Core Strategy

Statement of Compliance

Prepared to fulfil the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2008

Regulations 30d and 30e
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Introduction

This Statement of Compliance has been prepared to meet the requirements of regulations 30d and 30e of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2008, and Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning.

The Statement indicates the consultation and community involvement that Castle Point Borough Council has undertaken while preparing the Core Strategy and associated documents. The consultation and community engagement activities that have been undertaken accord with the requirements of Regulations 25, 26 and 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 and the 2008 amendment regulations, and the Boroughs adopted Statement of Community Involvement.

Castle Point Borough Council commenced work on the Core Strategy in early 2006. The expected process of consultations and submission have not been followed as best practice from elsewhere has lead the Council to revise its proposals. As a result, a total of eight public consultations on the Core Strategy have been undertaken. In addition to this, a process of Member Engagement has also been undertaken to ensure that consultation has effectively informed the proposals in the Core Strategy.
Consultation

1. Issues and Options Consultation 15th February to 22nd March 2006 (Regulation 25)

During the period 15th February to 22nd March 2006 the Council published for consultation a document entitled “CORE STRATEGY AND GENERIC DEVELOPMENT CONTROL POLICIES KEY ISSUES AND OPTIONS REPORT”. This document identified key issues to be addressed as part of the Core Strategy, suggested several options around the spatial distribution of development, and identified a list of possible policies to be included in the Core Strategy. The Sustainability Appraisal Scooping Report was published alongside the Core Strategy Issues and Options Report for Consultation also. The consultation was undertaken as follows:

- An advert was placed in the local press to advertise the consultation;
- Known consultees were notified in writing of the consultation (See Appendix 1.1 and Appendix 1.2);
- A presentation was given to members of the Local Strategic Partnership;
- Posters were placed in public buildings, local libraries and local doctors surgeries (Appendix 1.3);
- Copies of the document were made available at local libraries and at the Council Offices; and
- A copy of the document was made available online on the Council’s website.

A total of 113 consultation responses were received as a result of this consultation.

- Ten responses were received from statutory consultees;
- Eight responses were received from non-statutory consultees (organisations);
- Eighty responses were received from residents;
- Six responses were received from local businesses; and
- Nine responses were received from developers/landowners.

These consultation responses were analysed alongside consultation responses received with regard to the Community Strategy, which had been made available for consultation at a similar time. This was reported to the Planning Committee for consideration. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix 1.5. (This report contains a summary of the consultation responses received and indicates how the issues raised were dealt with).

As a result of this consultation, it was possible to identify a preferred spatial strategy, and a framework for policy formulation.
2. Preferred Options Consultation 29th September to 10th November 2006 (Regulation 26)

During the period 29th September to 10th November 2006 the Council published for consultation the “Core Strategy and Generic Development Control Policies Preferred Options Report”. This document identified the preferred spatial strategy for the Borough and set out a suite of policies for delivering the spatial strategy. A Sustainability Appraisal of the Preferred Options was published alongside this document. The consultation was undertaken as follows:

- An advert was placed in the local press to advertise the consultation (See Appendix 2.1);
- Identified consultees were notified in writing of the consultation including previous respondents (See Appendix 2.2 and Appendix 2.3);
- Posters and leaflets were placed in public buildings, local libraries and local doctors surgeries (Appendix 2.4 and Appendix 2.5);
- Copies of the document were made available at local libraries and at the Council Offices; and
- A copy of the document was made available online on the Council’s website.

A total of 173 consultation responses were received as a result of this consultation. Whilst this document was out to consultation, evidence of good and bad practice emerged from the examinations of the Lichfield and Stafford Core Strategies. As a result, the representation made to the Council by the Government Office for the East of England (GO-East) recommended a substantial amount of extra work be carried out before the Council proceeded to submission. A copy of the representation from GO-East is attached as appendix 2.7. The Council therefore decided to return to the Issues and Options stage. The consultation responses received from other consultees were used to inform the preparation of a detailed issues and options report. Appendix 2.8 takes the form of the Revised Core Strategy Issues and Options Technical Report which lists the consultation responses and how the issues raised were addressed against each policy section.
3. Revised Issues and Options Consultation 26th March to 8th May 2007 (Regulation 25)

During the period 26th March to 8th May 2007 the Council published for consultation the “Planning for our Borough’s Future: Castle Point Issues and Options Report Core Strategy 2007 – 2021”. This was supported by a technical report and published alongside the draft Sustainable Community Strategy. This report attempted to address many of the procedural and policy issues identified by GO-East. Key issues and opportunities were identified for the Borough, a spatial vision was proposed, aims were proposed and options were presented under each policy area. The consultation was undertaken as follows:

- An advert was placed in the local press to advertise the consultation and the consultation on the Sustainable Community Strategy (See Appendix 3.1);
- Consultees were notified in writing of the consultation including previous respondents (See Appendix 3.2 and Appendix 3.3);
- Postcards advertising the consultation were distributed at the local Railway Station (see Appendix 3.5);
- Postcards advertising the consultation were placed within all correspondence sent out by the Planning Service during the consultation period;
- Copies of the document were made available at local libraries and at the Council Offices (see Appendix 3.6); and
- A copy of the document was made available online on the Council’s website.

A total of fifty-nine consultation responses were received as a result of this consultation.

- Eight responses were received from Statutory Consultees;
- Five responses were received from non-statutory consultees (organisations);
- Nineteen responses were received from residents;
- One response was received from a business; and
- Twenty-six responses were received from developers/landowners.

The representations made during this consultation are set out in appendix 3.8, along with the Council’s response to each representation.
4. Revised Preferred Options Consultation 13th August to 24th September 2007 (Regulation 26)

During the period 13th August to 24th September 2007 the Council published for consultation the “Core Strategy Preferred Options Report 2007 – 2021”. This was supported by topic papers addressing issues emerging from consultation, and a Sustainability Appraisal. This report set out a refined set of issues, set out as a spatial portrait, a spatial vision, aims and objectives, a more specific draft spatial strategy, and draft core and development control policies. The Consultation was undertaken as follows:

- An advert was placed in the local press to advertise the consultation (See Appendix 4.1);
- Consultees were notified in writing of the consultation including previous respondents (See Appendix 4.2 and Appendix 4.3);
- Postcards advertising the consultation were placed within all correspondence sent out by the Planning Service during the consultation period (Appendix 4.4);
- Copies of the document were made available at local libraries and at the Council Offices; and
- A copy of the document was made available online on the Council’s website.

A total of seventy-four consultees submitted 480 consultation responses. The representations made during this consultation are set out in appendix 4.5, along with the Council’s response to each representation.

Two key issues emerged from this consultation:

1) GO-East were of the view that the Core Strategy was still not specific enough with regard to the distribution of housing growth in the Borough;
2) The Council were concerned that residents had not engaged on the Core Strategy sufficiently.

As a result, the consultation responses were used to inform further development of the Core Strategy rather than enable the Council to move towards submission.
5. Citizens Panel Consultation April 2008 (Regulation 25)

As a result of the concerns that residents had not been effectively engaged on the Core Strategy, a survey of the Citizens Panel (a demographically representative sample of the Borough’s population) was undertaken to gain a perspective on residents’ views with regard to future growth and development.

The survey was sent to 678 local residents in April 2008. Consultees were given four weeks to respond. 265 responses were received. The results of this consultation are attached as Appendix 5.1. These results were used to inform the spatial distribution issues considered in the Further Preferred Options Report.

The results were later used in 2009 to inform the weighting given to different sustainability criteria as part of the Revised Assessment of the Sustainability of Sites on the Urban Periphery.

6. Developer Meetings Spring 2008 (Regulation 25)

As a result of the Government Office seeking greater clarity regarding the distribution of housing growth in the Borough, it was necessary to engage with developers in order to identify the most sustainable sites on the urban periphery to accommodate growth that cannot be met in the urban area. The landowners/developers of sites identified to the Council through either the Call for Sites undertaken in 2007, or through consultation on the Core Strategy were contacted and invited to meet with officers of the Council to explain their site proposals. A schedule of the meetings undertaken is attached as Appendix 6.1.

The outcomes of these meetings fed into the Assessment of the Sustainability of Sites on the Urban Periphery. This assessment was used to inform the distribution of housing development identified in the Further Preferred Options Report.
7. Further Preferred Options Consultation 4th July to 15th August 2008 (Regulation 26)

During the period 4th July to 15th August 2008 the Council published for consultation the “Core Strategy Further Preferred Options Report”. The consultation was focused around key issues emerging from the Preferred Options Consultation. Consultation did not therefore cover all parts of the Core Strategy but instead focused solely on the spatial strategy and the development control policies associated with energy efficiency, sustainability and environmental amenity. Preferred options and alternatives were presented for each policy. A Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment were prepared to support this consultation. The Consultation was undertaken as follows:

- An advert was placed in the local press to advertise the consultation (See Appendix 7.1);
- Consultees were notified in writing of the consultation including previous respondents (See Appendix 7.2 and Appendix 7.3);
- A sample of residents were identified from the electoral register and written to directly notifying them of the consultation (See Appendix 7.4);
- Posters and leaflets were placed in public buildings and local libraries (See Appendix 7.5 and Appendix 7.8);
- Postcards advertising the consultation were placed within all correspondence sent out by the Planning Service during the consultation period (See Appendix 7.8);
- Copies of the document were made available at local libraries and at the Council Offices;
- A copy of the document was made available online on the Council’s website (See Appendix 7.7); and
- Three exhibitions were held at different locations throughout the Borough. Large banners were used to advertise these at key transport junctions (See Appendix 7.6).

A total of 261 consultees submitted 612 consultation responses. A report outlining each representation, and the Council’s response to the issues raised in that representation is set out as appendix 7.10.

This consultation had the effect of raising public awareness of the Core Strategy and stimulating a response from residents who had previously not been engaged in the Core Strategy. Concerns were identified with regard to the distribution of development identified in the spatial strategy. It was the view of the Council that further consultation with all residents of the Borough was required before the Core Strategy was submitted. The Full Council decided to undertake a further round of consultation at its meeting of the 8th December 2008.
8. Proposed Publication Document Consultation 9th January to 20th March 2009 (Regulation 25)

As a result of the changes made to the regulations in 2008, the Proposed Publication Document Consultation was undertaken under regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England)Regulations from 9th January to 20th March 2009. Initially the document was written for Regulation 27 consultation, however concerns remained that consultation with residents had not reached all sections of the community. It was therefore decided to consultation on the document under regulation 25 instead. The document was therefore a draft of the Publication Version. The document was supported by a Sustainability Appraisal. Two approaches to the consultation were undertaken:

1) Resident and Business Consultation
   • A summary booklet and questionnaire was sent to all households and businesses in Castle Point (See Appendix 8.5 and Appendix 8.8);
   • Ten exhibitions were held throughout the Borough for residents and businesses to attend (See Appendix 8.6 and Appendix 8.7); and
   • After the initial consultation closed, further consultation was undertaken with young people to improve the representativeness of the consultation responses.

2) Consultation on the Document
   • An advert was placed in the local press to advertise the consultation (See Appendix 8.1);
   • Consultees were notified in writing of the consultation including previous respondents (See Appendix 8.2, Appendix 8.3 and Appendix 8.4);
   • Copies of the document were made available at local libraries and at the Council Offices; and
   • A copy of the document was made available online on the Council’s website.

With regard to the resident and business consultation, a total of 2,472 consultation responses were received. A copy of the report is included as appendix 8.10. A further report on the outcomes of consultation with young people is also available (see appendix 8.11).

A total of sixty-nine consultees submitted 457 consultation responses on the consultation document itself. Consultation responses were submitted by the following groups of consultees:

- Thirteen responses were received from Statutory Consultees;
- Nine responses were received from non-statutory consultees (organisations);
- Sixteen responses were received from residents;
- Thirteen responses were received from businesses;
- Sixteen responses were received from developers/landowners.

A schedule of these responses is included as appendix 8.12. The consultation responses were analysed on a policy by policy bases. The main issue emerging from this consultation was the distribution of development, particularly in the Green Belt, and the impact of this development on infrastructure. Concerns were also expressed about the potential loss of countryside and the
effects on nature conservation that Greenfield development would have. It was recognised that there was strong objection towards development in the Green Belt from residents living in all areas of the Borough.

The Environment Agency meanwhile sought for further work to be undertaken on the distribution of development in terms of flood risk, in accordance with the requirements of PPS25.

Developers continued to promote their respective sites, supporting and objecting to developments in the Core Strategy according to the level of support it offered their proposals. The owners and occupiers of the Hazardous Installations at South Canvey objected to the proposals by the Council to seek the removal of these installations as a long-term objective.

Some consultees sought for the strengthening of policies regarding infrastructure provision and the delivery of sustainable development.

The outcomes of this consultation were reported to the LDF Special Policy Development Group, appointed by the Cabinet to ensure that the consultation had been adequately undertaken. Following the additional work with young people the group were satisfied with the consultation.

As a result of the consultation responses, and following engagement with the LDF Special Policy Development Group, a report discussing all of the issues raised and the impact of these issues on the final Core Strategy was prepared. This is included as appendix 8.13.
9. LDF Special Policy Development Group May to September 2009

As set out above the LDF Special Policy Development Group were appointed by the Cabinet to ensure that the consultation on the Core Strategy Proposed Publication Document was adequately undertaken. This remit was then expanded to consider whether the Core Strategy effectively addressed the key issues emerging from the consultation.

Task and Finishing Groups comprising two or three members supported by an officer were formed to consider how the Core Strategy dealt with the following issues:

- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Green Belt
- Leisure Facilities
- Youth Facilities
- Risks

The terms of reference of the Task and Finishing Groups is set out in appendix 9.1. The reports of the task and finishing groups are attached at appendix 9.2.

As a result of the work by the LDF Special Policy Development Group, the Core Strategy was amended to address the issues raised by the task and finishing groups in their reports. The Final Publication Core Strategy was then reported to Full Council in September 2009 for a decision on whether it should be published and submitted.
10. Core Strategy Final Publication Document Regulation 27 Consultation 13th November 2009 to 11th January 2010

At the Full Council on the 29th September 2009 the Council decided to publish the Core Strategy Final Publication Document for Regulation 27 Consultation and then submit the document to the Secretary of State for examination.

The consultation period for the Regulation 27 Consultation ran from 9am on Friday 13th November 2009 until 5pm on Monday 11th January 2010. The period was extended beyond the required six weeks to account for Christmas and New Year festivities. The Consultation was undertaken as follows:

- An advert was placed in the local press to advertise the consultation (See Appendix 10.1);
- A press release was issues and an article was placed in View Point, the Council’s Quarterly Newspaper;
- Consultees were notified in writing of the consultation including previous respondents (See Appendix 10.2 and Appendix 10.3);
- Posters were placed in public buildings and local libraries (See Appendix 10.5);
- Copies of the document were made available at local libraries and at the Council Offices; and
- A copy of the document was made available online on the Council’s website.

Alongside the Core Strategy Final Publication Document, a number of key documents were made available:

- Sustainability Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Habitat Regulations Assessment
- Sequential and Exception Test prepared in accordance with PPS25
- Revised Assessment of the Sustainability of Sites on the Urban Periphery
- List of Local Plan Policies to be Superseded
- Suite of Evidence Base Documents – listed as appendix D in the Core Strategy with additional links provided during the consultation period as electronic documents were made available.

A total of 77 consultees submitted 396 consultation responses with regard to the Final Publication Document. The consultation responses were received from the following groups:

- 15 responses were received from Statutory Consultees;
- 5 responses were received from non-statutory consultees (organisations);
- 23 responses were received from residents;
- 6 responses were received from businesses; and
- 28 responses were received from developers/landowners.
Issues emerging from Consultation

The key issues emerging from Regulation 27 Consultation are as follows:

1) The distribution of housing, with particular regard to:
   a) Flood Risk;
   b) Green Belt;
   c) Infrastructure.

Council’s Response: The Core Strategy is supported by a robust evidence base, which demonstrates that the Core Strategy is robust with regard to the distribution of housing. Sustainable development locations have been identified through robust testing of available development sites to ensure that the proposed housing growth locations contribute towards the creation of sustainable and successful communities in the future.

With regard to flood risk the distribution of housing is supported by a Sequential Test prepared in accordance with PPS25, and in consultation with the Environment Agency. This demonstrates that the distribution in the Core Strategy is sequentially appropriate. The findings of the Sequential Test are generally supported by the Environment Agency.

The Core Strategy is also consistent with national policy with regard to PPG2. The SHLAA demonstrates that there is insufficient capacity within the urban area to accommodate the housing requirement. The Green Belt is tightly drawn around the urban area, and therefore there is an exceptional need to accommodate a limited amount of housing growth in the Green Belt to meet housing needs. It is considered that the Green Belt locations identified in the Core Strategy for housing growth would not contribute towards a strategic Green Belt function in the longer term, as identified in PPG2, and that the Core Strategy is therefore sound. Alternative Green Belt locations promoted to the Council by developers were rejected by the Council either due to the strategic role they played in the Green Belt, or because the location was not considered to be sufficiently sustainable or deliverable.

With regard to infrastructure, policies CP1 to CP4 identify where infrastructure is needed, and how it will be delivered. These proposals are based on the strategies and plans of other organisations such as the County Highways Authority, the County Schools Authority and the South Essex Primary Care Trust. The Council is confident that the infrastructure proposals underpinning the Core Strategy are deliverable, and will support the distribution of growth proposed, particularly as growth has been aligned to infrastructure provision. The phasing of some transport proposals such as SERT and the Third Road to Canvey Island have been identified as barriers to the delivery of housing development, particularly on Canvey Island, however the County Highways Authority have advised that there is sufficient capacity in the Highway Network to deliver growth proposed during the plan period, in the locations identified without these projects coming forward earlier. The phasing of housing growth and infrastructure provision is therefore considered to be sound.
2) The way in which the Core Strategy deals with Flood Risk, particularly with regard to Canvey Island.

**Council’s Response:** The Council has regularly engaged with the Environment Agency throughout the development of the Core Strategy in order to identify an approach to dealing with flood risk on Canvey Island, which is in Flood Risk Zone 3. The Environment Agency acknowledge in their consultation response to the Council that they are generally supportive of the findings of the sequential test that supports the Core Strategy, but continue to have concerns about the potential to achieve safe access and egress from development.

Canvey Island is substantially defended from the risk of flooding by sea defences that offer a 1 in 1000 year level of protection. These defences are in a good state of repair and the Thames Estuary 2100 Plan seeks for their ongoing maintenance and improvement up to 2100 and beyond. This is in recognition of the potential for Canvey Island to be a sustainable community for many years to come. The proposals set out in the Core Strategy seek to secure sustainable regeneration and growth that will ensure this recognition is retained into the future.

If Canvey Island were to flood, it is recognised that there would be implications for all residents. Emergency procedures are in place to manage such a situation; however these are currently not articulated to residents in a clear plan. The need for an emergency plan is set out in Policy CP5. This will need to build on the opportunities for precautionary evacuation based on weather warnings, and the use of community refuges currently being developed. It is considered that the remaining concerns of the Environment Agency with regard to safe access and egress can be addressed and the proposed distribution of development and the policies set out in the Core Strategy to deal with flood risk are appropriate and sound.

Concerns have also been raised with regard to surface water flooding. Localised surface water flooding occurs during heavy and/or prolonged rainfall events in several areas of the Borough. This is the result of previous development patterns that have overloaded local drainage systems, or use unadopted drainage systems. Policy CP5 seeks for new development to prevent the ongoing occurrence of this issue by providing on site surface water management, whilst policy CP4 expects drainage systems to be of an adoptable standard. With regard to existing surface water flooding issues, policy CP5 sets out proposals to prepare a surface water management plan for the Borough to tackle these issues. The Core Strategy therefore establishes a framework for managing surface water flooding in the future in both new and existing development areas, and is therefore considered to be effective in tackling local flood risk issues.
3) **The way in which the Core Strategy deals with the Hazardous Installations at South Canvey, and the risk that they pose to existing and future residents.**

*Council’s Response:* The Council has a long-term ambition to see operations at the Hazardous Installations at South Canvey cease, improving the safety of existing and future residents living on Canvey Island. Several consultees have indicated that no development should be permitted on Canvey Island until such time as this has been achieved. However, the Health and Safety Executive have not raised an objection to the distribution of development identified in the Core Strategy, because all proposed development locations are beyond the consultation zones (PADHI Methodology) surrounding these installations. The landowners of Thorney Bay Caravan Site have sought for their land to be redeveloped as a housing location. The Council is not unsympathetic to this idea; however a significant proportion of the site is located within the consultation zone surrounding the Calor Gas Installation and cannot therefore be identified as a housing location.

The matter of societal risk was raised by members of the Canvey Green Belt Campaign. Societal Risk is the risk to society posed by the Hazardous Installations. The Council recognises the issues surrounding Societal Risk and the work currently being undertaken with the Health and Safety Executive on this matter. The Council is however of the view that the distribution of development set out in the Core Strategy is sound with regard to the presence of hazardous installations in Castle Point. Nonetheless, it is recognised that some consultees would like to see the hazardous installations removed as soon as possible, however these installations are currently operational businesses and as such the ambitions of the Council are expressed in the longer-term. This ensures that the Core Strategy is deliverable within its timeframe, and therefore sound.

The owners of the hazardous installations object to the Council’s ambitions to seek the removal of hazardous uses from Canvey Island. It is however recognised that whilst these installations operate within the COMAH regulations, they still pose a hazard to the safety of residents living nearby, and accidents can occur. The Council is therefore of the view that its ambition is justified and the Core Strategy is therefore sound.

With regard to the deliverability of this ambition, the council’s Policy CP9 is a long term policy which looks beyond 2020 to a time when dependence on gas imports and fossil fuels in general is significantly reducing. In such circumstances South Canvey will become a strategic location in the borough for a mix of uses and will assist in making the borough a more sustainable and safer place to live and work. The Council is therefore of the view that the Core Strategy is sound with regard to achieving the removal of these installations in the longer-term.

It should be recognised that this ambition is not necessarily directed at the removal of port activities at South Canvey. The concern is with hazardous uses, and the Council believes that the Core Strategy is therefore consistent with the emerging NPS on Ports, although it would be expected that any such development would be supported by appropriate transport infrastructure consistent with PPG13. The Council is willing to work with the landowners to identify suitable non-hazardous uses for this location.
4) The distribution of jobs with particular regard to:
   a) Green Belt;
   b) Nature Conservation;
   c) Economic Development.

Council’s Response: The Council seeks through the Core Strategy to align employment provision with employment need in order to reduce the need to travel and improve local opportunities. As a result, the Council has identified through the Core Strategy the potential to provide around 18ha of new employment land on Canvey Island. The locations of this employment growth is at West Canvey, where there is previously identified, non-Green Belt land available adjacent to existing employment development. However, there are concerns that the ecological diversity in this location may affect the delivery of this employment development. The Council is confident however that around 18ha of land is deliverable in this location for employment growth. As a result, a successful business case has been developed for the provision of a new road serving the south of the existing employment area and opening up this land for development.

A developer has made strong representations to the Council with regard to relocating employment provision at Manor Trading Estate to the area adjacent to the A130/A127 junctions. This area is plotland, and allocated as Green Belt in the Adopted Local Plan. The developer seeks for approximately 30ha of land to be developed. This is around double the size of Manor Trading Estate. The Council has evidence to indicate that there is strong local objection to the development of Green Belt land, and this proposal makes use of Green Belt land in a strategic Green Belt location to an extent that is far in excess of any other proposal submitted to the Council for consideration.

Furthermore, the Council has strong concerns with regard to the sustainability of the proposal, as it is removed from the resident population of the Borough and not aligned with employment need. Access would be from the A130, potentially increasing the need to use private vehicles and taking access from a strategic route. This has sustained an objection from the County Highway Authority. As a result, this proposal is considered to be inconsistent with national policy and not deliverable. The Council therefore considers that the Core Strategy is sound in not including this proposal.

The Core Strategy seeks to deliver 3ha of employment provision at Rayleigh Road in a Green Belt location. 1.7ha of this land is already developed as a result of a decision made by the Secretary of State. The remaining 1.3ha is not considered to fulfil a strategic Green Belt function due to its location, and is considered would contribute well to employment provision in this location. The Council therefore considers that this proposal is justified, and consistent with national policy.

There are concerns that the distribution of employment growth, as detailed in policy CP6 will not result in the delivery of higher skilled jobs in Castle Point because it relies on developing industrial sectors already present in Castle Point. The policy is however based on the findings of the Employment Strategy (2006) which identified local growth sectors for the Borough and highlighted the need to promote and foster indigenous opportunities for economic growth and development. The sectors identified in policy CP6 are therefore based on clear evidence and justified.

The Council is aware that these sectors have in the past, and continue to offer low skilled employment. It is however recognised through policy CP1 that there are opportunities to
improve skill levels in Castle Point through the development of better quality schools and further education and vocational training provision. In addition to this, the Council is supportive of the provision of start up units for new businesses in policy CP6, and is currently pursuing the development of an enterprise centre for Canvey Island. The Council is therefore confident that these sectors will therefore develop to be able to offer higher skilled jobs in the future. The Core Strategy is therefore considered to be effective in achieving its ambitions in this regard.

The issues set above are considered to be the key issues emerging from the Regulation 27 consultation on the Core Strategy. However, it is recognised that each consultee has their own interests and as a result, the Council has prepared an individual response for each representation. This is set out alongside the representations in appendix 10.6.

Several of the representations received sought minor amendments in order to make the Core Strategy more robust. As a result, a schedule of Minor Amendments to the Core Strategy Submission Document is attached as appendix 10.7, for consideration by the Planning Inspector as part of the examination.
Conclusion

As is clear from this Statement of Compliance, the Castle Point Core Strategy has been the subject of extensive consultation that has attempted to reach out to all stakeholders, including all residents and businesses of the Borough.

The Core Strategy is also supported by a robust evidence base, which has been fully utilised to ensure that the spatial strategy, core policies and development control policies are justified, robust and consistent with national policy.

The Council therefore considers that the Core Strategy is sound, and fit for the purpose of guiding development in Castle Point to 2026 in a way that will create sustainable and successful communities.