

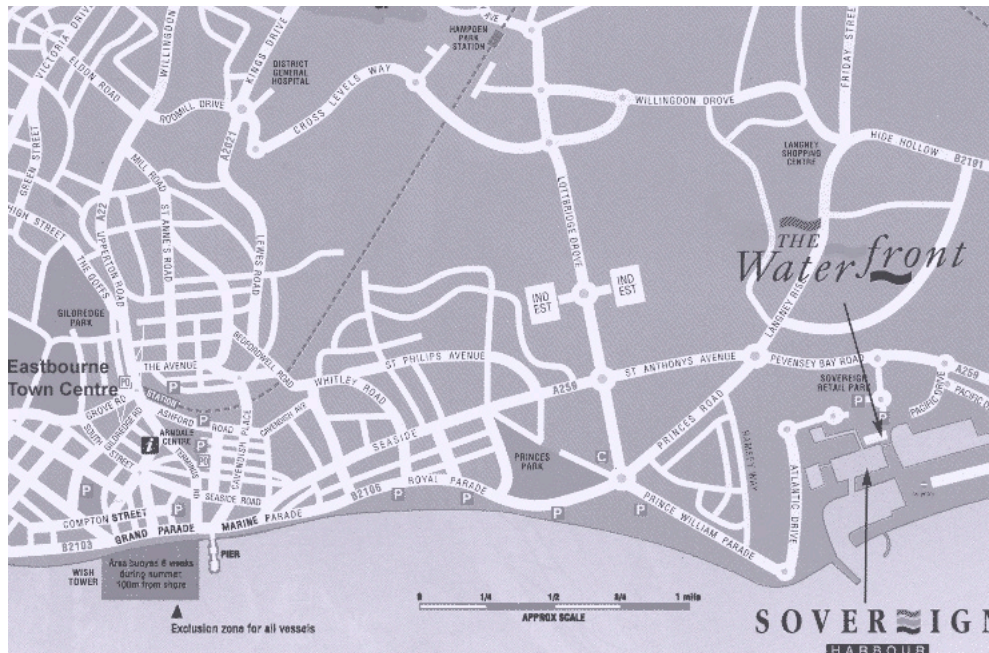
Employment Land Local Plan, Eastbourne

In May 2012, the Eastbourne Core Strategy Local Plan was subject to Public Examination by a Planning Inspector. The Inspector expressed concerns over the evidence that supported **Core Strategy Policy D2: Economy**, particularly relating to the employment land supply.

The Inspector concluded that the evidence lacked clarity and did not demonstrate that Policy D2 was the most appropriate strategy for supporting job growth and economic prosperity in Eastbourne. The Inspector recommended that the Council carry out an assessment of current and future levels of need and demand for employment floorspace to inform the production of an Employment Land Local Plan.

The Council's Core Strategy was adopted in February 2013 under the condition that the Council undertake an early review of the Employment Land in order to enable the Council to have an up to date Plan in place for the remaining policies.

Jam was commissioned by Eastbourne Borough Council in June 2015 to undertake a review of the Sustainability Appraisal process and reports that were prepared by the Council in relation to the Employment Land Local Plan (ELLP) between 2012 and 2015.



Project:
Employment Land Local Plan (ELLP)

Jam:
Sustainability Appraisal Review,
Sustainability Appraisal of ELLP

Client:
Eastbourne Borough Council

Consultants:
Bilfinger GVA

Date Completed:
November 2015

Employment Land Local Plan, Eastbourne

Following the review of the SA and representations, flaws were identified in the approach taken to the ELLP and the SA. There were also concerns in the representations that not all reasonable alternatives had been assessed and that the SA had not selected the most sustainable option for development.

After discussion with the Council it was decided that it was best to undertake a Revised SA in order to ensure that all reasonable alternatives were assessed in a consistent manner.

In particular, the review found the assessment of options should be revisited in respect of the representations received, with specific reference to the quantum and location of office space that should be provided in the Borough.

It was also recognised that the results of the assessment could be strengthened, by providing greater links to the supporting evidence.

The revised SA would also enable greater clarity to be provided on the reasons for the selection and rejection of alternatives.

The review of the options revealed that some of the options could not be considered 'realistic alternatives' as defined by the regulations because they included the development of greenfield land and were contrary to Core Strategy policy regarding the protection of areas of landscape and biodiversity value.

The revised SA looked at 6 revised options for the location and quantum of employment land within the Borough.

Jam prepared a Revised SA and Non-Technical Summary for consultation, which was published in December 2015.

Once adopted, the ELLP will replace Policy D2: Economy from the Core Strategy (Local Plan), adopted February 2013, and will provide the detailed planning guidance for development of employment land for the period up to 2027.