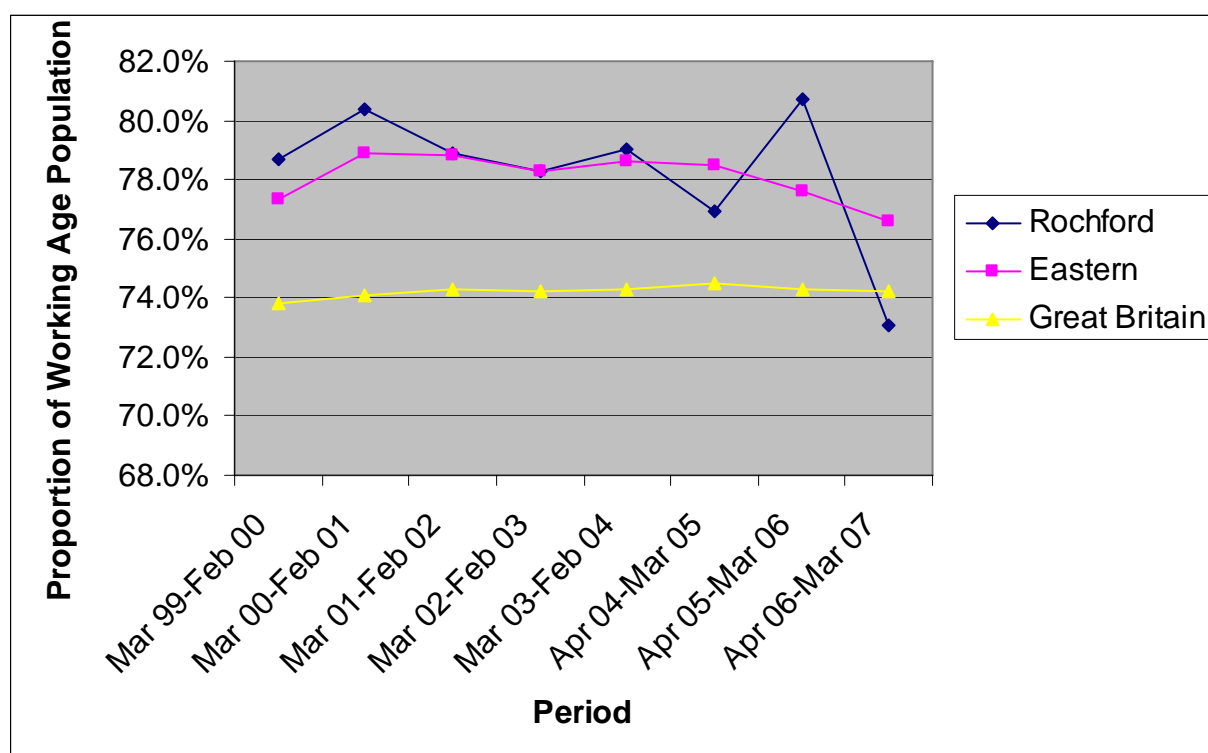
Table 82: Proportion of Working Age Population Who Were Employed between March 1999 and March 2007

Date	Rochford		Eastern	Great Britain
Mar 99-Feb 00	41,000	78.7%	77.3%	73.8%
Mar 00-Feb 01	39,000	80.4%	78.9%	74.1%
Mar 01-Feb 02	38,000	78.9%	78.8%	74.3%
Mar 02-Feb 03	39,000	78.3%	78.3%	74.2%
Mar 03-Feb 04	40,100	79.0%	78.6%	74.3%
Apr 04-Mar 05	38,000	76.9%	78.5%	74.5%
Apr 05-Mar 06	40,100	80.7%	77.6%	74.3%
Apr 06-Mar 07	36,500	73.1%	76.6%	74.2%

Source: NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/ea_time_series/report.aspx)

Figure 65: Proportion of Working Age Population Who Were Employed between March 1999 and March 2007



Source: NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/ea_time_series/report.aspx)

The proportion of the District's working age population who were employed has decreased across the period of study, although this reduction has not been year-on-year. During March 1999 – February 2000, the proportion of people employed in the District, at 78.7%, was above that seen nationally and regionally. By April 2006 – March 2007, this had dropped to 73.1%, below both the regional value of 76.6% and national value of 74.2%. Employment peaked in Rochford District at 80.7% between April 2005 and March 2006. This is also the single highest percentage across all geographical hierarchies. Employment levels in the Eastern Region have also decreased across the study, from 77.3% to 76.6%. Conversely, general employment levels have risen in Great Britain, from 73.8% to 74.2%.

Table 83: Proportion of the Population who were Economically Inactive between April 2006 and March 2007

	Rochford		Eastern Region	Great Britain
All people				
Economically inactive	10,600	22.7%	19.6%	21.5%
Wanting a job	#	#	4.4%	5.5%
Not wanting a job	8,400	18.0%	15.2%	16.0%
Males				
Economically inactive	4,700	19.5%	13.8%	16.7%
Wanting a job	!	!	3.2%	4.4%
Not wanting a job	4,300	18.0%	10.7%	12.3%
Females				
Economically inactive	5,900	26.0%	25.7%	26.6%
Wanting a job	#	#	5.8%	6.6%
Not wanting a job	4,100	18.0%	20.0%	20.0%

Source: NOMIS 2007 (<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/report.aspx?town=rochford>)

Note: # Sample size is too small for reliable estimate

! Estimate is not available since sample size is disclosive

% relates to those of working age

22.7% of Rochford District residents are economically inactive. This is above the proportion of economically inactive people in both the Eastern Region (19.6%) and Great Britain (21.5%) 18% of working age residents within Rochford District are not looking for a job, a higher proportion than the 15.2% and 16% recorded regionally and nationally. The proportions of economically inactive males and females are both above that reported regionally although the difference is most marked in males. Nationally there is a higher percentage of economically inactive males but a lower percentage of economically inactive females. The proportion of economically inactive females who do not want a job is recorded as 20% regionally and nationally, above the District value of 18%.

Table 84: Proportion of Residents Who are Economically Inactive and are Looking for a Job March 1999 – March 2007

Date	Rochford		Eastern Region	Great Britain
Mar 99-Feb 00	#	#	5.3%	6.2%
Mar 00-Feb 01	#	#	4.8%	6.1%
Mar 01-Feb 02	#	#	4.8%	6.0%
Mar 02-Feb 03	#	#	4.6%	6.0%
Mar 03-Feb 04	#	#	4.6%	5.7%
Jan 04-Dec 04	2,400	5.2%	4.2%	5.2%
Apr 04-Mar 05	2,300	4.9%	4.2%	5.2%
Oct 04-Sep 05	2,200	4.6%	4.3%	5.2%
Jan 05-Dec 05	2,200	4.7%	4.6%	5.3%
Apr 05-Mar 06	#	#	5.1%	5.4%
Jul 05-Jun 06	3,500	7.5%	5.3%	5.4%
Oct 05-Sep 06	3,400	7.4%	5.1%	5.4%
Jan 06-Dec 06	#	#	4.7%	5.4%
Apr 06-Mar 07	#	#	4.4%	5.5%

Source: NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/einact_time_series/report.aspx)

Note: # sample size is too small for a reliable estimate

People who are ‘economically inactive but looking for a job’ are defined as being people who are not in employment, who want a job, but are not classed as unemployed because they have not sought work in the last four weeks or are not available to start work. Analysis in this field is problematic due to the absence of comprehensive data. During the period January 2004 and December 2005, the proportion of Rochford District residents economically inactive and wanting a job was above the regional but below the national proportion. Across the periods July 2005 – June 2006 and October 2005 – September 2006, the proportion of economically inactive people looking for a job increased to 7.5% and 7.4% respectively. This is above the 5.3% and 5.1% reported regionally and 5.4% reported nationally across those two periods. Figures at both the regional and national scale have increased across the period of study.

I. Self Employment

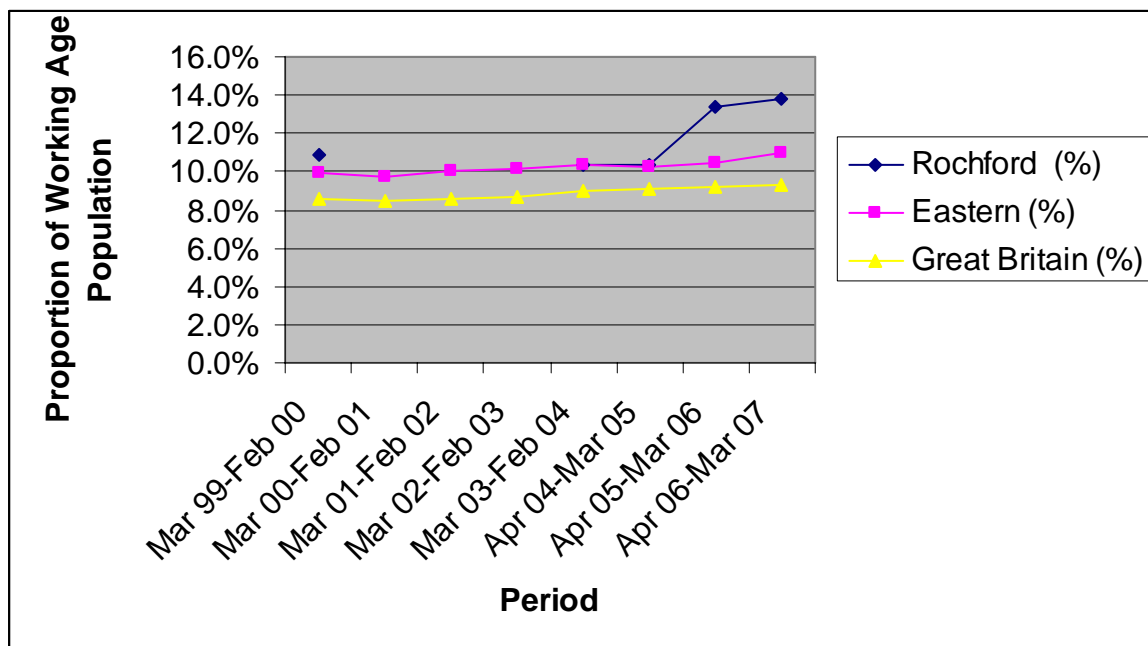
Table 85: Percentage of Economically Active Residents Who Are Self Employed March 1999 – March 2007

Date	Rochford	Rochford	Eastern	Great Britain
		(%)	(%)	(%)
Mar 99-Feb 00	6,000	10.9%	9.9%	8.6%
Mar 00-Feb 01	#	#	9.7%	8.5%
Mar 01-Feb 02	#	#	10.0%	8.6%
Mar 02-Feb 03	#	#	10.1%	8.7%
Mar 03-Feb 04	5,700	10.4%	10.4%	9.0%
Apr 04-Mar 05	5,000	10.4%	10.2%	9.1%
Apr 05-Mar 06	7,100	13.4%	10.5%	9.2%
Apr 06-Mar 07	6,700	13.8%	11.0%	9.3%

Source: NOMIS 2007

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/ea_time_series/report.aspx

Figure 66: Percentage of Economically Active Residents Who Are Self Employed March 1999 – March 2007



Source: NOMIS 2007

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/ea_time_series/report.aspx

The levels of self employment recorded in Rochford District are the highest they have been based on the data available. The reported value of 13.8% exceeds that found in the Eastern Region (11%) and Great Britain (9.3%) and is also the highest single proportion across the study. Between March 1999 and March 2007, the proportion of people who are self employed has been higher in the Eastern Region than it has in Great Britain.

J. Comparison of Average Wage Earned by Residence

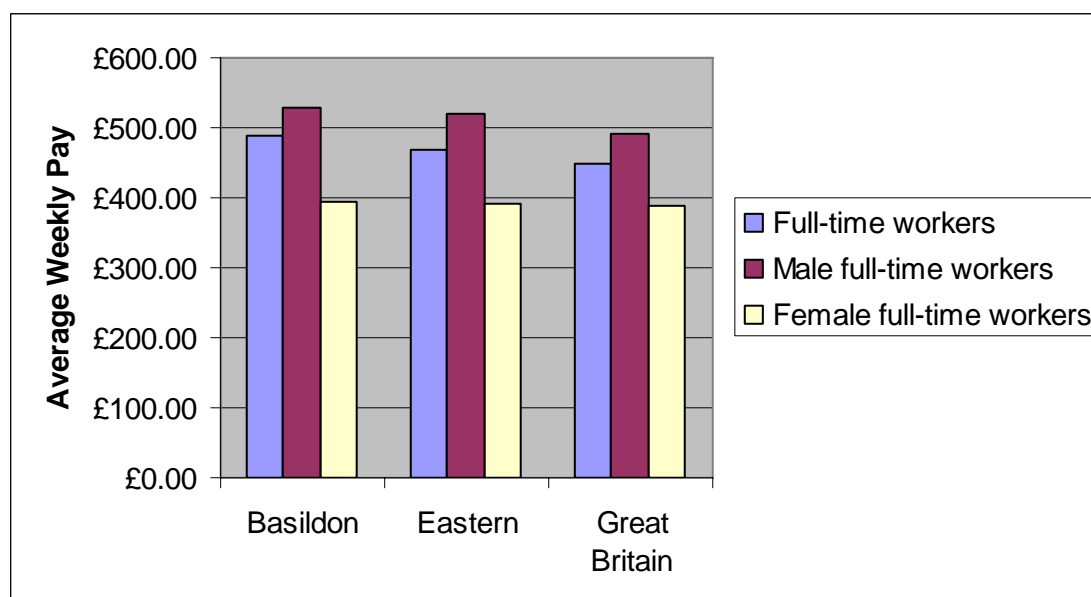
The Tables and Figures in this section analyse the average wage of people who reside in Rochford, the Eastern Region and Great Britain irrespective of where they are employed.

Table 86: Comparison between Average Wages by Residence 2007

	Rochford	Eastern Region	Great Britain
Gross weekly pay			
Full-time workers	£545.60	£479.10	£459.00
Male full-time workers	£554.40	£531.80	£500.70
Female full-time workers	£508.00	£400.40	£394.80
Hourly pay			
Full-time workers	£13.10	£11.94	£11.50
Male full-time workers	£13.11	£12.84	£12.17
Female full-time workers	#	£10.62	£10.48

Source: NOMIS 2007 (<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/report.aspx?town=rochford>)

Figure 67: Comparison between Average Wages by Residence 2007



Source: NOMIS 2007 (<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/report.aspx?town=rochford>)

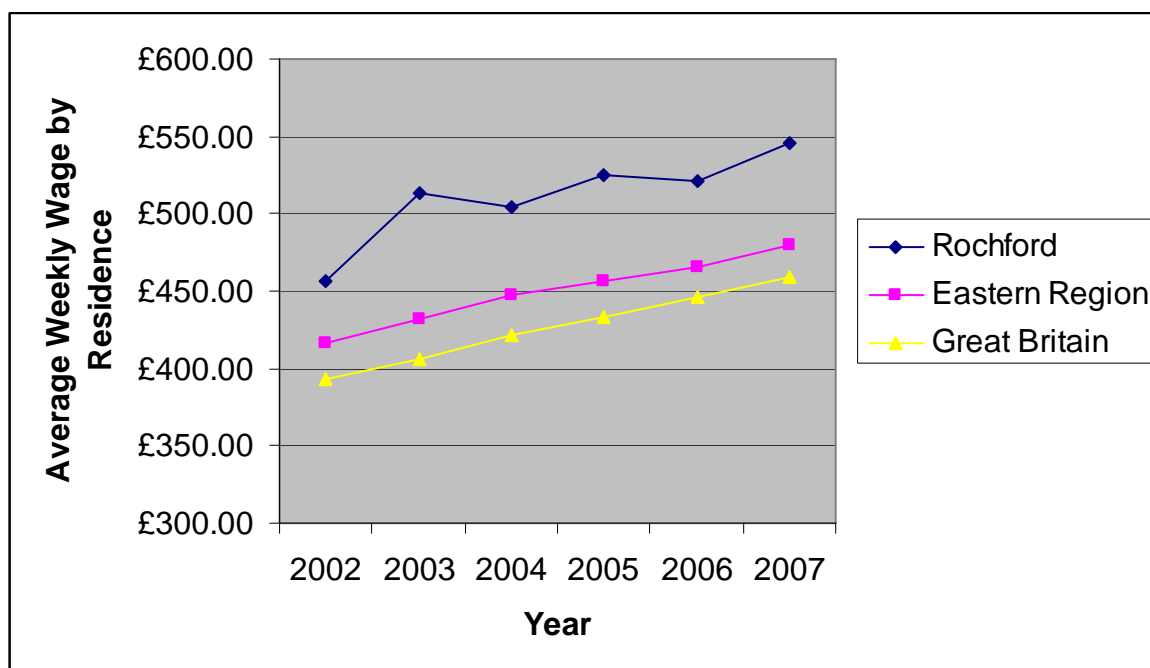
Average full time weekly pay received by Rochford residents was reported as £545.60 in 2007. This is above the £479.10 and £459.00 reported regionally and nationally. Both male and female wages are also above those reported regionally and nationally, with the greatest discrepancy being between male workers in Rochford and Great Britain. Wages can also be seen to be higher in the region than they are nationally.

Table 87: Trend Analysis of Average Weekly Wage by Residence

Year	Rochford	Eastern Region	Great Britain
2002	£456.10	£415.90	£392.70
2003	£513.50	£431.70	£406.20
2004	£504.00	£447.60	£421.30
2005	£524.60	£456.70	£432.80
2006	£521.20	£466.00	£445.90
2007	£545.60	£479.10	£459.00

NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/asher_time_series/report.aspx)

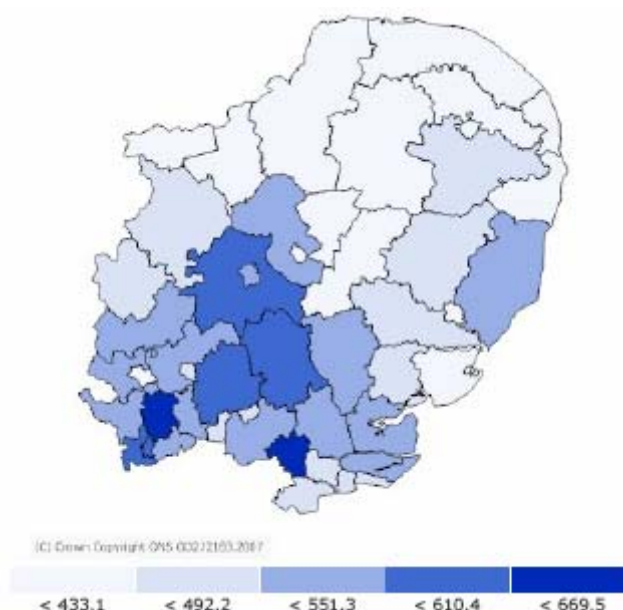
Figure 68: Trend Analysis of Average Weekly Wage by Residence

Source: NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/asher_time_series/report.aspx)

All geographical hierarchies show a general increase in average weekly wages from 2002 – 2007. Wages have been higher in the District than in the Eastern Region and Great Britain across the study, and the rate of average weekly wage increase between 2006 and 2007 is greater in the District than it was in the Eastern Region and Great Britain.

Figure 69: Average Weekly Earnings in the Eastern Region



Source: NOMIS 2007

(https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431775/subreports/asher_compared/report.aspx)

Rochford District is ranked 8th of the 48 Local Authorities covered by this analysis. The overriding pattern in weekly earnings is that of an increase in earnings being witnessed as the proximity of the Local Authority to London increases.

K. Planning Permissions Implemented and Outstanding

Table 88 and Table 89 detail planning permissions that have been implemented over the period April 2006 to March 2007, as well as those which were currently outstanding at the end of March 2007. Retail (A1 and A2), Offices (B1) and General Industry (B1 – B8) are covered in this section.

Table 88: Implemented Planning Permission for Retail (A1 – A2) April 2006 – March 2007

Small Area Name	Completed A1 - A2 Floorspace (Gross m2)	Floorspace Loss (m2)	Completed A1 - A2 Floorspace (Net m2)	Completed on PDL (m2)	Completed on Greenfield (m2)
Ashingdon & Canewdon	0	0	0	0	0
Barling & Sutton	0	0	0	0	0
Foulness & Great Wakering	0	0	0	0	0
Hawkwell North	0	0	0	0	0
Hawkwell South	0	0	0	0	0
Hawkwell West	0	0	0	0	0
Hockley Central	0	0	0	0	0
Hockley North	0	0	0	0	0
Hockley West	0	0	0	0	0
Hullbridge CP	0	0	0	0	0
Paglesham CP	0	0	0	0	0
Rochford CP	1131	0	1131	1131	0
Stambridge CP	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton CP	0	0	0	0	0
Downhall & Rawreth	0	0	0	0	0
Grange & Rawreth Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Lodge Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Rayleigh Central Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Sweyne Park	0	0	0	0	0
Trinity Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Wheatley Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Whitehouse Ward	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1131	0	1131	1131	0

Source: Essex County Council 2007 (Threshold > 250 m²)

Only Rochford Civil Parish has implemented planning permission for retail across the period April 2006 – March 2007. This was for a 1131m² mixed use development including a supermarket and 3 shops. The development is located North of Market Square which was entirely completed on previously developed land.

Table 89: Outstanding Planning Permission for Retail (A1 and A2) April 2007

Small Area Name	Outstanding A1 - A2 Floorspace (Gross m2)	Potential Floorspace Loss (m2)	Outstanding A1 - A2 Floorspace (Net m2)	To Be Completed on PDL (m2)	To Be Completed on Greenfield (m2)
Ashingdon & Canewdon	0	0	0	0	0
Barling & Sutton	0	0	0	0	0
Foulness & Great Wakering	0	0	0	0	0
Hawkwell North	0	0	0	0	0
Hawkwell South	0	0	0	0	0
Hawkwell West	0	0	0	0	0
Hockley Central	0	0	0	0	0
Hockley North	0	0	0	0	0
Hockley West	0	0	0	0	0
Hullbridge CP	0	0	0	0	0
Paglesham CP	0	0	0	0	0
Rochford CP	2403	0	2403	2403	0
Stambridge CP	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton CP	0	0	0	0	0
Downhall & Rawreth	0	0	0	0	0
Grange & Rawreth Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Lodge Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Rayleigh Central Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Sweyne Park	0	0	0	0	0
Trinity Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Wheatley Ward	287	0	287	287	0
Whitehouse Ward	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2690	0	2690	2690	0

Source: Essex County Council 2007 (Threshold > 250 m²)

Rochford Civil Parish has unimplemented planning permission for 2403m² of A1 or A2 development. This is to take place on previously developed land and comprises two separate applications. One of these is for a 1858m² retail store located at Purdeys Industrial Estate whilst the other is a 545m² development at the Factory Shop, Magnolia Way, Rochford. A further 287m² of development is scheduled to take place in Rayleigh High Street on previously developed land in Wheatley Ward.

Table 90: Outstanding Planning Permission for Office Use (B1) April 2007

Small Area Name	Outstanding B1 Floorspace (Gross m2)	Potential Floorspace Loss (m2)	Outstanding B1 Floorspace (Net m2)	To Be Completed on PDL (m2)	To Be Completed on Greenfield (m2)
Ashingdon & Canewdon	0	0	0	0	0
Barling & Sutton	0	0	0	0	0
Foulness & Great Wakering	0	0	0	0	0
Hawkwell North	0	0	0	0	0
Hawkwell South	0	0	0	0	0
Hawkwell West	0	0	0	0	0
Hockley Central	0	0	0	0	0
Hockley North	0	0	0	0	0
Hockley West	0	0	0	0	0
Hullbridge CP	0	0	0	0	0
Paglesham CP	0	0	0	0	0
Rochford CP	0	0	0	0	0
Stambridge CP	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton CP	0	0	0	0	0
Downhall & Rawreth	0	0	0	0	0
Grange & Rawreth Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Lodge Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Rayleigh Central Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Sweyne Park	0	0	0	0	0
Trinity Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Wheatley Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Whitehouse Ward	1548	0	1548	1548	0
TOTAL	1548	0	1548	1548	0

Source: Essex County Council 2007 (Threshold > 1,000 m²)

No planning permissions were implemented for new B1 development within Rochford District between April 2006 and March 2007. There is currently unimplemented planning permission for 1548m² of development in Whitehouse Ward to take place on previously developed land. This is for an office building to be located on Brook Road, Rayleigh.

Table 91: Implemented Planning Permission for General Industry Use (B1 – B8) April 2006 – March 2007

Small Area Name	Completed B1 - B8 Floorspace (Gross m2)	Floorspace Loss (m2)	Completed B1 - B8 Floorspace (Net m2)	Completed on PDL (m2)	Completed on Greenfield (m2)
Ashingdon & Canewdon	0	0	0	0	0
Barling & Sutton	0	0	0	0	0
Foulness & Great Wakering	1886	1584	302	1886	0
Hawkwell North	0	0	0	0	0
Hawkwell South	0	0	0	0	0
Hawkwell West	0	0	0	0	0
Hockley Central	0	0	0	0	0
Hockley North	0	0	0	0	0
Hockley West	1120	0	1120	1120	0
Hullbridge CP	0	0	0	0	0
Paglesham CP	0	0	0	0	0
Rochford CP	854	0	854	0	854
Stambridge CP	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton CP	0	0	0	0	0
Downhall & Rawreth	1713	2277	-564	1713	0
Grange & Rawreth Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Lodge Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Rayleigh Central Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Sweyne Park	0	0	0	0	0
Trinity Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Wheatley Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Whitehouse Ward	0	792	-792	0	0
TOTAL	5573	4653	920	4719	854

Source: Essex County Council 2007 (Threshold > 100m²)

Although 5573m² of new B1 – B8 floorspace was developed between April 2006 and March 2007, this has only resulted in 920m² of additional general industry use floorspace. Downhall & Rawreth ward experienced a net loss of 564m² of floorspace despite 1713m² of floorspace being completed in total. This is the result of one application, namely a light industrial and storage development at The Mousery. Much of the floorspace which was previously industrial has been converted into Research and Development, hence the 2277m² loss. Whitehouse Ward lost 792m² of B1 – B8 development, caused by a change of use from industrial to a veterinary practice in Brook Road, Rayleigh. 4719m² of total development took place on previously developed land, with just 854m² of B1 – B8 development, located in Rochford Civil Parish, taking place on greenfield land. This is the part completion of a total 2606m² development located at Purdeys Industrial Estate which will result in 3 industrial units.

Table 92: Outstanding Planning Permission for General Industry Use (B1 – B8) April 2007

Small Area Name	Outstanding B1 - B8 Floorspace (Gross m2)	Potential Floorspace Loss (m2)	Outstanding B1 - B8 Floorspace (Net m2)	To Be Completed on PDL (m2)	To Be Completed on Greenfield (m2)
Ashingdon & Canewdon	0	0	0	0	0
Barling & Sutton	0	0	0	0	0
Foulness & Great Wakering	0	0	0	0	0
Hawkwell North	0	0	0	0	0
Hawkwell South	156	0	156	156	0
Hawkwell West	1472	1472	0	1472	0
Hockley Central	117	0	117	117	0
Hockley North	0	0	0	0	0
Hockley West	0	0	0	0	0
Hullbridge CP	0	0	0	0	0
Paglesham CP	0	0	0	0	0
Rochford CP	7524	0	7524	946	6578
Stambridge CP	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton CP	0	0	0	0	0
Downhall & Rawreth	600	0	600	600	0
Grange & Rawreth Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Lodge Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Rayleigh Central Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Sweyne Park	0	0	0	0	0
Trinity Ward	0	0	0	0	0
Wheatley Ward	0	343	-343	0	0
Whitehouse Ward	665	576	89	665	0
TOTAL	10534	2391	8143	3956	6578

Source: Essex County Council 2007 (Threshold > 100m²)

There is currently outstanding B1 – B8 planning permission equating to 10534m² of floorspace. This will result in a net gain of 8143m² of floorspace. 3956m² (37.55%) of development is scheduled to take place on previously developed land, with Hawkwell West housing 1472m² of this. Rochford Civil Parish is scheduled to receive the majority of this unimplemented development. 7524m² of B1 – B8 planning permission has been agreed but was unimplemented in Rochford Civil Parish by April 2007. 9 applications make up this total floorspace, with the largest being a 3495m² development in Aviation Way Industrial Estate comprising 3 industrial units. 6578m² of the total 7542m² of development scheduled for Rochford Civil Parish is to take place on greenfield land.

Other large applications with unimplemented planning permission include a 1472m² development in Hawkwell West for a change of use from a warehouse to manufacturing at Auto Plas International, Main Road, Hawkwell and a 1423m² development for 6 industrial units in Purdeys Industrial Estate in Rochford Ward.

13.4 Economy Summary

- The number of VAT based local units registered within Rochford District was recorded as 2,660 VAT in March 2007 by the Office for National Statistics.
- The composition of Rochford District's industry in 2006 was broadly similar to both the Regional and National composition. Property and business services were the most prevalent. The major differences are that Rochford District has an agricultural sector proportionately just over half of that seen regionally and nationally, and a larger proportion of businesses involved in Construction.
- Factories and warehouses account for the majority of industrial floorspace at all geographical hierarchies in 2007. The single largest floorspace allocation is to factories at 37.24% of total floorspace. Commercial office floorspace shows the greatest under-representation, being recorded at 7% in Rochford, 12.42% in the East of England and 14.27% in England.
- The percentage of commercial and industrial land vacant in the District has remained stable between April 1999 and March 2005 at 6%. This is 2% below the regional figure and 3% below the national figure recorded between April 2004 and

March 2005. 6.55ha of land is currently earmarked in employment areas for non-residential uses.

- In Rochford District, businesses which employ between 0 and 4 people accounted for 79.2% of all VAT registered local units in 2007. This compares to 68.71% regionally and 67.12% nationally.
- Job Density within Rochford District has been below that seen in the East of England and England between 2000 and 2005. Job Density peaked in the District at 0.58 in 2003. In 2006 it was recorded at 0.53. Job Density in Great Britain was recorded as 0.84 in 2005.
- Rochford had a higher proportion of people employed in the Manufacturing and Construction sectors in 2006. There is a slight deficit in most services, specifically finance and IT. The ratio of full time to part time jobs, at 2:1, is in line with regional and national averages.
- In April 2006 – March 2007, 33.2% of District employees could be found within SOC Major Group 4-5 (administrative & secretarial and skilled trade occupations), compared to 23.3% regionally and 22.9% nationally. The District is relatively underrepresented in all other major SOC groupings between April 2006 and March 2007.
- Between April 2006 and March 2007, 77.3% of Rochford District residents were economically active, a lower figure than that found in the Eastern Region (80.4%) and Great Britain (78.5%). There are also a lower proportion of people being employed within the District, although the proportion of people who are self-employed is higher than that regionally and nationally.
- The proportion of economically inactive residents who are looking for a job in Rochford District (7.4%) between October 2005 and September 2006 was higher than that reported regionally (5.1%) and nationally (5.4%)
- Average full time weekly pay received by Rochford residents was reported as £545.60 in 2007. This is above the £479.10 and £459.00 reported regionally and nationally. Rochford District is ranked 8th of the 48 Local Authorities covered by the regional analysis.
- The majority of A1 – A2 development implemented or outstanding within Rochford District is scheduled to occur in Rochford Civil Parish. Whitehouse Ward is the only ward in the District where B1 development is either implemented or scheduled. The majority of B1 – B8 development implemented between April 2006 and March 2007 took place on existing B1 – B8 development and as such only a relatively small net gain was made. A further 10,534m² of B1 – B8 development is planned, with 7524m² scheduled for Rochford Civil Parish.

14 HOUSING

14.1 Introduction

Essex has a continually growing population, with the provision of adequate housing a key issue. Not only should there be sufficient housing for the growing population, there should also be suitable housing to meet a wide range of needs. Affordable housing should be factored into housing provision, especially in major housing developments, and there is a need to provide a proportion of housing stock to people who are homeless.

14.2 Policy Context

A. National Context

i) National Planning Policies

National planning policies are published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in Planning Policy Statements (PPS), which are gradually replacing Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG). In respect of housing, national guidance is presented in the following:

- PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Communities (February 2005) promotes socially inclusive communities, including suitable mixes and accessibility of housing and gives the overriding aim that everyone has the opportunity for a decent home in locations that reduce the need for travel.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/rtf/156024.rtf>

- PPS3: Housing reflects the Government's commitment to improving the affordability and supply of housing in all communities by a step-change in housing delivery through a more responsive approach to land supply at local level.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/planningpolicystatement3>

- PPS 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas sets out the Governments objectives of raising the quality of life and environment in rural areas.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/rtf/155046.rtf>

- PPG 13: Transport seeks to integrate planning and transport to promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/rtf/156039.rtf>

- PPS 25: Development and Flood Risk ensures that flood risk is taken into account at all stages of planning to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/planningpolicystatement25>

ii) Sustainable Communities: Homes for All (January 2005)

This sets out the action the Government plans to take over the next five years to offer everyone the opportunity of a decent home at a price they can afford - providing more homes where they are needed whilst enhancing the environment and revitalising communities suffering from abandoned housing and deprivation. This document together with 'Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity', launched in January 2005, forms the next stage of a £38 billion long-term action programme to create sustainable communities - to deliver decent, affordable homes for all, in places in which people want to live and work.

- <http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/strategiesandreviews/yearplan/sustainablecommunitieshomes/>

iii) The Housing Act 2004

The Housing Act is a key piece of legislation containing “wide-ranging measures of reform that will help to protect the most vulnerable in society while creating a fairer housing market for all those who own, rent or let residential property.”

The Act set out main provisions for housing, including the following:

- A revised Housing Health and Safety Rating System to ensure fitness of houses
- Selective Licensing to enable Local Authorities to tackle low housing demand and the problems faced as a result of anti social behaviour.
- The introduction of the Home Information Pack
- Changes to the Right to Buy to tackle profiteering
- Increasing the effectiveness of powers to regulate Registered Social Landlords
- Provisions to require district councils to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in their area, and to produce a strategy detailing how these needs can be met;

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/strategiesandreviews/yearplan/thehousingact/>

iv) Decent Homes Standard July 2000

As a minimum all socially owned homes will have to meet the following standards by 2010 to comply with Government requirements. This standard must be met as the absolute minimum under all four of the measures, namely:

- Fitness
 - be structurally stable
 - be free from disrepair
 - be free from damp levels that could affect the health of the tenant
 - have lighting, heating and ventilation
 - have a piped supply of wholesome water
 - have facilities for preparation and cooking of food
 - have a suitably located toilet
 - have a bath or shower with hot and cold water
 - have suitable drainage.
- Reasonable State of Repair
- Reasonably Modern Facilities
- Thermal Comfort
 - the Decent Homes Standard requires all homes to have a central heating system with timing and temperature controls. Central heating can be gas, oil, or electric. There is also a requirement to have effective insulation such as loft insulation in houses.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/decenthomes/>

v) Homelessness Act 2002

This act requires all local councils to publish their own homelessness strategies as well as to carry out reviews of those strategies. These strategies are to describe how homelessness is to be prevented in their district and to ensure that sufficient accommodation is and will be available for people in their district who are or may become

homeless. It also asks that sufficient support be available for people who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless.

The Act removes the minimum period for which an authority is subject to main homelessness duty and sets out the events which will cause an authority's homelessness duty to cease. Eligibility criteria are detailed and guidelines are given as to how to cater for vulnerable sections of society.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/general-content/housing/homelessnessact/>

vi) Strategic Housing Market Assessment

As part of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, an evidence base should be provided in the form of Strategic Housing Assessments. The findings of these assessments should inform policy and be set out in Local Development Documents inclusive of the following:

- The likely overall proportions of households requiring market or affordable housing
- The profiles of household types requiring market housing
- The type and size of any affordable housing shown to be required

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/323201>

B. Regional/County Context

i) i) Draft East of England Plan December 2004

The Draft East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy), prepared by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), was submitted to Government in December 2004. Following a period of public consultation the Plan was subject of an Examination in Public (EiP) between November 2005 and March 2006. The Report of the EiP Panel was published in June 2006. In December 2006 the Secretary of State published Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for a period of public consultation to March 2007. Following consideration of the consultation response, the Secretary of State issued some Further Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for public consultation between October-December 2007. These Changes incorporate the recommendations of an additional Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Secretary of State's publication of the final version of the East of England Plan is expected during the first quarter of 2008.

Relevant Policies within the Plan include:

- Policy SS1: Achieving Sustainable Development
This aims to achieve a sustainable relationship between jobs, homes and services at the strategic and local level.
- Policy SS13: Overall Housing Provision
This policy sets out the provision of housing in the East of England up until 2021, and gives the percentage of the total housing that should be made affordable housing.
- Policy TG/SE6: Dwelling Provision
This policy sets out the number of additional dwellings required in the areas within the Thames Gateway by 2021.

- Policy H1: Distribution of Dwelling Provision 2001-2021
This policy sets out the dwelling provision required in the East of England, divided into areas, by 2021.
- Policy H2: Affordable Housing and Mix of Housing Types
This sets out the requirements for affordable housing within the total dwelling requirements in the region.

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=452>

ii) Regional Housing Strategy (RHS) for the East of England, 2005-2010

The Regional Housing Strategy for the East of England sets out the strategic direction for the delivery of housing in the East of England.

The vision of the RHS is *“To ensure everyone can live in a decent home that meets their needs, at a price they can afford and in locations that are sustainable”*

It is expected that the region will need to accommodate, on average, 23,900 new dwellings per year in the coming years, of which 11,000 will need to be affordable. Proposed changes to the RHS which as at 31/12/2007 have not been adopted may change this figure. The RHS sets out an approach to meet this challenge, with a focus on Section 106 agreements.

Key issues will need to be addressed in the delivery of new dwellings, including meeting the Decent Homes standard, bringing empty homes into use, and addressing homelessness issues.

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/category.asp?cat=461>

C. District Context

i) Rochford District Council Housing Strategy 2004-2007

ii) i) Rochford District Replacement Local Plan (June 2006)

- Planning objective HO1 states that the Local Authority needs to make provision between 1996 – 2011 for sufficient housing to meet the requirements of the Essex and Southend-on-Sea Replacement Structure Plan
- Planning objective HO3 is to deliver a mix of housing types and tenures that best meets the needs of the District’s population.
- Planning objective HO6 is to protect and enhance residential amenity whilst at the same time seeking to make best use of the existing housing stock through re-use, conversion and sub-division.
- Planning objective HO7 seeks to make the best use of previously developed land within the urban areas for new housing.
- HP1: Overall Housing Provision states that provision is made for 3050 dwellings net in the District between 1996 and 2011. To achieve that provision, residential development will be permitted within the settlements shown on the Proposals Map. Within these settlements, encouragement will be given to residential intensification, sub-division of dwellings, the re-use of vacant, redundant or underused land and living over the shop in accordance with the relevant plans and policies in the Local Plan and the Local Planning Authority’s adopted supplementary planning documents.
- HP2: Housing Site Allocation stipulates those sites that have been designated as future residential sites, along with their estimated dwelling capacity.

- HP3: Density of Development sets out an expected density of 30-50 dwellings. Residential density must not be less than 30 dwellings per hectare. Higher densities than 50 dwellings may be acceptable in central locations with good transport links.
- HP8: Affordable Housing lays down the expected affordable housing provision within large residential developments. In new residential development schemes of more than 25 dwellings or residential sites of 1 hectare or more, the Local Planning Authority will expect no less than 15% of the new dwellings to be provided as affordable housing to meet local needs. Arrangements will be required to ensure that housing remains affordable, which will be best secured by involving a housing association. Where it is inappropriate for the affordable housing provision to be provided within the development scheme, the Local Planning Authority will seek the provision of a commuted sum towards off site affordable housing.
- HP9: Rural Exceptions allows the Local Authority to consider affordable housing provision in rural areas subject to there being a demonstrated local need, access to local services and protection of biodiversity interests.
- HP15: Loss of Dwellings states that development proposals that result in a material net loss of existing dwellings in a residential area will be refused.
- HP16: Sub-Division of Dwellings supports in principle the sub-division of single dwellings subject to the provision of suitable private amenity space, design and appearance of a property, the impact on adjoining properties and the internal layout of the proposed conversion.
- CS1: Moving Towards Sustainable Development states that it is the Council's aim to improve and enhance the environmental wealth of the District by only permitting development that is environmentally sustainable.
- CS2: Protecting and Enhancing The Built and Natural Environment informs that it is the Council's aim to protect, sustain and enhance the District's natural resources through the application of the policies and proposals in plan for future generations to enjoy.

iii) Housing Strategy 2004 – 2007: Fit For Purpose

The strategy set out 5 Strategic Housing Priorities. Those two relevant to this section are briefly summarised below:

Affordable and Sustainable Housing

- The development of new RSL homes are to be encouraged, as is the use of Council owned land.
- Seek the provision of 10-20% of the new dwellings provided on larger developments as affordable housing to meet local needs.
- Discourage under-occupation
- Try to release multi-bedroom Council dwellings by providing cash incentives to assist eligible tenants to purchase in the private sector.
- Develop a strategy to tackle long-term empty homes within the District

Decent Homes

- Implement the strategy for delivering decent Council homes by 2010 and working with tenants to identify a Decent Homes plus Standard.
- Improve energy efficiency in Council homes by delivering the Decent Homes Standard.
- Use the Private Landlords Forum to promote good conditions in the private rented sector.

- Use Rochford's Home Maintenance and Adaptation Grant to target limited finances to those residents who most need it.
- Use housing legislation to remedy despair and overcrowding. Performance standards will be set and resources prioritised to deal with the highest risk situations.

New developments highlighted by the Housing Strategy include:

- Cross boundary partnership with the neighbouring Castle Point Borough Council and partner RSL, for a supported housing scheme and general needs housing on a derelict ECC owned site just outside the District boundary.
- Reduction in void turn around times from 56 days to 26 days on average.
- Completion of a Private Sector Stock Condition Survey. The results will be fed into the Private Sector Renewal Strategy.
- Release of sums of money (detailed within strategy) to RSLs and Housing Authorities to assist with the purchase of properties to be turned into affordable housing.

iv) Rochford District Council Homelessness Strategy July 2003

The identified aims of the Homelessness Strategy are to provide a quality cost effective service, to work towards a safer, more caring environment and to improve the quality of life of people within the District.

The strategy specifically delivers the Public Service Agreement target to increase the proportion of homelessness applications on which the authority makes a written decision within 33 days. It also looks to develop alternatives to the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for the homeless. Another identified target is to sustain reductions in rough sleeping at two-thirds below the level in 1998.

The strategy also aims to provide a customer focussed approach, to prevent homelessness arising or recurring wherever possible, to encourage and develop multi-agency working and to comply with legal and government requirements.

Preventing Homelessness

The Council provides advice and information on a range of matters including how to secure ones tenancy, family home rights, options for re-housing, eviction, domestic violence, disrepair and welfare benefits. Such advice is usually provided by the Homelessness and Housing Advice Team. There is early intervention with the housing management section when an applicant for housing indicated potential homelessness. There are also referral arrangements with the Community Safety team and there is an agreement with the Police to share information.

Summary of Issues Arising From the July 2003 Review

- There was an urgent need to find alternatives to bed and breakfast accommodation in July 2003. The Government sought to halt use of such accommodation for homeless families with children by April 2004 except in emergencies.
- There is a shortage of low cost housing in the District to either buy or rent which restricts the options people have to resolve their problems.
- There is a shortage of social housing lettings as well as a lack of appropriate accommodation for specialist groups like young people and offenders.

- Homelessness decisions take too long and there is a lack of information regarding rough sleeping in the District.

The strategy ends with a detailed action plan highlighting how the aims of the strategy will be achieved.

v) Rochford District Housing Strategy 2004 – 2007

A target stipulated in the Housing Strategy is that 85% of homelessness applications should be processed within 33 days.

14.3 Baseline Information

Table 93: Local Authority Dwelling Stock by Size Age and Type, April 2006

	Rochford	Rochford Percentage	East of England	East of England Percentage	England	England Percentage
Total Local Authority Dwelling Stock	1747		194154		2075694	
Number of LA Shared Ownership Dwellings	0		588		3214	
Number of Dwelling Equivalents in Multi-occupied Dwellings	2		445		4280	
Dwelling Type: Low Rise Flat	678	38.80%	43496	22.40%	385683	18.60%
Dwelling Type: Medium Rise Flat	112	6.40%	27242	14.00%	390538	18.80%
Dwelling Type: High Rise Flat	0	0.00%	5618	2.90%	182820	8.80%
Dwelling Type: House	672	38.50%	93046	47.90%	912384	44.00%
Dwelling Type: Bungalow	283	16.20%	24307	12.50%	199989	9.60%
Number of Dwellings: One Bedroom	834	47.70%	58680	30.20%	631453	30.40%
Number of Dwellings: Two Bedrooms	392	22.40%	59600	30.70%	691325	33.30%
Number of Dwellings: Three or More Bedrooms	519	29.70%	76020	39.20%	751867	36.20%
Age of Dwelling: Pre 1945	163	12.10%	26322	21.10%	386539	32.90%
Age of Dwelling: Post 1944	1180	87.90%	98459	78.90%	790027	67.10%

Source: National Statistics; Local Authority Dwelling Stock by Size, Age and Type April 2006

<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=3&b=276965&c=Rochford&d=13&e=7&q=446496&i=1001x1003x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1197976702031&enc=1&dsFamilyId=696>

The above table demonstrates that of the 1747 units of local authority dwelling stock owned by Rochford District Council in 2006, 38.8% were low rise flats, and 38.5% were houses. The % of local authority dwellings that are low rise flats is much higher than regionally and nationally. The remaining dwellings were medium rise flats and bungalows. Nearly half of all the dwellings (47.7%) were one bedroomed, which is much higher than regional or national levels. 22.4% consisted of two bedrooms and 29.7% of all dwellings consisted of 3 or more bedrooms. 12.1% of all the dwellings were built before 1945. This is less than the regional and national average.

Housing Stock

As of 26th September 2007, all housing stock owned by Rochford District Council transferred into the ownership of Rochford Housing Association. This was after a ballot in 2006, in which 82.8% of tenants who participated were in favour of the transfer.

As of 18th December 2007, Rochford Housing Association was in control of 1738 dwellings. 89% of these meet the Decent Homes Standard.

Source: Rochford Housing Association 2007

Table 65: Ratio of Affordable Housing Completions to Total Housing Completions

Year	Number of Dwellings Built (net)	Number of Affordable Dwellings Built	Percentage of Affordable Dwellings Built	Number of Dwellings Built In Developments >25 Dwellings	Number of Affordable Dwellings Built In Developments >25 Dwellings	Percentage of Affordable Dwellings Built In Developments >25 Dwellings
2001/02	133	4	3.01%	125	0	0%
2002/03	167	0	0%	92	0	0%
2003/04	197	0	0%	115	0	0%
2004/05	58	7	12.07%	26	5	19.23%

Source: ECC Development Survey 2007

Of the first 3 years analysed, there were only 4 affordable dwellings completed, and none in developments of 25 or more dwellings. In the final year for which data is currently available, 2004/05, the percentage of affordable housing developments completed in developments of 25 or more dwellings was 19.23%. This is above the 15% target set within Policy HP8 of the Local Plan. However, only 7 affordable dwellings were built in total during the year.

Table 94: Change Of Ownership By Dwelling Price, Jan 05 – Dec 05

	Rochford	East of England	England
Number of Transactions by Dwelling Type: Detached	415	30865	196067
Number of Transactions by Dwelling Type: Flat	129	18581	190657
Number of Transactions by Dwelling Type: Semi-detached	677	32163	266997
Number of Transactions by Dwelling Type: Terraced	180	32967	320559
Number of Transactions by Dwelling Type: Not Known	0	7	64
Number of Transactions by Dwelling Type: Total Sales	1401	114583	974344
Type of Sale: Cash	281	25204	207290
Type of Sale: Mortgage	1120	89379	767054
Type of Sale: Cash as Percentage of All Sales	20.10%	22%	21.30%
Price Indicators for All Dwellings: Mean	£219,172	£200,499	£192,274
Price Indicators by Dwelling Type: Detached - Mean	£273,750	£295,977	£297,785
Price Indicators by Dwelling Type: Flat - Mean	£130,000	£138,741	£176,474
Price Indicators by Dwelling Type: Semi-detached - Mean	£187,000	£187,199	£175,933
Price Indicators by Dwelling Type: Terraced - Mean	£167,250	£158,890	£150,709

Source: [National Statistics Online](http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=276957&c=rochford&d=13&e=7&g=443603&i=1001x1003x1004&o=172&m=0&r=1&s=1191425008484&enc=1&dsFamilyId=776)

<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=276957&c=rochford&d=13&e=7&g=443603&i=1001x1003x1004&o=172&m=0&r=1&s=1191425008484&enc=1&dsFamilyId=776>

The above table demonstrates that there were 415 transactions of detached dwellings in 2005, 129 transactions of flats, and that the majority of transactions (677) were of semi-detached houses. There were a total of 1401 sales in Rochford in 2005. The vast majority of these used a mortgage for the sale (1120) although 281 sales were completed with cash.

Table 95: Average Dwelling Price

Region/Area	Detached		Semi-Detached		Terraced		Flat/Maisonette		Overall	
	Av Price £	Sales	Av Price £	Sales	Av Price £	Sales	Av Price £	Sales	Av Price £	Sales
ROCHFORD	319790	135	200064	196	181928	43	142699	59	227774	433
ESSEX	339220	2335	210456	2310	177378	1889	147695	1423	229165	7957
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA	317201	146	213112	353	173641	247	134152	394	190601	1140
SOUTH EAST	400717	17432	232601	18941	192084	19483	159695	14505	248003	70361

Source: Land Registry 2007 http://www.landreg.gov.uk/propertyprice/interactive/ppr_ualbs.asp

The above table shows that the average price of a detached dwelling in Rochford in 2007 was £319,790, slightly below the average detached house price in Essex. This was slightly higher than the price of a detached house in Southend on Sea however, and a lot less than the average detached house price in the south east. The average cost of a semi-detached dwelling in Rochford was £200,064, lower than neighbouring areas as well as regionally and nationally.

Table 96: Tenure, April 2001

	Rochford	Rochford Percentage	East of England	East of England Percentage	England	England Percentage
All Households	31952		2231974		20451427	
Owner occupied: Owns outright	12027	37.64%	684456	30.67%	5969670	29.19%
Owner occupied: Owns with a mortgage or loan	15290	47.85%	926969	41.53%	7950759	38.88%
Owner occupied: Shared ownership	83	0.26%	11445	0.51%	133693	0.65%
Rented from: Council (local authority)	1791	5.61%	259031	11.61%	2702482	13.21%
Rented from: Housing Association / Registered Social Landlord	872	2.73%	109599	4.91%	1238246	6.05%
Rented from: Private landlord or letting agency	1311	4.10%	168985	7.57%	1798864	8.80%
Rented from: Other	578	1.81%	71489	3.20%	657713	3.22%

Source: National Statistics Online

<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=276957&c=rochford&d=13&e=7&g=443603&i=1001x1003x1004&o=172&m=0&r=1&s=1191331425774&enc=1&dsFamilyId=163>

The above table illustrates that as of April 2001 there were 31,952 households within Rochford District. Of these 12,027 were owned outright and 15,290 were owned with a mortgage or loan. Only 83 of these households were shared ownership. 1575 households were privately rented, and 1311 were rented from a private landlord or letting agency.

Table 97: Dwelling Stock By Council Tax Band 2006

	Rochford	Rochford Percentage	East of England	East of England Percentage	England	England Percentage
Total	33680		2417843		22082364	
Band A	1335	3.96%	346378	14.33%	5584166	25.29%
Band B	3155	9.37%	511258	21.15%	4261483	19.30%
Band C	11262	33.44%	636203	26.31%	4771726	21.61%
Band D	10027	29.77%	421802	17.45%	3353702	15.19%
Band E	4671	13.87%	256218	10.60%	2092847	9.48%
Band F	2068	6.14%	139653	5.78%	1106315	5.01%
Band G	1085	3.22%	94968	3.93%	788626	3.57%
Band H	77	0.23%	11363	0.47%	123492	0.56%
Band I	0		0		7	
Band X; Unallocated	0		0		0	

Source: National Statistics Online, March 2006

<http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=276957&c=rochford&d=13&e=7&g=443603&i=1001x1003x1004&o=1&m=0&r=1&s=1191331680927&enc=1&dsFamilyId=938>

The table shown above demonstrates that of the 33,680 houses found in Rochford District in March 2006, a third (33.44%) were in council tax band C. A further 29.77% were in council tax band D. These figures are higher than what was found nationally and regionally. Nationally the majority of dwellings are in council tax band A, and regionally the

majority of households are in tax band C. The proportion of dwellings in tax band F, G, and H are similar locally, regionally and nationally.

Table 98: Affordable Housing Needs

Total Annual Need	393	
Existing Stock Re-lets	102	
Net New Units	291	
New Rental	195	67%
Shared Ownership / Shared Equity	96	33%
Discounted Market Rent		
Total	291	100%

Source: Rochford District Housing Needs Survey 2004

The above table demonstrates that there was a need for 393 affordable housing units in Rochford annually.

Table 99: Total Number of Households Accepted As Homeless

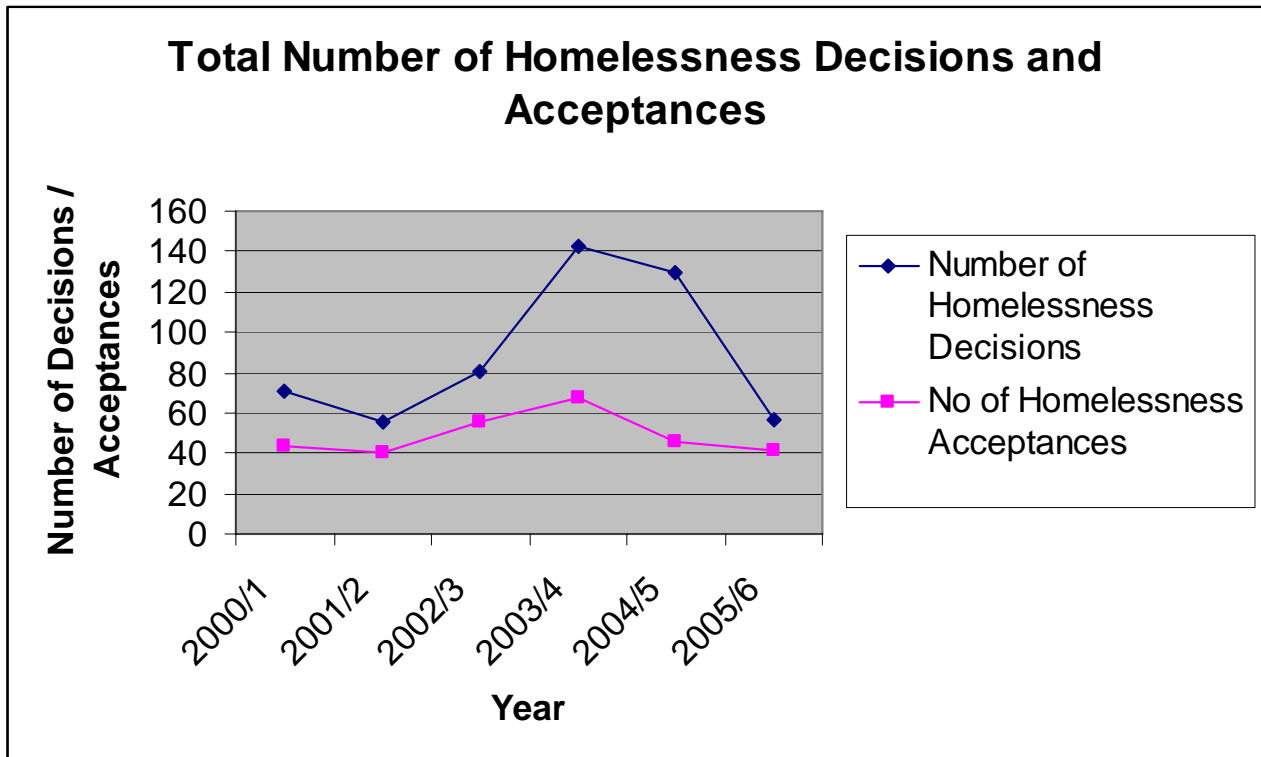
Year	Number of Homelessness Decisions	No of Homelessness Acceptances
2000/1	71	44
2001/2	55	40
2002/3	81	56
2003/4	143	68
2004/5	130	46
2005/6	57	41

Source: Rochford District Council 2007

As can be seen in the table above the number of homelessness decisions has decreased since 2003/4 to a total of 57 in 2005/6. This figure is over half of the number of the homelessness decisions in 2004/5. The number of homelessness acceptances has also decreased to 41 in 2005/6, which is at a similar level to that seen in 2001/2.

The figure below demonstrates this information in graph form. It illustrates that the numbers of homelessness decisions and acceptances have been steadily decreasing in the last few years to match levels seen in 2000/1.

Figure 70: Total Number of Homelessness Decisions and Acceptances



Source: Rochford District Council 2007

Table 100: Authorised And Unauthorised Caravan Sites (Jan 07)

Table 1: Count of Gypsy and Traveller Caravans 19th July 2007 : Last five counts

Region	Count	Authorised sites (with planning permission)		Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)				Total All Caravans
		No. of Caravans Socially Rented ²	No. of Caravans Private	No. of Caravans on Sites on Gypsies own land		No. of Caravans on Sites on land not owned by Gypsies		
				"Tolerated"	"Not tolerated"	"Tolerated"	"Not tolerated"	
East	Jul 2007	1410	1879	259	396	109	176	4229
	Jan 2007	1419	1750	228	571	62	133	4163
	Jul 2006	1321	1545	242	493	86	202	3889
	Jan 2006	1370	1675	200	651	70	78	4044
	Jul 2005	1382	1430	196	647	98	227	3980
Essex	Jul 2007	222	434	61	199	6	16	938
	Jan 2007	239	411	43	269	2	13	977
	Jul 2006	217	349	40	232	2	27	867
	Jan 2006	232	424	70	308	2	5	1041
	Jul 2005	260	358	53	305	10	43	1029
Rochford	Jul 2007	0	6	0	15	0	5	26
	Jan 2007	0	3	0	16	0	6	25
	Jul 2006	0	2	0	19	0	0	21
	Jan 2006	0	2	0	14	0	0	16
	Jul 2005	0	2	0	14	0	0	16
Southend-on-Sea UA	Jul 2007	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
	Jan 2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul 2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jan 2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul 2005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingmanagementcare/gypsiesandtravellers/gypsyandtravellersitedataandstat/>

The above table shows that Rochford and the neighbouring unitary authority of Southend-on-Sea have had no authorised gypsy sites with socially rented caravans in the last 2 years. It can be seen that the number of privately rented caravans on authorised gypsy and traveller sites with planning permission has increased to 6 in July 2007. There are 15

“not tolerated” caravans” in Rochford on land owned by gypsies. This is a decrease from 19 in July 2006. The lowest number of caravans not tolerated on land owned by gypsies was seen in July 2005, at 14. There are 5 caravans not tolerated on land not owned by gypsies as of July 2007. This is a decrease from 6 in January 2007. Southend-on-Sea also has 5 caravans not tolerated on land not owned by gypsies. The number of not tolerated caravans on land not owned by gypsies has decreased from 43 in July 2005 to 16 in July 2007 in Essex.

Table 101: Gypsy Sites Provided By Local Authorities And Registered Social Landlords In England (As At 18th January 2007)

	Total number of pitches	of which are: Residential	Transit	Caravan capacity	Date site opened	Date of last site changes
Total for East of England	863	832	31	1727		
Essex CC	164	164	0	285		

Source: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table2>

As of 18th January 2007 there were no gypsy sites provided in Rochford District. There were 164 pitches provided in Essex, all of which were residential with the capacity to support 285 caravans.

14.4 Housing Summary

- As of 26th September 2007, Rochford Housing Association became responsible for all housing previously owned by Rochford District Council.
- 82.8% of tenants were in favour of this.
- As of 18th December 2007, Rochford Housing Association was in control of 1738 dwellings.
- 89% of these meet the Decent Homes Standard.
- Between 2001/02 and 2004/05 there were 11 affordable dwellings completed.
- In 2004/05 the percentage of affordable dwellings completed in developments of 25 dwellings or more was 19.23%, which met the 15% target set within Policy HP8 of the Local Plan.
- There were 1401 housing sales in Rochford in 2005. There were 415 transactions of detached dwellings in 2005, 129 transactions of flats, and 677 transactions of semi-detached houses.
- The average price of a detached dwelling in Rochford in 2007 was £319,790, slightly below the average detached dwelling price in Essex and slightly higher than in Southend-on-Sea. The average cost of a semi-detached dwelling in Rochford was £200,064, slightly lower than nationally and regionally.
- Of the 33,680 houses in Rochford District in March 2006, 33.44% were in council tax band C. 29.77% were in council tax band D. These figures are higher than that seen regionally and nationally. The majority of dwellings nationally are in tax band A.
- The number of homelessness applications has decreased to a total of 57 in 2005/06. The number of homelessness acceptances has also decreased to 41 in 2005/06, a similar level to that seen in 2000/01.
- Rochford and Southend-on-Sea have seen no authorised gypsy sites with socially rented caravans in the last two years. The number of privately rented caravans on authorised gypsy and traveller sites had increased to 6 in July 2007.
- There are 15 “not tolerated” caravans in Rochford on land owned by gypsies.

- There are 5 caravans that are not tolerated on land not owned by gypsies as of July 2007.
- As of 18th January 2007 there were no gypsy sites provided in Rochford District, although there were 164 pitches provided throughout Essex with the capacity to support 285 caravans.

15 TRANSPORT

15.1 Introduction

Essex is located in the East of England and lies to the north east of London, the nation's capital, and major employment centre. As a result of its proximity to London, there is a large commuter population. However, Essex also has a large rural area, similar in size to Suffolk, whilst also being the site of key international gateways such as Stansted, Harwich, Shell Haven, and Tilbury, and also has the major national routes including the M25, and the M11 running through it. As a result the transport demands faced by the County are uniquely complex.

In terms of transport, Rochford is a largely urban area with 3 strategic non trunk routes in or around Rochford District, namely the A130, A127 and A13 running directly to London. Rochford is also the location for a train station running direct to Fenchurch Street, London, a main commuter destination.

15.2 Policy Context

National planning policies are published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in Planning Policy Statements (PPS), which are gradually replacing Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG). In respect of this topic, national guidance is presented in the following documents:

A. National Context

- PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development sets out the Government's overarching aim of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, by encouraging alternative forms of transport and ensuring that key services and developments have links to sustainable forms of transport.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/rtf/156024.rtf>

- PPS3: Housing states that developments should be in suitable locations, which offer a good range of community facilities and with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/planningpolicystatement3>

- PPS11: Regional Spatial Strategies provides a spatial framework for the preparation of Local Transport Plans (LTPs).

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningpolicystatement3>

- PPG13: Transport aims to integrate planning and transport to promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight; promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling, and reduce the need to travel, especially by car.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/rtf/156039.rtf>

- PPG15: Planning and Historic Environment sets out the Government's commitment to manage traffic sympathetically in historic areas

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/doc/157575.doc>

B. Regional/County Context

i) Draft East of England Plan December 2004

The Draft East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy), prepared by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), was submitted to Government in December 2004. Following a period of public consultation the Plan was subject of an Examination in Public (EiP) between November 2005 and March 2006. The Report of the EiP Panel was published in June 2006. In December 2006 the Secretary of State published Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for a period of public consultation to March 2007. Following consideration of the consultation response, the Secretary of State issued some Further Proposed Changes to the Draft Plan for public consultation between October-December 2007. These Changes incorporate the recommendations of an additional Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The Secretary of State's publication of the final version of the East of England Plan is expected during the first quarter of 2008. The relevant policies are as follows:

- Policy SS6: transport strategy

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Planning%20and%20Transport/PlanHome/RPG/RPG14/View%20the%20Plan/RSSfinal%20on%20website/Chap4.pdf>

- Policy TG/SE 1: Zones of Change and Influence

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Planning%20and%20Transport/PlanHome/RPG/RPG14/View%20the%20Plan/RSSfinal%20on%20website/Chap4.pdf>

- Policy TG/SE3 : Transport Infrastructure

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Planning%20and%20Transport/PlanHome/RPG/RPG14/View%20the%20Plan/RSSfinal%20on%20website/Chap4.pdf>

- Chapter 8 : Regional Transport Strategy

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/Documents/About%20EERA/Policy/Planning%20and%20Transport/PlanHome/RPG/RPG14/View%20the%20Plan/RSSfinal%20on%20website/Chap8.pdf>

ii) Essex County Council Local Transport Plan

The County Council is required by the Transport Act 2000 to produce a Local Transport Plan (LTP). The first LTP covered the period 2000/01 – 2005/06 and this document set out a 20 year vision for Essex, with the aim of delivering this through 5 year plans. The LTP was developed in partnership with stakeholders and the community. The 5 main aims of the Local Transport Plan are:

- Tackling Congestion
- Delivering Accessibility
- Creating Safer Roads
- Promoting Better Air Quality
- Enhancing Maintenance

Due to the unique issues facing Essex, as a large and diverse county, the area has been divided into 5 geographic areas, in order to tailor the packages of work to meet the individual needs of each area. Rochford falls into the Thames Gateway area. Further information on the LTP and specifically the 5 year vision for Rochford and the Thames Gateway can be found at:

<http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/dis/guc.jsp?channelOid=16819&guideOid=39939&guideContentOid=44746>

C. District Context

i) Rochford District Replacement Local Plan

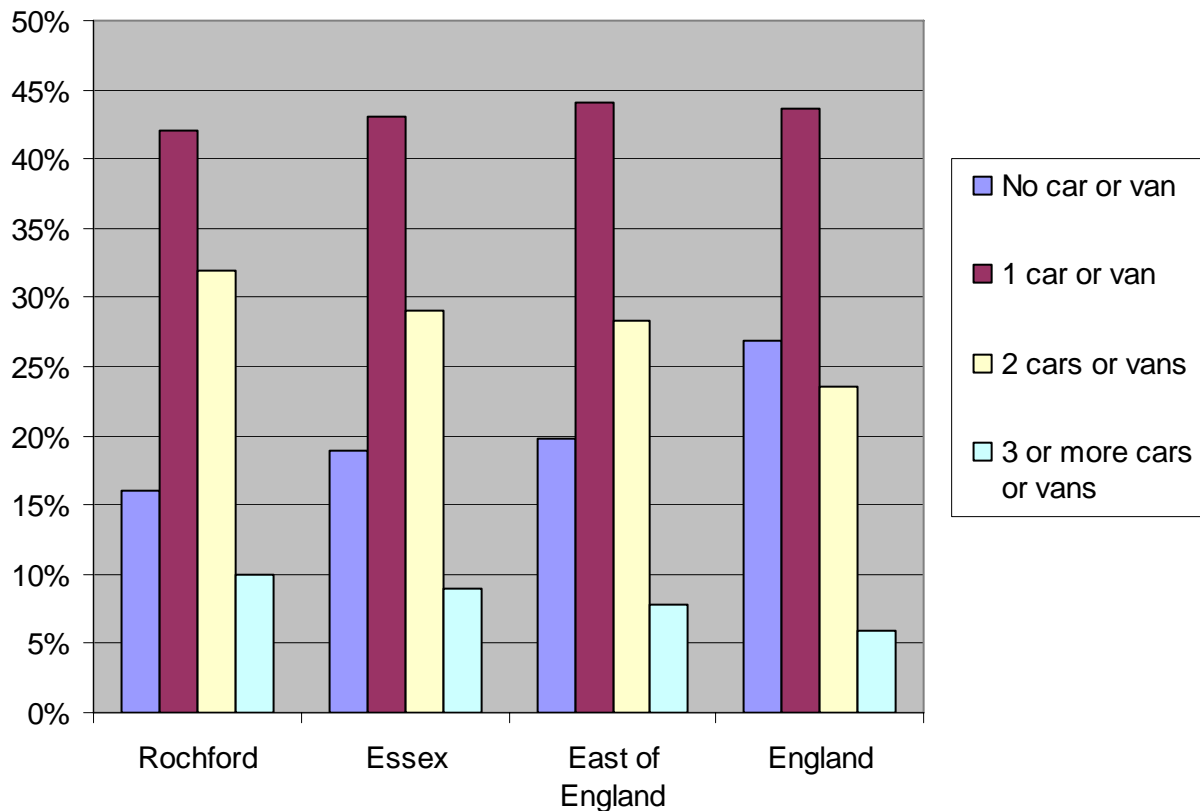
The Rochford District Replacement Local Plan was formally adopted on 16th June 2006. The adopted Local Plan forms part of the Local Development Framework for Rochford District and as such will remain in place until 16th June 2009. Relevant policies within the plan are as follows:

- Policy TP1: Sustainable Transport – this highlights the need to develop and implement a sustainable approach to transport planning, and to encourage alternative means of travel.
- Policy TP2: Traffic Management – this sets out the vision to improve the environment in the area, and to improve safety whilst also increasing the capacity of existing roads and managing traffic demand.
- Policy TP3: Traffic Calming – this policy sets out the need for new development to meet highway design and safety guidelines.
- Policy TP4 : Heavy Lorry Routes – this sets out the Councils guidelines that no development should have an adverse traffic impact including heavy vehicle movements
- Policy TP5: Public Transport – this policy sets out the need for all development to have excellent public transport links. If this is not the case then contributions will be sought that public transport infrastructure can be provided.
- Policy TP6: Safeguarding and the Promotion of Walking, Cycling and Horse riding- This illustrates that “planning permission will not be granted for development affecting existing cycling, walking and horse riding routes unless the proposals include either the maintenance or diversion of the route, to one which is no less attractive, safe and convenient for public use”.
- Policy TP7: Public Car Parks – the Council states that the use of public car parks will be monitored to ensure their use is maximised. Developments that are likely to cause increased traffic will be expected to provide or contribute towards sustainable transport alternatives.
- Policy TP8: Car Parking Standards – All development providing car parking should ensure that the car parking standards are met.
- Policy TP9 : London Southend Airport – This policy states that planning permission will be granted to developments supporting the operation of the airport as a regional air transport and aircraft maintenance facility “including the full realisation of its potential for increases in passenger and freight traffic, subject to:
 - i. There being no serious detriment to the local environment or nature conservation interests;
 - ii. It being shown that there are adequate access arrangements in place or proposed.
 - iii. Plans for future expansion and development will be required to include a satisfactory Surface Access Strategy.”

15.3 Current Baseline Information

A. Car Ownership

Figure 71: Car Ownership



Source: National Statistics Online, Car ownership, Census 2001

The above table demonstrates that 16% of the residents of Rochford do not own a car or van. This is considerably lower than the national figure of 27%. Rochford can also be seen to have a lower percentage of the population that do not own a car or van than in Essex (19%).

42% of the population in Rochford own 1 car or van, which is slightly lower than in Essex (43%), the East of England (44%) and England (44%).

A higher percentage (32%) of the residents of Rochford own 2 cars or vans than can be seen in Essex or the East of England, which are 29% and 28% respectively. This can be seen nationally also, where 24% of the population own 2 cars or vans.

More residents of Rochford (10%) own 3 or more cars or vans than in Essex, regionally or nationally. 9% of the population of Essex own 3 or more vehicles.

B. Travel to Work Flows

Table 102: Travel to Work Flows for Rochford District

	Work in Rochford		Live in Rochford		Net Flow
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Rochford	13,596	59.5	13,596	36	0
Greater London	334	1.5	6,743	17.9	-6,409
Southend	4,336	19	8,620	22.8	-4,284
Basildon	1,107	4.8	3,638	9.6	-2,531
Castle Point	1,684	7.4	1,373	3.6	311
Chelmsford	605	2.6	1,076	2.8	-471
Sub-Total	21,662	94.7	35,046	92.8	-13,384
Other Areas	1,201	5.3	2,725	7.2	-1,524
TOTAL	22,863	100	37,771	100	-14,908

Source: National Statistics Online. Data published April 2001

The 2001 Census recorded 37,771 residents of Rochford District in employment. The census also recorded 22,863 jobs in the District. This shows that there were 14,908, or 65.2%, more workers living in Rochford District than there were jobs available in the District. There were enough jobs available to support 60% of the population. Even so, only 13,596, or 36.0%, of residents lived and worked in the District. This means that almost two out of three working residents travelled to work outside the District. However, 40% of the jobs in Rochford were taken up by people living outside the District.

The major employment destination of Rochford residents was Southend, with 8,620, or 22.8%, of Rochford workers travelling to that destination for work. Greater London also attracts significant numbers of workers from Rochford – totalling 6,743, or 17.9%, of Rochford resident workers. These two destinations provide more jobs for Rochford residents than those that residents take up within the District. The next most popular destinations for employment were the adjoining Essex authorities of Basildon (3,638 or 9.6%), Castle Point (1,373 or 3.6%), and Chelmsford (1,076 or 2.8%). In total these five external job destinations provided employment for 21,450, or 56.8%, of employed residents from Rochford. Together with those who live and work in the District, these areas met 92.8% of the employment needs of Rochford workers.

The geographic origin of those working in Rochford District shows a broadly similar pattern, though with some variation in detail. The largest flows of people travelling to the District to work come from Southend (4,336 or 19.0%), Castle Point (1,684 or 7.4%), Basildon (1,107 or 4.8%), and Chelmsford (605 or 2.6%). In total these four external sources provided workers for 7,732, or 33.8%, of jobs in Rochford. Together with those who live and work in the District, these areas met 93.3% of the employee needs of Rochford businesses.

In net terms, 6,409 more Rochford residents work in Greater London than residents of London who work in the Borough. Similarly, there is also a significant net outflow of

Rochford residents to work in the neighbouring sub-regional centres of Southend (4,284) and Basildon (2,531). Generally, Rochford supplied more workers than it attracted to all other areas. The only significant exception is a net inflow of 311 workers to Rochford from Castle Point.

Table 103: Travel to Work Methods for the Residential Population of Rochford District

	Rochford	%	East of England	%	England	%
All People	56720	100	3884104	100	35532091	100
Works mainly at or from home	3355	5.92%	243485	6.27%	2055224	5.78%
Underground, metro, light rail or tram	64	0.11%	21688	0.56%	709386	2.00%
Train	5755	10.15%	156054	4.02%	950023	2.67%
Bus, minibus or coach	1454	2.56%	102838	2.65%	1685361	4.74%
Taxi or minicab	139	0.25%	11693	0.30%	116503	0.33%
Driving a car or van	22104	38.97%	1518613	39.10%	12324166	34.68%
Passenger in a car or van	1845	3.25%	150642	3.88%	1370685	3.86%
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	399	0.70%	28637	0.74%	249456	0.70%
Bicycle	505	0.89%	100193	2.58%	634588	1.79%
On foot	2055	3.62%	233737	6.02%	2241901	6.31%
Other	117	0.21%	11798	0.30%	104205	0.29%
Not currently working	18928	33.37%	1304726	33.59%	13090593	36.84%

Source: National Statistics Online. Data published April 2001

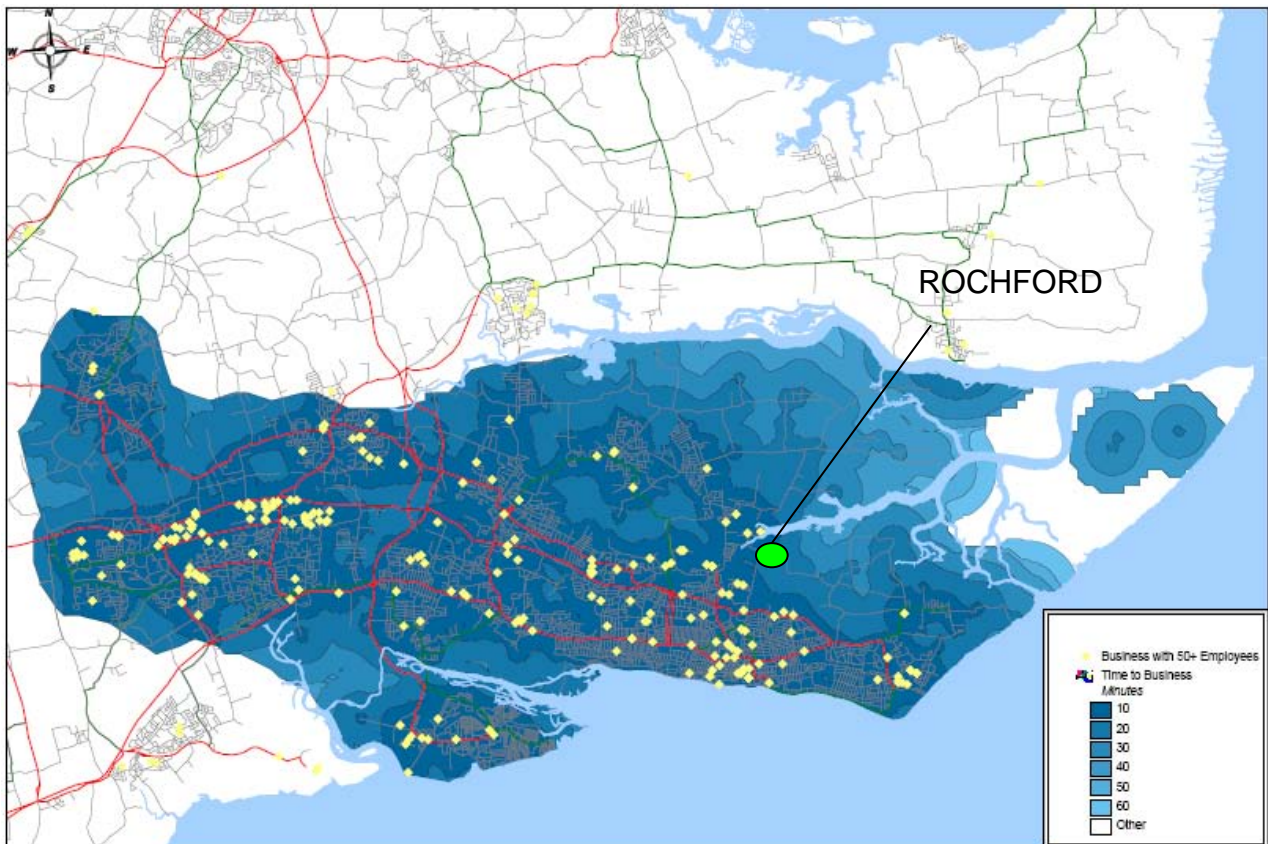
The table shown above illustrates that 38.97% of residents of Rochford drive a car or van to get to work. This is higher than the national figure which is 34.68% of the population. This figure is comparable to the East of England, standing at 39.10%. 3.25% of the residential population of Rochford are passengers in a car or van, which is lower than can be seen in the region or nation, which stand at 3.88% and 3.86% respectively.

Rochford District residents' use of public transport compares well to both the East of England and the national level. Train use within the District is over double that of the East of England and nearly quadruple that at the national level. However, although the use of public transport is good in Rochford, bus use is substantially lower than national levels. Performance in other forms of sustainable transport, cycling and walking, is also mixed. Less people travel to work on foot than at the regional and national level, and an even smaller proportion cycle.

It is difficult to draw conclusion from direct comparison between data for the district, the region and nationally as many factors will influence these figures, such as the geographic location, ease of access, and supply of public transport.

C. Accessibility

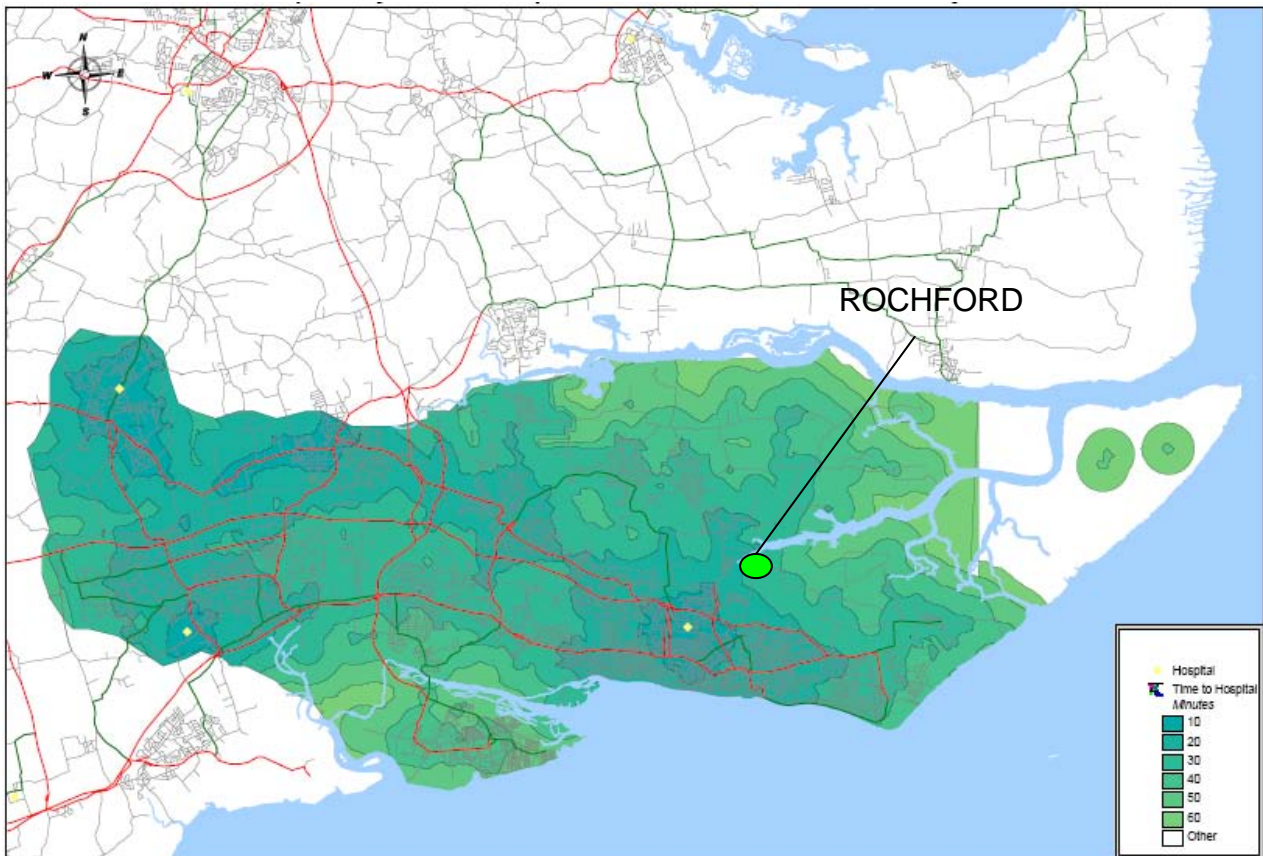
Figure 72: Access to Businesses by Public Transport in the North of Essex



Source: Essex County Council 2001

The above map illustrates that all of Rochford is within 60 minutes of businesses with more than 50 employees. Many areas are within 10 minutes of businesses with more than 50 employees, using public transport.

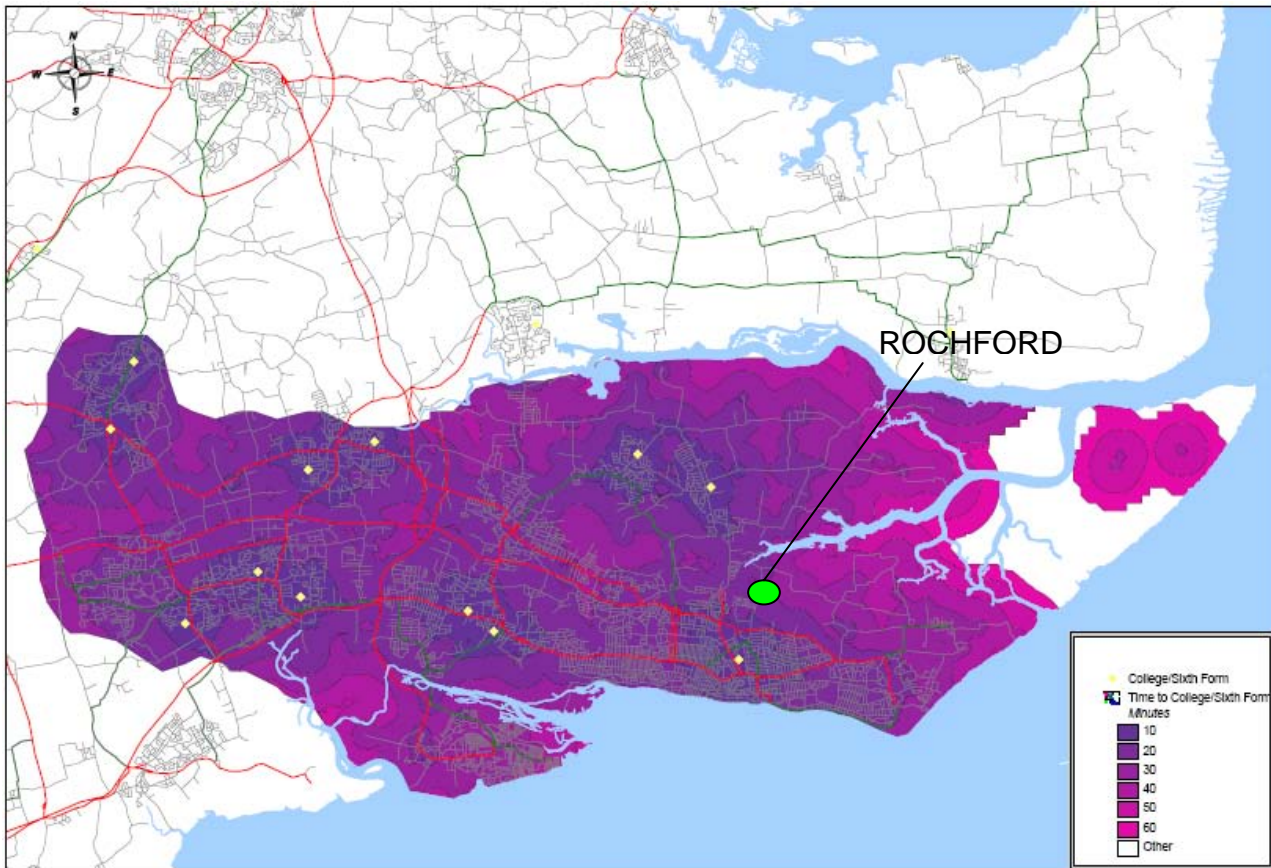
Figure 73: Access to Hospitals by Public Transport in the North of Essex



Source: Essex County Council 2005

The above map illustrates that all of Rochford is within 60 minutes of a hospital by public transport. The majority of the District is within 30 minutes of Southend Hospital, using public transport.

Figure 74: Access to Colleges and Sixth Forms by Public Transport in the North of Essex

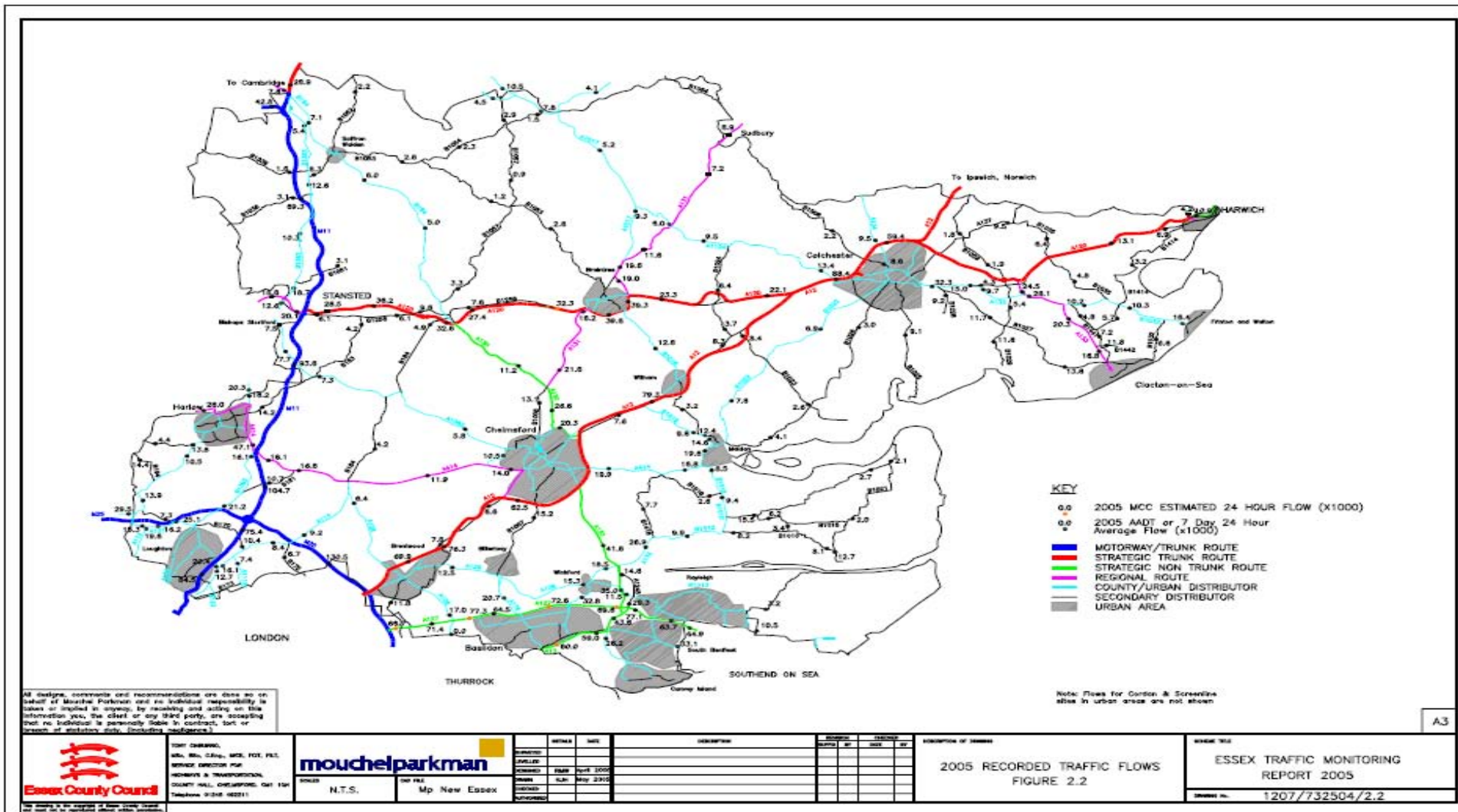


Source: Essex County Council 2005

The above map shows that all of Rochford District is within 60 minutes of a college or sixth form using public transport. The vast majority of the area is within 30 minutes of a place of further education, and there are 3 located in or within close proximity of Rochford District.

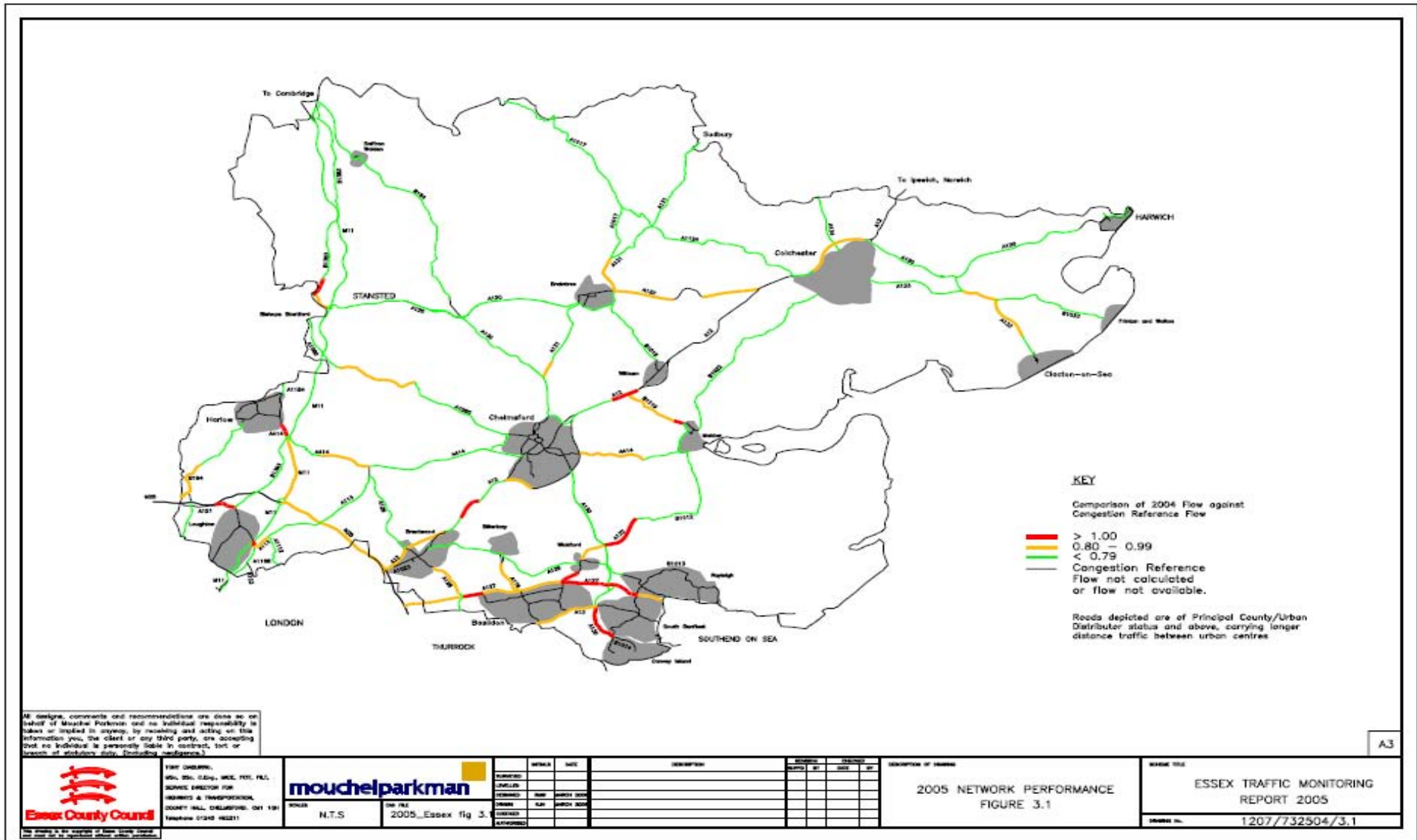
15.4 Traffic Flows

Figure 75: Recorded Traffic Flows (2005) within Essex



Source: <http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/Transportation and Road Planning/Traffic Monitoring Report 2005.pdf>

Figure 76: Network Performance on Essex Roads (2005)



Source: http://www.essexcc.gov.uk/vip8/ecc/ECCWebsite/content/binaries/documents/Transportation_and_Road_Planning/Traffic_Monitoring_Report_2005.pdf

The previous 2 maps demonstrate the recorded traffic flows and network performance of major routes in the south of Essex. It can be seen that there are 3 strategic non trunk routes in or around Rochford District, namely the A130, A127 and A13.

The highest recorded 24 hour flow is on the A127 approaching Southend, nearby to Rochford, with 77,100 recorded vehicles in 24 hours. The A1245 shows a flow of 29,300 vehicles every 24 hours.

With regard to network performance it can be clearly seen that the A127 and the A132 have the worst network performance, meaning that they suffer from the worst congestion. The A130 is shown to have a congestion reference flow of less than 0.79, highlighting that this route does not suffer heavily from congestion.

A congestion reference flow can be defined as *“an estimate of Annual Average Daily Traffic flow at which the carriageway is likely to be congested at peak periods on a busy day”*

(Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 5 Section 1, Part 3 TA 46/97).

A Congestion Reference Flow is from 0 to 1, with 0 being low congestion and 1 being highest levels of congestion. Some sections of the A127 have a congestion reference flow of >1.00. This shows that the main routes into and out of Rochford District suffer from congestion beyond their capacity.

The B1012 is also shown to have a congestion reference flow of less than 0.79, and therefore this route does not suffer heavily from congestion.

15.5 Road Safety

Figure 77: Child KSI Casualties in Rochford

LOCAL_AUTH	Child KSI																																			
	2005												2006												2007											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug				
Rochford					1	1								1	1												1	1								
Total	3	15	8	8	8	6	10	2	7	8	6	8	6	9	8	5	3	8	2	7	6	6	9	5	2	6	4	8	10	3	7	5				

Source: http://www.drivingcasualtiesdown.org/area_figures/rochford.php

The above table demonstrates that there have been on average 2 Child Killed or Seriously Injured accidents in Rochford each year for the last 2 years. This is against a total of 89 for the County of Essex in 2005, 74 in 2006 and 45 for the year 2007 (up to August).

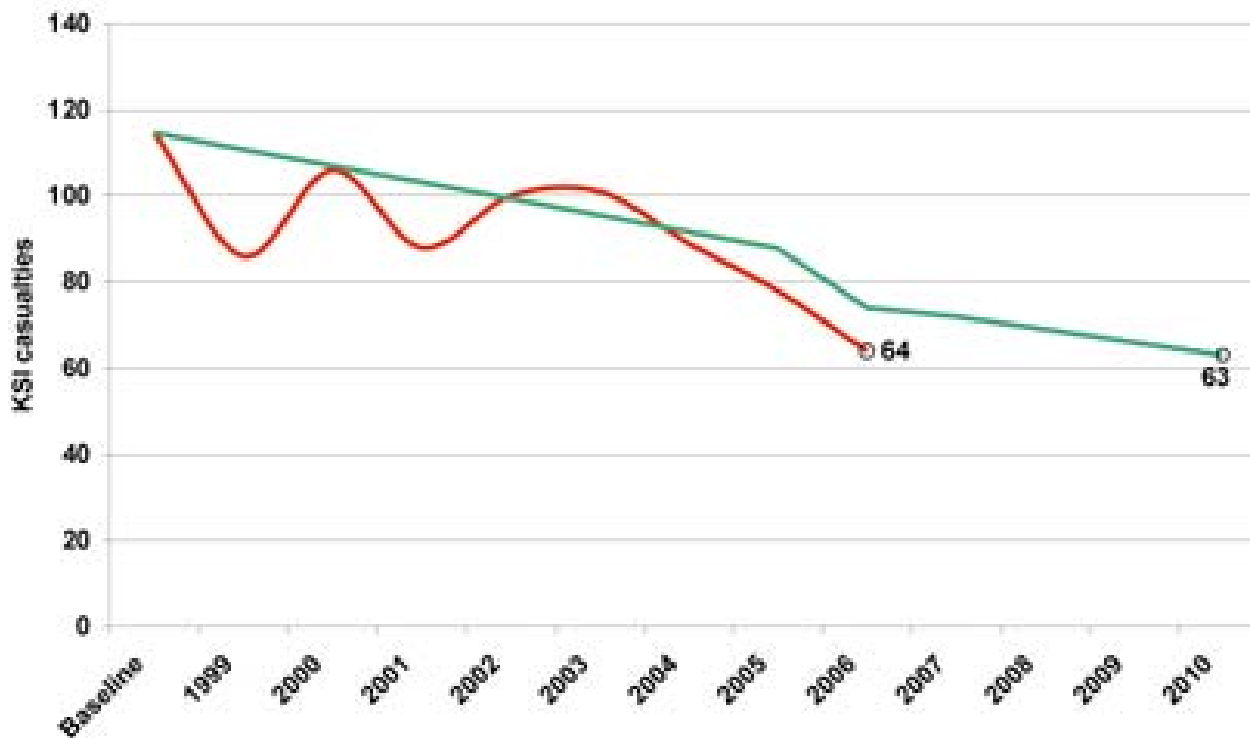
Figure 78: Number of KSI Casualties in Rochford

LOCAL_AUTH	KSI																																			
	2005												2006												2007											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug				
Rochford			2		5	1	2	4	4	1	2	5	3	3	8	3	1	2	3	1	6	3	2	4	4	2	1	5	1	1		2				
Total	72	62	70	64	79	70	109	105	79	82	83	88	62	74	68	83	69	79	78	109	85	94	103	83	76	68	71	60	83	68	87	84				

Source: http://www.drivingcasualtiesdown.org/area_figures/rochford.php

The above table demonstrates that there were 26 KSIs in Rochford in 2005, and 963 in the County. In 2006 this figure had increased to 39 in Rochford and increased countywide to 987. By Aug 2007, there had been 16 KSIs in Rochford and 597 countywide. Compared to the total of KSIs up to August in previous years, the total has reduced. In 2006 there had been 622 KSIs countywide by August, and in 2005 this figure was 631. In Rochford the total number of KSIs up to August 2005 was 21, and in 2006 there had been 26 KSIs by August. In 2007 this figure was 16. This shows that the number of KSIs has reduced in 2007.

Figure 79: KSI Casualties in Rochford 1999-2006



The above graph shows that Rochford is currently achieving the target number of annual KSIs and is close to achieving the 2010 target of 63.

15.6 Transport Summary

- 43% of the English population own 1 car or van
- 44% of the residents in the East of England own 1 car or can
- 43% of people living in Essex own 1 car or van
- 42% of people residing in Rochford own 1 car or van
- In 2001, there were 65.2% more workers living in Rochford than there were jobs available
- 22.8% of Rochford residents work in Southend
- 17.9% of Rochford residents travel to London to work
- 19% of people working in Rochford live in Southend
- 5.92% of the residential population of Rochford work at home
- 38.97% of Rochford residents travel to work by car or van
- 10.15% of the population use the train to get to work
- Most of Rochford is located within 30 minutes of businesses by public transport
- Rochford is within 60 minutes of a hospital by public transport
- Rochford is within 60 minutes of a place of further education by public transport
- The A130, A127, and A127 are the major routes near to Rochford
- The A13 and the A127 show heavy congestion, while the A130 is not shown to suffer from heavy traffic.
- The A132 is also shown to have heavy congestion
- There have been on average 2 Killed or Seriously Injured Accidents involving children in the last 2 years in Rochford

- The KSI figure has reduced in 2007 to 16 in Rochford, and 597 in Essex, a reduction on previous years
- Rochford is currently achieving the target number of KSIs and is very close to achieving the 2010 target

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