



planning advisory service

**Essex Minerals Local Plan (2014)
Essex and Southend on Sea Waste Local
Plan (2017)
and the
National Planning Policy Framework
(2021)**

Compatibility Self-Assessment Checklist

This checklist assesses the content of the Essex Minerals Local Plan (2014) and the Essex and Southend on Sea Waste Local Plan (2017) against requirements in the Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) July 2021

2 - Achieving Sustainable Development

The presumption in favour of sustainable development and plan making (paras 11-37)			
What NPPF expects local plans to include to deliver its objectives	Questions to help understand whether your local plan includes what NPPF expects	Does your local plan address this issue and meet the NPPF's expectations?	How significant are any differences? Do they affect your overall strategy?
<p><i>Policies in local plans should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development and guide how it should be applied locally (11).</i></p>	<p><i>Does the plan promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects?</i></p> <p><i>Is/does the Plan:</i></p> <p><i>a) prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development?</i></p> <p><i>b) prepared positively, in a way that is aspirational but deliverable?</i></p> <p><i>c) shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between planmakers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory</i></p>	<p><u>The Minerals Local Plan (MLP)</u> identifies preferred areas for sand and gravel extraction to provide for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates during the plan period – See Policies S6 (provision for sand and gravel extraction) and S7 (Provision for Industrial Minerals)</p> <p>MLP - Policy S1 - Presumption in favour of sustainable development.</p>	NPPF compliant
		<p><u>The Waste Local Plan (WLP)</u> has a policy context that has been primarily taken from the National Planning Policy for Waste and guidance. The Plan's spatial strategy and vision is based on the waste hierarchy, principle, net self-sufficiency and proximity principle – in line with</p>	NPPF/NPPW compliant

	<p><i>consultees?</i> <i>d) contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals?</i> <i>e) have accessible through the use of digital tools to assist public involvement and policy presentation? and</i> <i>f) served by a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area (including policies in this Framework, where relevant)</i></p>	<p>the NPPW.</p>	
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6 - Building a strong, competitive economy

Building a strong, competitive economy (para 82)			
What NPPF expects local plans to include to deliver its objectives	Questions to help understand whether your local plan includes what NPPF expects	Does your local plan address this issue and meet the NPPF's expectations?	How significant are any differences? Do they affect your overall strategy?
<p>Set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth (82).</p>	<p><i>Planning policies and decisions should recognize and address the specific locational requirements of different sectors para (83)</i></p> <p><i>Planning policies should set out a clear economic vision and</i></p>	<p><u>MLP</u></p> <p>The MLP sets out a Strategy that secures the economic advantage of mineral extraction by planning for sufficient supply to meet future demand and growth – See Section 3 (The Strategy)</p>	<p>NPPF compliant</p>

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	<p><i>strategy to positively and proactively encourage sustainable economic growth, set criteria or identify strategic sites to meet anticipated needs, seek to address potential barriers to investment and be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan.</i></p>		
		<p><u>WLP</u></p> <p>New waste development has been principally directed towards the location of the main population centres and where economic growth in concentrated in the plan area - Policies 7 (strategic Waste Management Allocations) and Policy 8 (Areas of Search and locational Criteria).</p>	<p>NPPF compliant</p>

Supporting a prosperous rural economy (para 84)			
What NPPF expects local plans to include to deliver its objectives	Questions to help understand whether your local plan includes what NPPF expects	Does your local plan address this issue and meet the NPPF's expectations?	How significant are any differences? Do they affect your overall strategy?

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Policies and decisions should enable...the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.(b)	<i>Do your policies align with the objectives of para 84?</i>	<p><u>MLP</u></p> <p>Mineral extraction sites and transshipment facilities are often located in rural areas. While mineral production represents a small proportion of economic output (quarrying provides several hundred jobs) it plays a vital strategic role in facilitating the County's economic growth and regeneration.</p>	NPPF compliant
		<p><u>WLP</u></p> <p>Policy 5 (enclosed waste facilities) and 6 (open waste facilities) encourage the use of redundant agricultural or forestry building or redundant farm land for appropriate waste management development (in line with the NPPW)</p>	NPPF compliant

8 - Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities

Promoting healthy and safe communities (paras 92 - 103)			
What NPPF expects local plans to include to deliver its objectives	Questions to help understand whether your local plan includes what NPPF expects	Does your local plan address this issue and meet the NPPF's expectations?	How significant are any differences? Do they affect your overall strategy?
Policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places (92).	<p><i>Does the plan include a policy or policies for opportunities to enable access to open spaces for recreation? (98)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clarifying that planning policies and decisions should consider the social, economic and environmental benefits of estate regeneration.</i> • <i>Additional recognition to the role that planning can play in promoting social interaction and healthy lifestyles.</i> • <i>New policy on the ways in which planning policies and decisions can help to anticipate and address possible malicious threats and natural hazards, especially in crowded places, and take into account operational defence and security</i> 	<p><u>MLP</u></p> <p>The MLP considers Restoration and the after use of extraction sites including the wider benefits restored sites can have for communities and outdoor recreation. Policy S12 (Mineral Site Restoration and After-Use looks to secure positive benefits to the environment biodiversity and local communities.</p>	NPPF compliant
		<p><u>WLP</u></p> <p>The impact on Human Health is a material planning consideration and Policy 10 (Development Management Criteria) seeks to ensure that the impact on local amenity is controlled (albeit within the confines of the Planning regime</p>	NPPF compliant

	<i>requirements.</i>	– as opposed to other regulatory regimes – such as the Environmental Permitting Regulations and pollution control legislation).
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9 - Promoting sustainable transport

Promoting sustainable transport (paras 104-113)			
What NPPF expects local plans to include to deliver its objectives	Questions to help understand whether your local plan includes what NPPF expects	Does your local plan address this issue and meet the NPPF’s expectations?	How significant are any differences? Do they affect your overall strategy?
<p>Significant Development should be focused on locations which can be made sustainable through limiting the need to travel and offering choice (105).</p> <p>Opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas (105).</p>	<p><i>Has it taken into account how this relates to other policies set out elsewhere in the Framework, particularly in rural areas? (34).</i></p> <p><i>Have you worked with adjoining authorities and transport providers on the provision of viable infrastructure?</i></p> <p><i>Clarification on the variety of ways in which transport should be considered as part of the planning process from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New policy to recognise the importance of maintaining a</i> 	<p><u>MLP</u></p> <p>A strategic aim of the MLP is to reduce the impact of mineral extraction and associated development on the transport system (no. 8 Strategic aims and objectives). Policies S2 (strategic priorities for minerals development) and Policy S11 (Access and Transportation)</p>	NPPF compliant
		<p><u>WLP</u></p> <p>A strategic objective (SO6) is to minimise waste transport and distance by locating waste facilities in proximity to key</p>	NPPF compliant

	<p><i>national network of general aviation airfields.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Policy on assessing the transport impact of proposals has been amended to refer to highway safety as well as capacity and congestion.</i> • <i>In setting parking standards, policies should take into account the need to ensure provision of spaces for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles.</i> • <i>New policy that maximum parking standards for residential and non-residential development should only be set where there is a clear and compelling justification that they are necessary for managing the local road network, or for optimising the density of development in city, and town centres or other locations that are well served by public transport.</i> 	<p>growth centres. Policies 7 (Strategic Waste Management Allocations) and Policy 8 (Areas of Search and locational Criteria) have been identified to support this objective.</p>	
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11- Making Effective Use of Land



What NPPF expects local plans to include to deliver its objectives	Questions to help understand whether your local plan includes what NPPF expects	Does your local plan address this issue and meet the NPPF's expectations?	How significant are any differences? Do they affect your overall strategy?
<p>Planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions. Strategic policies should set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously-developed or 'brownfield' land'. (119)</p>	<p><i>Taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains</i></p> <p><i>Promote and support development of under-utilised land and buildings, e.g. converting space above shops, building on or above service yards, car parks, lock-ups and railway infrastructure.</i></p>	<p><u>MLP</u></p> <p>Policy S12 requires that sites are restored to an acceptable environmental condition and beneficial afteruse.</p> <p>An aim of the MLP is to reduce lorry movements where possible and encourage the use (and protection) of mineral transshipment sites – which can include Rail infrastructure (para 3.142 onwards).</p>	<p>NPPF compliant</p>
		<p><u>WLP</u></p> <p>A strategic objective (SO6) is to minimise waste transport and distance by locating waste facilities in proximity to key growth centres. The transportation of waste by rail is at the top of the movement hierarchy (Policy 12)</p>	<p>NPPF compliant</p>

12 - Achieving Well-designed Places

What NPPF expects local plans to include to deliver its objectives	Questions to help understand whether your local plan includes what NPPF expects	Does your local plan address this issue and meet the NPPF's expectations?	How significant are any differences? Do they affect your overall strategy?
Plans should, at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations, so that applicants have as much certainty as possible about what is likely to be acceptable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Additional emphasis given on the importance of pre-application discussions in securing good design.</i> • <i>Setting out that design should not be used as a reason to object to development where a scheme complies with local plan policies.</i> 	<p><u>MLP</u></p> <p>Policy S12 requires that sites are restored to an acceptable environmental condition and beneficial afteruse.</p>	NPPF compliant
		<p><u>WLP</u></p> <p>Policy 10 requires that the proposed development does not have an unacceptable impact on the character and quality of the area through poor design.</p>	NPPF compliant

13 Protecting Green Belt land

Protecting Green Belt land (paras 137- 152)			
What NPPF expects local plans to include to deliver its objectives	Questions to help understand whether your local plan includes what NPPF expects	Does your local plan address this issue and meet the NPPF's expectations?	How significant are any differences? Do they affect your overall strategy?

The general extent of Green Belts across the country is already established. New Green Belts should only be established in exceptional circumstances (139)	If you are including Green Belt policies in your plan, do they accurately reflect the NPPF policy?	MLP Minerals can only be extracted where they are found and mineral extraction can be considered appropriate development in the Green Belt. The NPPF states that minerals development need not be inappropriate development in the Green Belt so long as the openness of the Green Belt is preserved and proposals do not conflict with the purpose of including land in the Green Belt.	NPPF compliant
		<u>WLP</u> Policy 10 seeks to ensure that proposal will only be permitted when they do not have an unacceptable impact on the openness and purpose of the Green Belt.	NPPF compliant

14 - Meeting the challenge of climate change flooding and coastal change

Meeting the challenge of climate change flooding and coastal change (paras 152-173)			
What NPPF expects local plans to include to deliver its objectives	Questions to help understand whether your local plan includes what NPPF expects	Does your local plan address this issue and meet the NPPF's expectations?	How significant are any differences? Do they affect your overall strategy?

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<p><i>Plans to take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change taking into account long term implications of flood risk, coastal change and water supply, biodiversity and landscapes and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures (153).</i></p>	<p><i>Have you planned new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions?</i></p> <p><i>Clarifying that Plans should have regard to the cumulative impacts of flood risk, rather than just to or from individual development sites.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clarifies policy on the exception test that may need to be applied when considering development in locations at risk of flooding.</i> 	<p>MLP</p> <p>The MLP’s strategy seeks to ensure that regard is had to climate change mitigation and adaption (Section 3 E) The Plan Aims and Strategic Objectives promotes a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and adaption to climatic condition (Section 3.2) as well as Policy S3 (Climate Change). Section 5.26 of the MLP considers in detail flooding, water resources and water quality issues. Policies consider cumulative impact.</p>	<p>NPPF compliant</p>
	<p><u>WLP</u></p> <p>The WLP’s strategic objectives and strategy has sustainable waste management principles at its heart. Strategic objective 6 for example support the reduction in greenhouse gases through moving waste management further up the waste hierarchy. Policy 11 (Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change) requires proposals to meet a number of requirements to minimise their potential contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse</p>	<p>NPPF compliant</p>	

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		gas emissions, incorporating energy and water efficient design measures and being adaptable to future climatic conditions. Policies consider cumulative impact.	
Help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat (155).	<p><i>Do you have a positive strategy to promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources?</i></p> <p><i>Have you considered identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure the development of such sources</i></p>	<p><u>MLP</u></p> <p>The MLP's strategy seeks to ensure that regard is had to climate change mitigation and adaption (Section 3 E) The Plan Aims and Strategic Objectives promotes a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and adaption to climatic condition (Section 3.2) as well as Policy S3 (Climate Change).</p>	NPPF compliant
		<p><u>WLP</u></p> <p>Policy 11 (Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change) supports opportunities for decentralized and renewable or low carbon energy supply as well as opportunities to utilise excess heat supply.</p>	NPPF compliant

15 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (paras 174-182)			
What NPPF expects local plans to include to deliver its objectives	Questions to help understand whether your local plan includes what NPPF expects	Does your local plan address this issue and meet the NPPF's expectations?	How significant are any differences? Do they affect your overall strategy?
<p>Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment (para 170) and protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity (174).</p>	<p><i>Have you take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure? (171).</i></p> <p><i>Clarifying that the 'agent of change' (or applicant) should be responsible for mitigating the impact of their scheme of potential nuisance arising from existing development, such as businesses and community facilities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Updates to align with the 25 Year Environment Plan including taking air quality into account in planning policies and decisions.</i> 	<p><u>MLP</u></p> <p>Policy DM1 of the MLP (and supporting text) seeks to protect the natural and geological environment (including biodiversity and ecological conditions for habitats and species) and soil resources from the best and most versatile agricultural land.</p> <p>A number of Preferred sites have been identified to develop 50ha of strategic habitat creation for priority habitat through restoration.</p> <p>Mineral Consultation Areas will enable the 'Agent of Change' principle to be addressed (Policy S8).</p>	<p>NPPF compliant</p>

		<p><u>WLP</u></p> <p>Policy 10 of the WLP requires proposal to ensure there is no unacceptable impact on the natural or geological environment and also requires, where appropriate the enhancement of the natural environment and surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Waste Consultation Areas will enable the 'Agent of Change' principle to be addressed (Policy 2).</p>	NPPF compliant
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16 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (paras 189 – 208)			
Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment.(190)	<i>Re-affirms that "when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation, irrespective of the degree of potential harm to its significance".</i>	Policy S10 of the MLP (and supporting text) seeks to protect the historic environment (including heritage and archaeological assets).	NPPF compliant
		<p><u>WLP</u></p> <p>Policy 10 of the WLP requires proposal to ensure there is no unacceptable impact on the historic environment (including heritage and archaeological</p>	NPPF compliant

		assets) and also requires, where appropriate the enhancement of the historic environment.	
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17 - Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals (paras 209-217)			
What NPPF expects local plans to include to deliver its objectives	Questions to help understand whether your local plan includes what NPPF expects	Does your local plan address this issue and meet the NPPF's expectations?	How significant are any differences? Do they affect your overall strategy?
It is essential that there is a sufficient supply of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. However, since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, it is important to make best use of them to secure their long-term conservation (209).	<i>Additional text on on-shore oil and gas development to provide clear policy on the issues to be taken into account in planning for and making decisions on this form of development.</i>	Essex's geology does not provide for on-shore oil and gas development. The MLP plans for a steady and adequate supply of aggregate to meet the county's and wider needs until 2029.	NPPF compliant
		<u>WLP</u> N/A	N/A