

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (February 2018)

The checklist provided by the Planning Advisory Service has been used as a template for the soundness self-assessment for the Tower Hamlets Local Plan. A separate checklist looks at legal compliance.

In summary – the key requirements of plan preparation are:

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

Tests of soundness at examination

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

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

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

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

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

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This means that the Local Plan should be based on a robust and credible evidence base involving the following.

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

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

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

This means the Local Plan should be deliverable, requiring evidence of:

- sound infrastructure delivery planning;
- having no regulatory or national planning barriers to delivery;
- delivery partners who are signed up to it;
- coherence with the strategies of neighbouring authorities, including neighbouring marine planning authorities; and
- being flexible and capable of being monitored.

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

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

The demonstration of this is a 'lead' policy on sustainable development which specifies how decisions are to be made against the sustainability criterion.

The following table sets out the requirements associated with these four tests of soundness.

In addition, the legal compliance checklist (a separate document; see www.towerhamlets.gov.uk) has also been completed to ensure that this aspect is covered.

The duty to co-operate will also be assessed as part of the examination process.

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<p>Positively prepared: the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.</p>		
<p><i>Vision and objectives</i></p> <p>Has the LPA clearly identified what the issues are that the Local Plan is seeking to address? Have priorities been set so that it is clear what the Local Plan is seeking to achieve?</p> <p>Does the Local Plan contain clear vision(s) and objectives which are specific to the place? Is there a direct relationship between the identified issues, the vision(s) and the objectives?</p> <p>Is it clear how the policies will meet the objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD?</p> <p>Have reasonable alternatives to the quantum of development and overall spatial strategy been considered?</p> <p>Are the policies internally consistent?</p> <p>Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives?</p> <p>Does the Local Plan explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the Local Plan and other documents which set out (where applicable) the vision, strategic objectives, key outcomes expected, spatial portrait and issues to be addressed. • Relevant sections of the Local Plan which explain how policies derive from the objectives and are designed to meet them. • The strategic objectives of the Local Plan, and the commentary in the Local Plan of how they derive from the spatial portrait and vision, and how the objectives are consistent with one another. • Sections of the Local Plan which address delivery, the means of delivery and the timescales for key developments through evidenced infrastructure delivery planning. • Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery. • Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each development plan document showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure. 	<p>The Local Plan sets out how Tower Hamlets will grow and develop from now until 2031. It identifies how many new homes, jobs and services are needed to support the growing population, and where they should be provided. Its sets out how the borough should be shaped and developed and identifies areas of change and opportunity within the borough.</p> <p>The Local Plan’s strategic vision describes what the borough will be like in 2031. It sets out that Tower Hamlets will embrace its role as the engine of London’s growth and make best use of its assets, while seeking to manage and shape how its places will change and share the benefits of this growth.</p> <p>This vision is linked to a series of overarching objectives and principles. The Local Plan has two inter-related themes of ‘Managing the growth and shape change’ and ‘Sharing the benefits of growth’ with various principles beneath them. These provide the basis for the vision and they are the themes that run through the plan.</p>
<p><i>The presumption in favour of sustainable development (NPPF, paragraphs 6-17)</i></p> <p>Plans and decisions need to take local circumstances into account, so that</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An evidence base which establishes the development needs of the plan area (see Justified below) and includes a flexible approach to delivery (see ‘Section 3: effective’, below). • An audit trail showing how and why the quantum of 	<p>The Local Plan has been informed by recent, robust and proportionate evidence which the council has made available for public consideration and scrutiny. It supports delivery</p>

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<p>they respond to the different opportunities for achieving sustainable development in different areas.</p> <p>Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> —any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or —specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted. 	<p>development, preferred overall strategy and plan area distribution of development were arrived at.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of responding to opportunities for achieving sustainable development in different areas (for example, the marine area) 	<p>of the housing targets and employment projections set by the London Plan as well as other needs that have been identified locally. For example, the council has produced its own Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to supplement the wider London SHMA published by the Greater London Authority (GLA) in 2016. It has also assessed the development needs of other forms of development such as retail, and identified infrastructure needs to support new development.</p> <p>The council has commissioned new or additional evidence throughout development of the plan as need to do so has been identified or to respond to changing circumstances (for example, a series of studies that were published between the regulation 18 and 19 statutory public consultations).</p> <p>The main areas of growth in the borough are guided by the Mayor of London’s opportunity Areas, which predominantly directs new housing and other commercial development to the City Fringe, north of the Isle of Dogs and South Poplar, and the Lower Lea Valley. As such, with the main areas of concentration for new development already having been defined, the Local Plan has responded to this by setting out visions and objectives for each of these areas and the</p>

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		<p>remaining 'central' area.</p> <p>An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been carried out which combines the Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Equalities Impact Assessment. The IIA has been continually updated alongside different iterations of the Local Plan and has helped to ensure that the plan will result in sustainable development with negative impacts minimised, and has helped to inform policy drafting and site allocations.</p>
<p>Policies in Local Plans should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development so that it is clear that development which is sustainable can be approved without delay. All plans should be based upon and reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide how the presumption should be applied locally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A policy or policies which reflect the principles of the presumption in favour of sustainable development (see model policy at www.planningportal.gov.uk) 	<p>The Local Plan has been created to be in conformity with the NPPF and the London Plan and therefore policies follow the approach of the presumption in favour for sustainable development. This is further supplemented by the recommendations of the accompanying IIA. The plan is based on the principles of sustainable development as demonstrated through the vision, strategic objectives, policies and site allocations which seek sustainable solutions. On that basis is not considered necessary to include a specific policy explicitly setting out the presumption in favour of sustainable development as was included within the Managing Development Document (adopted in 2013).</p>
<p><i>Objectively assessed needs</i> The economic, social and environmental needs of the authority area addressed and clearly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background evidence papers demonstrating requirements based on population forecasts, employment projections and community needs. 	<p>The extensive evidence base informing and supporting the plan has objectively assessed the economic, social and environmental needs of the</p>

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<p>presented in a fashion which makes effective use of land and specifically promotes mixed use development, and take account of cross-boundary and strategic issues.</p> <p>Note: Meeting these needs should be subject to the caveats specified in paragraph 14 of the NPPF (see above).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical papers demonstrating how the aspirations and objectives of the DPD are related to the evidence, and how these are to be met, including from consultation and associated with the duty to co-operate. 	<p>borough and surrounding area. This has ensured that proposed policies and site allocations make effective use of land.</p> <p>The council has worked extensively with duty to cooperate bodies such as surrounding boroughs and the GLA throughout development of this plan, with a Duty to Cooperate report having been produced which outlines key outcomes and actions from discussions. The plan has incorporated wider strategic considerations arising from the London Plan to set out how these should be managed and delivered at a local level. Feedback from the GLA and other organisations as part of statutory public consultation has also been recorded through the Statement of Consultation.</p>
<p>NPPF principles: Delivering sustainable development</p>		
<p>1 Building a strong, competitive economy (paragraphs 18-22)</p>		
<p>Set out a clear economic vision and strategy for the area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth (21)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articulation of a clear economic vision and strategy for the plan area linked to the economic strategy, LEP strategy and marine policy documents where appropriate. 	<p>The economic vision and strategy for the Local Plan is outlined in the vision and objectives (section 2), policies on 'Delivering economic growth' (chapter 5, section 3), and within the visions and development principles for the borough's four 'sub-areas'. The 'Delivering economic growth' policies are expected to deliver the vision and objectives of the borough by helping to secure the land and floorspace required to provide the jobs and training opportunities needed to support the borough's</p>

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		<p>growing population and meet employment projections set out by the London Plan.</p> <p>Policies within chapter 5 (section 3) have been informed by the Employment Land Review (2016) and Preferred Office Location Boundary Review (2017), along with the London Plan and supplementary planning guidance. Policy S.EMP1 in particular identifies the borough's designated employment areas which helps to secure sufficient land to meet need, and sets the principles of development within those and other locations to deliver a variety of workspaces to meet the needs of different occupants.</p>
<p>Recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including poor environment or any lack of infrastructure, services or housing (21)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A criteria-based policy which meets identified needs and is positive and flexible in planning for specialist sectors, regeneration, infrastructure provision, environmental enhancement. • An up-to-date assessment of the deliverability of allocated employment sites, to meet local needs, (taking into account that LPAs should avoid the long term protection of sites allocated for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of an allocated site being used for that purpose) para (22) 	<p>Policy S.EMP1 seeks to support, protect and enhance the role and function of the borough's designated employment areas and other locations to maximise the provision of employment floorspace to meet projected new jobs. It also supports different types of provision to meet the needs of a range of sectors and occupiers including specialist sectors such as bio-tech.</p> <p>The policy also places an emphasis on safeguarding and protecting existing employment premises and land, although allows scope for appropriate change of use where robust evidence is provided to demonstrate employment use is not viable and cannot be made viable.</p> <p>The Local Plan has allocated sites for</p>

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		<p>predominantly employment use where they fall within designated employment areas, as well as support the provision of new or re-provided employment space within a number of other site allocations. The Employment Land Review assessed the demand for and the supply of land for employment use and reviewed employment projections set out by the GLA and Experian.</p> <p>Together, these approaches should ensure that a supply of land is available to meet the needs of prospective occupiers and that floorspace projections are met.</p> <p>The council's economic development team have also been closely involved with the formulation of these policies, to ensure they are reflective of the council's emerging Enterprise Strategy.</p> <p>Infrastructure needs are identified in the council's 'Tower Hamlets Infrastructure Delivery Plan'.</p>
<p>2 Ensuring the vitality of town centres (paragraph 23-37)</p>		

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<p>Policies should be positive, promote competitive town centre environments, and set out policies for the management and growth of centres over the plan period (23)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Plan and its policies may include such matters as: definition of networks and hierarchies; defining town centres; encouragement of residential development on appropriate sites; allocation of appropriate edge of centre sites where suitable and viable town centre sites are not available; consideration of retail and leisure proposals which cannot be accommodated in or adjacent to town centres. 	<p>Policy S.TC 1 provides a framework for supporting, protecting and enhancing the role and function of the borough’s designated town centres by providing definitions of different types of centres and the types of uses that are appropriate within them to meet the needs of the people that use them now and in the future. It also identifies town centre boundaries, including new additions to the hierarchy and re-designations from the existing Local Plan. Policies set out considerations that must be addressed where residential uses are proposed within town centres to maintain active frontages and the viability and vitality of retail provision.</p> <p>Policy D.TC3 also clearly sets out the council’s position as to what out-of-town-centre retail is considered appropriate, and how existing provision will be protected where it meets an immediate local need.</p>
<p>Allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community services and residential development needed in town centres (23)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assessment of the need to expand (the) town centre(s), considering the needs of town centre uses. Primary and secondary shopping frontages identified and allocated. 	<p>The Town Centre Retail Capacity Study (2016) assesses the need and supply of new convenience and comparison retail floorspace up to 2031 and makes recommendations regarding the allocation of primary and secondary frontages. These recommendations have informed implementation of the frontages put forward within the plan, and they are clearly identified on the proposals map supported by Policy D.TC2. This approach will help to ensure</p>

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		that sufficient levels of A1 retail is maintained within the most important areas of retail activity, and that other uses can be accommodated where they contribute to the overall health of the centre.
3 Supporting a prosperous rural economy (paragraph 28)		
Support sustainable economic growth in rural areas. Planning strategies should promote a strong rural economy by taking a positive approach to new development. (28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where relevant include a policy or policies which support the sustainable growth of rural businesses; promote the development and diversification of agricultural businesses; support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments, and support local services and facilities. 	Not applicable
4 Promoting sustainable transport (paragraph 29-41)		
<p>Facilitate sustainable development whilst contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives (29)</p> <p>Balance the transport system in favour of sustainable transport modes and give people a real choice about how they travel whilst recognising that different policies will be required in different communities and opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas. (29)</p> <p>Encourage solutions which support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion (29) including supporting a pattern of development which, where reasonable to do so, facilitates the use of sustainable modes of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint working with adjoining authorities, transport providers and government agencies on infrastructure provision in order to support sustainable economic growth with particular regard to the facilities referred to in paragraph 31. Policies encouraging development which facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport and a range of transport choices where appropriate, particularly the criteria in paragraph 35. A spatial strategy and policy which seeks to reduce the need to travel through balancing housing and employment provision. Policy for major developments which promotes a mix of uses and access to key facilities by sustainable transport modes. 	<p>Transport and movement is recognised in the Local Plan as one of the key issues facing the future growth and sustainability of the borough, and health of its population, and as such, the council has sought to develop a series of policies to maximise sustainable travel and travel choice opportunities.</p> <p>As part of our duty to cooperate, the council has worked closely with Transport for London, infrastructure providers and neighbouring local authorities on the Local Plan transport policy, evidence base and infrastructure needs arising from proposed development.</p>

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<p>transport. (30)</p> <p>Local authorities should work with neighbouring authorities and transport providers to develop strategies for the provision of viable infrastructure necessary to support sustainable development. (31)</p> <p>Opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure. (32)</p> <p>Ensure that developments which generate significant movement are located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes can be maximised (34)</p> <p>Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. (35)</p> <p>Policies should aim for a balance of land uses so that people can be encouraged to minimize journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities. (37)</p> <p>For larger scale residential developments in particular, planning policies should promote a mix of uses in order to provide opportunities to undertake day-to-day activities including work on site. Where practical, particularly within large-scale developments, key facilities such as primary schools and local shops should be located within walking distance of most properties. (38)</p> <p>The setting of car parking standards including</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If local (car parking) standards have been prepared, are they justified and necessary? (39) • Identification and protection of sites and routes where infrastructure could be developed to widen transport choice linked to the Local Transport Plan. 	<p>In accordance with national policy, the current London Plan and emerging Mayor’s Transport Strategy, the Local Plan sets out policies encouraging development which facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport and a range of transport choices such as public transport, cycling and walking (see policies S.TR1, D.TR2, D.TR3 and D.TR4) across the entire network. Travel plans and travel assessments will be used to help implement these policies (see policy D. TR2).</p> <p>The Local Plan prioritises the needs of pedestrians and cyclists and access to public transport (policy S.TR1) linking to policy D.OWS3 which seeks to facilitate the improvement of the existing and the delivery of new green grid routes to facilitate and incentivise more sustainable modes of travel, including walking and cycling.</p> <p>The spatial strategy focuses new development that generates high levels of trips in areas of high public transport and town centres accessibility in order to reduce the need to travel (policy S.TR1).</p> <p>The Local Plan also seeks to support and safeguard the transport and freight infrastructure to meet future demand, including capacity, connectivity, quality and interchanges (policy S.TR1).</p> <p>Strategic development site allocations (see</p>

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<p>provision for town centres. (39-40)</p> <p>Local planning authorities should identify and protect, where there is robust evidence, sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice. (41)</p>		<p>section 4: Delivering Sustainable Places) will require site specific transport and connectivity interventions and improvements both at the more strategic 'sub-area' level and at a site-specific level. These sites also set out the intrastate and mix of uses required.</p> <p>Parking is a key issue for the borough, and our strategy is set out in policy D.TR3. As part of this policy, local car parking standards (appendix 3) have been prepared following benchmarking exercise with neighbouring boroughs as well as the bespoke car parking study (noted below) which sought to understand the impact of car parking on congestion levels and air quality. This evidence tested car parking sensitivities in order to determine the appropriate standards to be included within the plan. Therefore, the published standards are considered to be the most appropriate in terms of achieving sustainable growth over the plan period.</p> <p>The Infrastructure Delivery Plan sets out a schedule of known infrastructure schemes that will support the delivery of the Local Plan to 2031.</p> <p>The council has prepared an extensive evidence base in relation to the above planning policies. This includes a comprehensive transport assessment which seeks analyse current/</p>

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		committed provision of transport and determine its capacity to support the projected growth. A bespoke car parking and freight study was also commissioned to assess the impact of assess the impact of car parking on highway congestion and air quality, as well as the growing impact of home deliveries.
5 Supporting high quality communications infrastructure (paragraph 42-46)		
<p>Support the expansion of the electronic communications networks, including telecommunications’ masts and high speed broadband. (43)</p> <p>Local planning authorities should not impose a ban on new telecommunications development in certain areas, impose blanket Article 4 directions over a wide area or a wide range of telecommunications development or insist on minimum distances between new telecommunications development and existing development. (44)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy supporting the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband, noting the caveats in para 44. 	<p>The Local Plan recognises the importance of digital infrastructure, with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan detailing provision and need of telecommunications apparatus and setting out potential projects to meet need. Policy D.DH11 seeks to ensure that where apparatus comes forward it minimises harm to its setting.</p>
6 Delivering a wide choice of high quality housing (paragraph 47-55)		
<p>Identify and maintain a rolling supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years’ worth of housing against their housing requirements; this should include an additional buffer of 5% or 20% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. 20% buffer applies where there has been persistent under</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of: five years or more supply of specific deliverable sites; plus the buffer as appropriate • Where this element of housing supply includes windfall sites, inclusion of ‘compelling evidence’ to justify their inclusion (48) • A strategic housing land availability assessment 	<p>The council has produced a five year housing land supply, which identifies a 5 year supply of deliverable sites against the Local Plan target, including a 5% buffer. The 5% buffer has been used as our past supply has not shown a record of persistent under delivery.</p>

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delivery of housing(47)		<p>This includes a small element of delivery on windfall sites which is supported by compelling evidence that such sites have consistently become available in the local area. The assumed windfall is the average rate of windfall that has been delivered over the last 5 years.</p> <p>The 5-year housing land supply and 15-year trajectory has been informed by the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (GLA, 2017) which the council contributed towards producing.</p> <p>This information is contained within the <i>London Borough of Tower Hamlets Five-Year Housing Land Supply and Housing Trajectory Statement</i>.</p>
Identify a supply of developable sites or broad locations for years 6-10 and, where possible, years 11-15 (47)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of a supply of developable sites or broad locations for: a) years 6-10; b) years 11-15 	<p>The Local Plan is supported by a 15-year housing trajectory, informed by the SHLAA, which identifies a supply of developable sites / broad locations for years 6 – 10 and 11 – 15.</p> <p>This information is contained within the <i>London Borough of Tower Hamlets Five-Year Housing Land Supply and Housing Trajectory Statement</i>.</p>
Illustrate the expected rate of housing delivery through a trajectory; and set out a housing implementation strategy describing how a five year supply will be maintained (47)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A housing trajectory • Monitoring of completions and permissions (47) • Updated and managed SHLAA (47) 	<p>Appendix 7 of the plan sets out the borough's housing trajectory over a 15-year period, illustrating a supply pipeline of 54,000 additional homes over the plan period. This provides sufficient supply to meet objectively assessed housing need. Paragraph 7.4 emphasises the</p>

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		<p>council is committed to working with partners to sustainably maximise the supply and delivery of housing and address unmet strategic need.</p> <p>The council has an existing framework for the monitoring of completions and permissions to inform its five year housing supply, and this is updated annually and published broadly in line with publication of the Annual Monitoring Report.</p> <p>In 2017 the council undertook a London-wide SHLAA exercise managed by the GLA.</p>
<p>Set out the authority's approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances (47).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on the density of development. 	<p>The strategic density policy is set out in the London Plan (GLA, 2016).</p> <p>The draft Local Plan provides further local guidance in policy D.DH7: Density.</p>
<p>Plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic and market trends, and needs of different groups (50) and caters for housing demand and the scale of housing supply to meet this demand. (para 159)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on planning for a mix of housing (including self-build, and housing for older people • Strategic housing market assessment • Identification of the size, type, tenure and range of housing) required in particular locations, reflecting local demand. (50) • Evidence for housing provision based on up to date, objectively assessed needs. (50) • Policy on affordable housing and consideration for the need for on-site provision or if off-site provision or financial contributions are sought, where these can these be justified and to what extent do they 	<p>The Local Plan is supported by two SHMAs (2014 and 2017) which identifies local housing need (OAN), affordable housing need and the need for homes for specific communities including self-build, older people, those residing in boats and caravans and students.</p> <p>Policy S.H1: Meeting housing needs sets the overarching policy direction to deliver the number of homes required (to meet the London Plan target, which is in excess of the OAN), the number of affordable homes required, supports</p>

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	<p>contribute to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities. (50)</p>	<p>self-build, requires development to contribute to mixed and balanced communities and supports development which meets the needs of specific communities.</p> <p>Policy D.H2 outlines affordable housing and unit mix requirements.</p> <p>Policy D.H4 outlines requirements for specialist housing including for older people.</p>
<p>In rural areas be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate (54).</p> <p>In rural areas housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of allowing some market housing to facilitate the provision of significant additional affordable housing to meet local needs. • Consideration of the case for resisting inappropriate development of residential gardens. (This is discretionary)(paragraph 53) • Examples of special circumstances to allow new isolated homes listed at paragraph 55. 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>7 Requiring good design (paragraphs 56-68)</p>		
<p>Develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area (58).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of policy or policies which seek to increase the quality of development through the principles set out at paragraph 58 and approaches in paragraphs 59-61, linked to the vision for the area and specific local issues 	<p>Chapter 3 of the Local Plan provides the council's policies to ensure high quality development of the borough's buildings, streets, spaces and the public realm. The policies seek to ensure that new development is well-designed, safe, accessible, inclusive and respects the distinctive character of our places, paying careful attention to the layout, scale and form of buildings and spaces, the connections between the, and the mitigation of impacts, such as noise and air</p>

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		<p>pollution. Of particular relevance are policies S.DH1: Delivering high quality design and D.DH2: Attractive streets, spaces and public realm. Detailed design guidance is given in D.DH6: Tall buildings, D.DH7: Density and D.DH8: Amenity.</p>
<p>8 Promoting healthy communities (paragraphs 69-77)</p>		
<p>Policies should aim to design places which: promote community interaction, including through mixed-use development; are safe and accessible environments; and are accessible developments (69).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of a policy or policies on inclusive communities. • Promotion of opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity; safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion; and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas. (69) 	<p>Policy S.SG2 requires developments to share the benefits of growth, including through creating healthy environments, creating mixed and balanced communities, increasing opportunities for social interaction and delivering inclusive infrastructure and public realm improvements.</p> <p>Policy D.DH2 requires development to contribute to improving and enhancing permeability and legibility across the borough, and to optimise the public realm by for example optimising active frontages towards streets and spaces.</p>
<p>Policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services (70).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of a policy or policies addressing community facilities and local service. • Positive planning for the provision and integration of community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments; safeguard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services; ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernize; and ensure that housing is developed in suitable locations which offer a range of community facilities and good access to key 	<p>Policy S.SG1 directs housing development to suitable locations with a good range of community facilities.</p> <p>Policy S.CF1 and D.CF2 seek to safeguard the valued and needed community facilities against unnecessary loss and promote their enhancement, extension and better public access to meet any increased demand. Integration of suitable community services is also promoted</p>

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (February 2018)

Soundness test and key requirements	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
<p>Identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities; and set locally derived standards to provide these (73).</p>	<p>services and infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. (73) • A policy protecting existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land from development, with specific exceptions. (74) • Protection and enhancement of rights of way and access. (75) 	<p>through co-location of compatible uses.</p> <p>An open space strategy has been prepared to provide a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the publicly accessible open spaces (including playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities) in the borough and to determine the demand for open space (including playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities) in the borough considering the anticipated population growth.</p> <p>In addition, an indoor sports facilities strategy has been prepared to provide a comprehensive assessment of the borough's current and projected indoor sports facility needs, including a qualitative assessment of the condition and suitability of the council-owned network of indoor sports facilities.</p> <p>A water space study has also been developed to assess the character of the borough's existing water spaces and the extent of historic loss that they have faced. It also identifies opportunities for the protection and enhancement of public use and enjoyment of the borough's water spaces.</p> <p>Policy S.OWS1 protects the borough's open spaces (including playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities) against loss and lists areas of particular open space deficiency where opportunities will be maximised for the delivery of new open spaces.</p>

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (February 2018)

Soundness test and key requirements	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
		<p>Policy D.OWS3 includes a list of exceptional circumstances in which development on areas of open space might be considered acceptable.</p> <p>In addition, policy D.OWS4 protects the borough's water spaces from inappropriate development and specifies the types of water related and water dependant uses which might be considered appropriate on areas of water space.</p> <p>Indoor sports facilities are protected against loss under policy S.CF1.</p>
<p>Enable local communities, through local and neighbourhood plans, to identify special protection green areas of particular importance to them – 'Local Green Space' (76-78).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy enabling the protection of local green spaces. (local green spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. The designation should only be used when it accords with the criteria in paragraph 77). Policy for managing development within a local green space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts. (78) 	<p>The council developed an open space strategy, which provides classification of all publicly accessible open spaces in the borough in line with the London Plan hierarchy and acknowledges that - in dense urban areas like Tower Hamlets - small sites play a vital role in providing access to open space. With this in mind, the small open space category was sub-divided to include small open spaces that are below 1 ha and small open spaces that are above 1 ha (also known as Tower Hamlets local parks).</p> <p>Policy S.OWS1 protects all types of open spaces, including local parks and pocket pars against loss.</p>
<p>9 Protecting Green Belt land (paragraphs 79-92)</p>		
<p>Local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where Green Belt policies are included, these should reflect the need to: 	<p>Not applicable</p>

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (February 2018)

Soundness test and key requirements	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
<p>Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land. (81)</p> <p>Local planning authorities with Green Belts in their area should establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans which set the framework for Green Belt and settlement policy. (83)</p> <p>When drawing up or reviewing Green Belt boundaries local planning authorities should take account of the need to promote sustainable patterns of development. (84)</p> <p>Boundaries should be set using ‘physical features likely to be permanent’ amongst other things (85)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt. (81) ○ accord with criteria on boundary setting, and the need for clarity on the status of safeguarded land, in particular (85) ○ specify that inappropriate development should not be approved except in very special circumstances. (87) ○ specify the exceptions to inappropriate development (89-90) ○ identify where very special circumstances might apply to renewable energy development. (91) 	
<p>10 Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change (paragraphs 93-108)</p>		
<p>Adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations. (94)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Planning of new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ● Support for energy efficiency improvements to existing building. ● Local requirements for a building’s sustainability which are consistent with the government’s zero carbon buildings policy. (95)) 	<p>Policy S.SG1 directs housing development to suitable locations with a good range of community facilities and near transport to increase use of walking and cycling and public transport.</p> <p>Policy S.ES1 requires development to maximise climate change mitigation measures.</p> <p>Although the government’s zero carbon buildings policy has been withdrawn, policy D.ES7 requires developments to reach carbon reduction targets</p>

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (February 2018)

Soundness test and key requirements	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
		<p>and support emerging improvements to existing buildings, in the interests of moving towards a zero carbon borough.</p> <p>Policy D.ES4 requires development to consider and reduce flood risk.</p> <p>Policy D.ES6 requires development to minimise clean and waste water use (sustainable water management).</p>
<p>Help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy through a strategy, policies maximising renewable and low carbon energy, and identification of key energy sources. (97)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy and policies to promote and maximise energy from renewable and low carbon sources, • Identification of suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure the development of such sources (see also NPPF: footnote 17) • Identification of where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers. (97) 	<p>Policy D.ES7: A zero carbon borough requires developments to maximise use of renewable and low carbon sources, identifies where development can draw from decentralised energy systems and requires them to do so if will be operational within five years of the developments completion.</p>
<p>Minimise vulnerability to climate change and manage the risk of flooding (99)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account taken of the impacts of climate change. (99) • Allocate, and where necessary re-locate, development away from flood risk areas through a sequential test, based on a SFRA. (100) • Policies to manage risk, from a range of impacts, through suitable adaptation measures 	<p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2017) has informed the preparation of the plan and considered the impact of climate change and a sequential and exceptions test (2017) which seeks to allocate development away from areas of flood risk, except where such development can be justified.</p> <p>Policy D.ES4 requires development to be suitably located to reduce flood risk, provide a flood risk assessment, use site design to reduce flood risk</p>

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (February 2018)

Soundness test and key requirements	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
		and enable effective flood risk management.
Take account of marine planning (105)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure early and close co-operation on relevant economic, social and environmental policies with the Marine Management Organisation • Review the aims and objectives of the Marine Policy Statement, including local potential for marine-related economic development • Integrate as appropriate marine policy objectives into emerging policy • Support of integrated coastal management in coastal areas in line with the requirements of the MPS 	<p>Policy S.OWS2 states that proposals will be required to support the creation of a network of high quality, usable and accessible water spaces network (for example, through supporting the aims of relevant marine plans, such as South East Marine Plan).</p> <p>As set out in paragraph 8.31 of the plan, Tower Hamlets falls within the remit of the Marine Plan for the South East inshore area. The detailed boundaries of the Marine Plan for the South East inshore area (within the borough) are shown on the Policies Map. Until the Marine Plan for the South East has been adopted, any development and activities within the rivers Thames and Lea will need to have regard to the Marine Policy Statement.</p>
Manage risk from coastal change (106)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of where the coast is likely to experience physical changes and identify coastal change management areas, and clarity on what development will be allowed in such areas. • Provision for development and infrastructure that needs to be re-located from such areas, based on shoreline management plans and marine plans, where appropriate. 	N/A
11 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (paragraphs 109-125)		
Protect valued landscapes (109)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy and policy or policies to create, protect, enhance and manage networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. 	The Local Plan seeks to ensure that new development protects and enhance biodiversity value across the borough in line with the actions

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (February 2018)

Soundness test and key requirements	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy which seeks to minimise the loss of higher quality agricultural land and give great weight to protecting the landscape and scenic beauty of national parks, the broads and areas of outstanding natural beauty. 	<p>set out in the Tower Hamlets Biodiversity Area Action Plan.</p> <p>Policy D.ES3 ensures development protects and enhances biodiversity, does not negatively impact on any European sites and manages the impact of development on Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation through a harm minimisation hierarchy.</p>
Prevent unacceptable risks from pollution and land instability (109)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy which seeks development which is appropriate for its location having regard to the effects of pollution on health, the natural environment or general amenity. 	<p>Policy D.SG4 ensures that during the construction process development minimises its impact on the local environment and local amenity.</p> <p>Policy D.ES2 ensures development doesn't worsen the borough's air quality and protect future users from the impact of poor air quality.</p>
<p>Planning policies should minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity (117)</p> <p>Planning policies should plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries (117)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification and mapping of local ecological networks and geological conservation interests. Policies to promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the recovery of priority species 	<p>The Local Plan seeks to ensure that new development protects and enhance biodiversity value across the borough in line with the actions set out in the Tower Hamlets Biodiversity Area Action Plan.</p> <p>Policy D.ES3 ensures development protects and enhances biodiversity, does not negatively impact on any European sites and manages the impact of development on Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation through a harm minimisation hierarchy.</p> <p>Policy D.ES3 also requires the maximization of features of biodiversity value in new</p>

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (February 2018)

Soundness test and key requirements	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
		developments.
12 Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (paragraphs 126-141)		
<p>Include a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk (126)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategy for the historic environment based on a clear understanding of the cultural assets in the plan area, including assets most at risk. • A map/register of historic assets • A policy or policies which promote new development that will make a positive contribution to character and distinctiveness. (126) 	<p>Policies S.DH3 sets out how the historic environment should inform development, how planning applications will be assessed and how opportunities can be taken to improve the condition of the borough's historic environment. Policies D.DH4 and S.DH5 give more specific guidance on development that may impact on borough designated landmarks, world heritage sites and strategically important landmarks.</p>
13 Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals (paragraphs 142-149)		
<p>It is important that there is a sufficient supply of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. However, since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, it is important to make best use of them to secure their long-term conservation (142)</p> <p>Minerals planning authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of industrial materials (146)</p>	<p>Account taken of the matters raised in relation to paragraph 143 and 145, including matters in relation to land in national / international designations; landbanks; the defining of Minerals Safeguarding Areas; wider matters relating to safeguarding; approaches if non-mineral development is necessary within Minerals Safeguarding Areas; the setting of environmental criteria; development of noise limits; reclamation of land; plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates. This could include evidence of co-operation with neighbouring and more distant authorities.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Justified: <i>The plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence.</i></p> <p>To be 'justified' a Local Plan needs to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded on a robust and credible evidence base involving: research / fact finding demonstrating how the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts; and evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area. 		

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (February 2018)

Soundness test and key requirements	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives. 		
<p><i>Participation</i></p> <p>Has the consultation process allowed for effective engagement of all interested parties?</p>	<p>The consultation statement. This should set out what consultation was undertaken, when, with whom and how it has influenced the plan. The statement should show that efforts have been made to consult hard to reach groups, key stakeholders etc.</p>	<p>The Statement of Consultation details how the council undertook both statutory and non-statutory consultations during the production of the plan. This includes details of how the council met its statutory obligations as well as those within its Statement of Community Involvement, such as who was consulted, what events were undertaken and their attendance, the key messages arising from representations received and how the council considered such comments.</p> <p>At various stages, the council also made reasonable efforts to ensure that 'hard to reach' groups including younger people, people with disabilities and people from ethnic minorities were included, facilitated through the organisation of bespoke events.</p>
<p><i>Research / fact finding</i></p> <p>Is the plan justified by a sound and credible evidence base? What are the sources of evidence? How up to date, and how convincing is it?</p> <p>What assumptions were made in preparing the DPD? Were they reasonable and justified?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The studies, reports and technical papers that provide the evidence for the policies set out in the Local Plan, the date of preparation and who they were produced by. <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections of the Local Plan (at various stages of development) and SA report which illustrate how evidence supports the strategy, policies and proposals, including key assumptions. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A very brief statement of how the main findings of consultation support the policies, with reference to: reports to the council on the issues raised during 	<p>The council considers that the content of the Plan is justified by the evidence gathered. A wide range of studies and reports have been undertaken to provide a sound evidence base for the plan. The main evidence documents referenced within the plan are available to view on the council's website, or via external links provided.</p> <p>Policies have been refined and updated to take into account more recent national/regional policy changes and recommendations within the council's evidence base, for example a study on</p>

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (February 2018)

Soundness test and key requirements	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
	<p>participation, covering both the front-loading and formulation phases; and any other information on community views and preferences.</p> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For each policy (or group of policies dealing with the same issue), a very brief statement of the evidence documents relied upon and how they support the policy (where this is not already clear in the reasoned justification in the Local Plan). 	<p>preferred office locations has resulted in amendments to the associated boundaries and policies in the submission version of the plan compared to that consulted on during Regulation 18.</p> <p>The Local Plan sits alongside an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) which includes a sustainability appraisal to ensure the plan and the policies within it comply with all necessary requirements.</p>
<p><i>Alternatives</i></p> <p>Can it be shown that the LPA's chosen approach is the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives? Have the reasonable alternatives been considered and is there a clear audit trail showing how and why the preferred approach was arrived at? Where a balance had to be struck in taking decisions between competing alternatives, is it clear how and why the decisions were taken?</p> <p>Does the sustainability appraisal show how the different options perform and is it clear that sustainability considerations informed the content of the Local Plan from the start?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports and consultation documents produced in the early stages setting out how alternatives were developed and evaluated, and the reasons for selecting the preferred strategy, and reasons for rejecting the alternatives. This should include options covering not just the spatial strategy, but also the quantum of development, strategic policies and development management policies. An audit trail of how the evidence base, consultation and SA have influenced the plan. Sections of the SA report showing the assessment of options and alternatives. Reports on how decisions on the inclusion of policy were made. Sections of the consultation document demonstrating how options were developed and appraised. Any other documentation showing how alternatives were developed and evaluated, including a report on how sustainability appraisal has influenced the choice of strategy and the content of policies. 	<p>Reasonable alternatives were prepared and considered within the sustainability appraisal, and alternatives were also consulted upon as part of the regulation 18 consultation.</p>
<p><i>Effective: the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic</i></p>		

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (February 2018)

Soundness test and key requirements	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
<p><i>priorities.</i></p> <p>To be 'effective', a Local Plan needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be deliverable • demonstrate sound infrastructure delivery planning • have no regulatory or national planning barriers to its delivery • have delivery partners who are signed up to it • be coherent with the strategies of neighbouring authorities • demonstrate how the Duty to Co-operate has been fulfilled • be flexible • be able to be monitored 		
<p><i>Deliverable and coherent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it clear how the policies will meet the plan's vision and objectives? Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the Local Plan? • Are the policies internally consistent? • Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives? • Does the Local Plan explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the Local Plan which address delivery, the means of delivery and the timescales for key developments and initiatives. • Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery, such as evidence that the plans and programmes of other bodies have been taken into account (e.g. water resources management plans and marine plans). • Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each Local Plan showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure. • Section in the Local Plan that shows the linkages between the objectives and the corresponding policies, and consistency between policies (such as through a matrix). 	<p>Section 5 of the Local Plan sets out how the plan will be delivered and monitored.</p> <p>The plan and the policies within it have been informed through discussions with and representations from the council's duty to co-operate partners and other statutory consultees.</p> <p>The vision and strategic objectives for the borough are set out within section 2. Section 3 clearly sets out how the policies within the plan help to deliver the vision and objectives.</p> <p>For each policy, links are included to other relevant policies and guidance (e.g. supplementary planning documents) which help show more direct inter-relationships across the plan.</p>

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Soundness test and key requirements	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
<p><i>Infrastructure delivery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the infrastructure implications of the policies clearly been identified? • Are the delivery mechanisms and timescales for implementation of the policies clearly identified? • Is it clear who is going to deliver the required infrastructure and does the timing of the provision complement the timescale of the policies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A section or sections of the Local Plan where infrastructure needs are identified and the proposed solutions put forward. • A schedule setting out responsibilities for delivery, mechanisms and timescales, and related to a community infrastructure levy schedule where appropriate. • Confirmation from infrastructure providers that they support the solutions proposed and the identified means and timescales for their delivery, or a plan for resolving issues. • Demonstrable plan-wide viability, particularly in relation to the delivery of affordable housing and the role of a community infrastructure levy schedule. 	<p>Section 5 (chapter 4) sets out a framework for infrastructure planning and the mechanisms for delivery. The Local Plan also sits alongside an Infrastructure Delivery Plan and a Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document. The latter provides guidance on the community infrastructure levy and section 106 agreements.</p> <p>The Infrastructure Delivery Plan includes details of Infrastructure projects across a range of Local topic areas which will assist delivery of the plan. The schedule includes details of the delivery lead and how the project is expected to be funded.</p>
<p><i>Co-ordinated planning</i></p> <p>Does the Local Plan reflect the concept of spatial planning? Does it go beyond traditional land use planning by bringing together and integrating policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes from a variety of agencies / organisations that influence the nature of places and how they function?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the Local Plan that reflect the plans or strategies of the local authority and other bodies • Policies which seek to pull together different policy objectives • Expressions of support/representations from bodies responsible for other strategies affecting the area 	<p>The Local Plan pulls together the objectives of a wide range of strategies and programmes covering a broad mix of topics (for example the Green Grid Strategy, Water Space Study and Open Space Strategy) into a cohesive policy framework across various spatial scales, from the international and national down to London-wide and local level.</p> <p>Expressions of support and representations from bodies responsible for other strategies across the area (such as Port of London Authority) have been received and taken into account in the preparation of the plan.</p>
<p><i>Flexibility</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Local Plan flexible enough to respond to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the Local Plan setting out the assumptions of the plan and identifying the circumstances when policies might need to be reviewed. 	<p>The plan is considered to be flexible enough to respond to unexpected changes in circumstances. The council considers that the plan is written in</p>

London Borough of Tower Hamlets Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist (February 2018)

Soundness test and key requirements	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
<p>a variety of, or unexpected changes in, circumstances?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Local Plan include the remedial actions that will be taken if the policies need adjustment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections of the annual monitoring report and sustainability appraisal report describing how the council will monitor: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the effectiveness of policies and what evidence is being collected to undertake this changes affecting the baseline information and any information on trends on which the Local Plan is based Risk analysis of the strategy and policies to demonstrate robustness and how the plan could cope with changing circumstances Sections within the Local Plan dealing with possible change areas and how they would be dealt with, including mechanisms for the rate of development to be increased or slowed and how that would impact on other aspects of the strategy and on infrastructure provision Sections of the Local Plan identifying the key indicators of success of the strategy, and the remedial actions which will be taken if adjustment is required. 	<p>such a way that it can be interpreted flexibly, if necessary. Section 5 sets out a monitoring framework to assess the effectiveness of the plan's policies, and provides examples of potential triggers that may necessitate a full or partial review of the plan.</p>
<p><i>Co-operation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the duty to co-operate has been undertaken appropriately for the plan being examined? Is it clear who is intended to implement each part of the Local Plan? Where the actions required are outside the direct control of the LPA, is there evidence that there is the necessary commitment from the relevant organisation to the implementation of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A succinct duty to co-operate statement which flows from the strategic issues that have been addressed jointly. A 'tick box' approach or a collection of correspondence is not sufficient, and it needs to be shown (where appropriate) if joint plan-making arrangements have been considered, what decisions were reached and why. The duty to co-operate statement could highlight: the sharing of ideas, evidence and pooling of resources; the practical policy outcomes of co-operation; how decisions were reached and why; and evidence of 	<p>The council has worked closely with neighbouring boroughs and the GLA to meet its duty to co-operate obligations. Details of engagement with neighbouring authorities, the GLA and other partners have been recorded and details are set out in the duty to cooperate statement.</p>

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Soundness test and key requirements	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
policies?	having effectively co-operated to plan for issues which need other organisations to deliver on, common objectives for elements of strategy and policy; a memorandum of understanding; aligned or joint core strategies and liaison with other consultees as appropriate.	
<p><i>Monitoring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the Local Plan contain targets, and milestones which relate to the delivery of the policies, (including housing trajectories where the Local Plan contains housing allocations)? • Is it clear how targets are to be measured (by when, how and by whom) and are these linked to the production of the annual monitoring report? • Is it clear how the significant effects identified in the sustainability appraisal report will be taken forward in the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the plan, through the annual monitoring report? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the Local Plan setting out indicators, targets and milestones • Sections of the current annual monitoring report which report on indicators, targets, milestones and trajectories • Reference to any other reports or technical documents which contain information on the delivery of policies • Sections of the current annual monitoring report and the sustainability appraisal report setting out the framework for monitoring, including monitoring the effects of the DPD against the sustainability appraisal 	Section 5 of the plan outlines how the council intends to use a series of indicators to regularly assess the effectiveness of the plan's policies. Monitoring will also provide a key role in ensuring the plan remains flexible and to highlight where amendment might be required. Annual monitoring reports are published on the council's website.
<p><i>Consistent with national policy: the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the framework.</i></p> <p>The Local Plan should not contradict or ignore national policy. Where there is a departure, there must be clear and convincing reasoning to justify the approach taken.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the Local Plan contain any policies or proposals which are not consistent with national policy and, if so, is there local justification? • Does the Local Plan contain policies that do not add anything to existing national guidance? If so, why have these been included? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections of the Local Plan which explain where and how national policy has been elaborated upon and the reasons. • Studies forming evidence for the Local Plan or, where appropriate, other information which provides the rationale for departing from national policy. • Evidence provided from the sustainability appraisal 	The council considers that the Local Plan's policies are consistent with national and London Plan policies.

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Soundness test and key requirements	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
	<p>(including reference to the sustainability report) and/or from the results of community involvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where appropriate, evidence of consistency with national marine policy as articulated in the UK Marine Policy Statement • Reports or copies of correspondence as to how representations have been considered and dealt with. 	

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Planning policy for traveller sites

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

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

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

Government's aims in respect of traveller sites are:

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

In addition local planning authorities should:

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

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Policy expectations	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
<p>Policy A: Using evidence to plan positively and manage development (paragraph 6)</p> <p>NB this checklist has not been updated following the publication of 'Planning policy for travellers sites' (DCLG, 2015). It has been completed as fully as possible given that the new Local Plan and the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment were written using the new guidance.</p>		
<p>Early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and effective engagement undertaken, including discussing travellers' accommodation needs with travellers themselves, their representative bodies and local support groups. 	<p>Early and effective engagement undertaken with local gypsies and travellers and Members of the Showmen's Guild and the London Gypsy Traveller Unit. This is evidenced in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2016).</p>
<p>Co-operate with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups, other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of a clear understanding of the needs of the traveller community over the lifespan of your development plan. • Collaborative working with neighbouring local planning authorities. • A robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of your local plan and make planning decisions. 	<p>This is evidenced in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2016).</p>
<p>Policy B: Planning for traveller sites (paragraphs 7-11)</p>		
<p>Set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople which address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in your area, working collaboratively with neighbouring LPAs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification, and annual update, of a supply of specific, deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years worth of sites against locally set target. Identification of a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth for years 6-10, and, where possible, for years 11-15. 	<p>This is evidenced in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2016).</p>

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Policy expectations	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
<p>Set criteria to guide land supply allocations where there is identified need.</p> <p>Ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assessment of the need for traveller sites, and where an unmet need has been demonstrated a supply of specific, deliverable sites been identified. Policy which takes into account criteria a-h of para 11 	
Policy C: Sites in rural areas and the countryside (paragraph 12)		
<p>When assessing the suitability of sites in rural or semi-rural settings LPAs should ensure that the scale of such sites do not dominate the nearest settled community.</p>		Not applicable
Policy D: Rural exception sites (paragraph 13)		
<p>If there is a lack of affordable land to meet local traveller needs, LPAs in rural areas, where viable and practical, should consider allocating and releasing sites solely for affordable travellers' sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a rural exception site policy is used, and if so clarity that such sites shall be used for affordable traveller sites in perpetuity. 	Not applicable
Policy E: Traveller sites in Green Belt (paragraphs 14-15)		
<p>Traveller sites (both permanent and temporary) in the Green Belt are inappropriate development.</p> <p>Exceptional limited alteration to the defined Green Belt boundary (which might be to accommodate a site inset within the Green</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Belt boundary revisions made in response to a specific identified need for a traveller site, undertaken through the plan making process. 	Not applicable

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Policy expectations	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
Belt) to meet a specific, identified need for a traveller site ... should be done only through the plan-making process.		
Policy F: Mixed planning use traveller sites (paragraphs 16-18)		
Local planning authorities should consider, wherever possible, including traveller sites suitable for mixed residential and business uses, having regard to the safety and amenity of the occupants and neighbouring residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the need for sites for mixed residential and business use (having regard to safety and amenity of the occupants and neighbouring residents), or separate sites in close proximity to one another. • N.B. Mixed use should not be permitted on rural exception sites 	Not applicable, as evidenced in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2016).
Policy G: Major development projects (paragraph 19)		
Local planning authorities should work with the planning applicant and the affected traveller community to identify a site or sites suitable for relocation of the community if a major development proposal requires the permanent or temporary relocation of a traveller site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a major development proposal requires the permanent or temporary relocation of a traveller site, the identification of a site or sites suitable for re-location of the community. 	The re-location of the borough's gypsy and traveller site (Old Willow Close) has already been undertaken due to the land requirements for Crossrail (Elizabeth line) works. Policy S.H1 safeguards further land which may become available following completion of the works for further pitches.

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Integration of marine and terrestrial planning

As the UK marine area and marine plan area boundaries extend up to the level of mean high water spring tides while terrestrial planning boundaries generally extend to mean low water spring tides (including estuaries), the marine plan area will physically overlap with that of some terrestrial plan. Local authorities with any tidal frontage, even if far inland and not conventionally regarded as coastal, must therefore take full account of the Marine Management Organisation, the Marine Planning Statement and marine plans under section 58 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act and the duty to co-operate in Section 110 of the Localism Act 2011. A full list of the local planning authorities whose areas overlap with the UK marine area appears in appendix 1.

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

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

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

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

The UK government's vision for the marine environment, as articulated in the Marine Planning Statement, is:

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‘clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas’.

In the absence of a marine plan prepared by the Marine Management Organisation and adopted by the Secretary of State, the Marine Planning Statement is the relevant marine policy document. Where a marine plan has been adopted both the Marine Planning Statement and the marine plan are relevant marine policy documents for the marine plan area.

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

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

In addition, the Marine Planning Statement seeks integration of marine planning and the terrestrial planning system through:

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

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

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

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

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Policy expectations	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
Key requirements under the duty to co-operate		
Consistency between marine and terrestrial policy documents and guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of consistency of aim between relevant local plan policies and marine policy documents (i.e. the MPS and any relevant adopted marine plans) • Proof of collaborative working with the MMO and that the MPS has been taken into account. 	<p>Policy S.OWS2 supports the aims of the South-East Marine Plan. We recognise the borough falls within the remit of that plan. Until the Marine Plan is adopted any activities within the rivers Thames and Lea should have regard to the Marine Policies Statement.</p> <p>The council has included detailed boundaries of the Marine Plan for the South East inshore area (within the borough) within the Policies Map.</p>
Liaison between respective authorities responsible for terrestrial and marine planning, including in plan development, implementation and review stages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and effective policy development engagement undertaken, including discussions with the MMO • Evidence of iteration of policies and plans as a result of engagement with the MMO • Evidence of engagement with the MMO in relation to monitoring, implementation and throughout the policy cycle • Support of integrated coastal management (ICM) in coastal areas in line with the requirements of the MPS 	<p>The council has been closely working with the MMO as part of our duty to cooperate, as set out within the duty to cooperate statement. This has included meetings and review of draft policies.</p>

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Policy expectations	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
Sharing the evidence base and data where relevant and appropriate so as to achieve consistency in the data used in plan making and decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence that the LPA has shared or provided relevant data to the MMO that can help inform marine plans or MPS review Demonstration that local plan policy has been underpinned by data provided by the MMO or the MPS Explicit cross-referencing in local plan to MPS, the MMO, their roles, and relevant marine plans 	<p>The council has utilised a variety of information provided by the MMO (for example, GIS layers for the Marine Plan for the South East Policy Area were incorporated within Policies Map).</p> <p>References have been included within the plan linking to the MPS and the emerging Marine Plan for the South East.</p>
Marine Policy Statement- Chapter 2: General principles for decision-making³		
Sections 2.1 -2.2: The UK vision for the marine environment		
<p>The UK vision for the marine environment ('clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas')</p> <p>Achieving the vision through marine planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference in DPD where appropriate to UK vision for the marine environment Contribution to the vision through local plan policies and supporting text 	Not applicable
Section 2.4: Considering benefits and adverse effects in marine planning		
Consider benefits and adverse effects of plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of benefits and adverse effects of policy on the 	The Plan has been subjected to

³ As the Marine Policy Statement was not targeted specifically at terrestrial planning authorities, some of its sections are, in practice, relevant to marine planning authorities only and/or there is already a comprehensive policy framework governing terrestrial development (e.g. energy infrastructure), Where this is considered to be the case, i.e. where it is considered likely that a terrestrial planning DPD would be found sound without referencing that section, the section in question has been omitted from this checklist.

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Policy expectations	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
policies	marine area as appropriate within the DPD's sustainability appraisal	a full sustainability appraisal.
Section 2.5: Economic, social and environmental considerations		
Contribute to the objectives of relevant EU Directives (Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Water Framework Directive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to relevant EU Directives in DPD and sustainability appraisal • Consideration of contribution of DPD policies to the objectives of relevant EU Directives 	The Plan references the Water Framework Directive and supports its objectives and principles.
Marine Policy Statement- Chapter 3: Policy objectives for key activities		
3.1 Marine protected areas		
<p>Incorporate identified areas and features of importance for nature conservation</p> <p>Activities or developments that may result in adverse impacts on biodiversity should be designed or located to avoid such impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of relevant areas and features of importance for nature conservation within relevant marine plan area(s) • Consideration of impacts of policy and/or terrestrial development on those areas and features of importance • Measures to mitigate, monitor and manage negative impacts on those areas and features of importance 	Not applicable.
3.4 Ports and shipping		
<p>Take into account and seek to minimise any negative impacts on shipping activity, freedom of navigation and navigational safety</p> <p>Protect the efficiency and resilience of continuing port operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that policy with potential impact on ports and shipping minimises negative impacts on sector • Where relevant, evidence that economic, employment and transport policies are protective of ports and shipping sector 	The Local Plan seeks to restrict activities that would impact on navigation, and encourages water-borne freight activity.

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Policy expectations	Possible evidence	Evidence provided
3.8 Fisheries		
Consider potential economic, social and environmental impacts of other developments on fishing activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where relevant, evidence that other policies minimise negative impacts on fishing activity and/or aquaculture 	Not applicable
3.9 Aquaculture		
Consider the benefits of encouraging the development of efficient, competitive and sustainable aquaculture industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where relevant, evidence that the benefits of aquaculture industry development have been considered 	Not applicable
3.10 Surface water management and waste water treatment and disposal		
Maximise opportunities for co-existence of waste water infrastructure with other activities in the marine environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference to and consideration of the co-existence of waste water infrastructure with other marine activities, including the potential for waste water infrastructure to mitigate marine impacts through design or location 	The council's evidence has found that no additional facilities are required within the borough for waste water because they are managed at specialist facilities outside the borough.
3.11 Tourism and recreation		
Consider the potential for tourism and recreation in the marine environment and the benefits this will bring to the economy and local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where relevant, reference to marine tourism and recreation Evidence that the potential for marine tourism and recreation has been recognised in plan-making 	The Local Plan supports the use of the borough's rivers and waterspaces for tourism and recreation.

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Appendix 1

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

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

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South Tyneside
Southend-on-Sea
Southwark
Stockton-on-Tees
Stroud
Suffolk Coastal
Sunderland
Swale
Taunton Deane
Teignbridge
Tendring
Test Valley
Thanet
Thurrock
Tonbridge and Malling
Torbay
Torridge
Tower Hamlets
Wandsworth
Warrington
Waveney
Wealden
West Devon
West Dorset
West Lancashire
West Lindsey
West Somerset
Weymouth and Portland
Winchester
Wirral
Worthing
Wyre
York