

# Draft Core Strategy

## Sustainability Appraisal Non-Technical Summary



2008



Planning and  
Environment Services

Bromsgrove District Council

[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)

## **1 Non-technical summary**

### **Introduction**

- 1.1 Bromsgrove District Council is working towards producing a Local Development Framework. This framework will contain a range of Local Development Documents setting out the planning policies for the district. This document is the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) within the Bromsgrove Local Development Framework.
- 1.2 One of the aims of the Bromsgrove Local Development Framework is to ensure its contribution to sustainable development. This means balancing social, environmental and economic needs both now and in the future. To ensure that the Core Strategy DPD is sustainable, a process called Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been undertaken. This has incorporated the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the environmental effects of certain plans and policies. This non-technical summary sets out a summary of the findings.

### **Baseline information and issues**

- 1.3 Bromsgrove District Council prepared an SA Scoping Report<sup>1</sup> in July 2005 (updated in 2008) which ensure that the SA covered the key sustainability issues that are relevant to planning in the Bromsgrove district. Relevant plans and programmes were reviewed to develop a wider understanding of the issues and priorities for Bromsgrove district, together with a description of the current and predicted social, environmental and economic characteristics of the area.
- 1.4 Following the reviews and public consultation, the key sustainability issues identified were:
- Rising older population
  - Barriers to housing and services in rural areas
  - Large identified greenfield sites for future development needs
  - Housing to meet local needs
  - Reducing fear of crime
  - Under-provision of affordable housing
  - Implications of redeveloping brownfield sites
  - High car usage and congestion
  - Commuting out of District
  - Local facilities to meet the needs of the population
  - Poorer air quality due to high car usage
  - Changing economy from manufacturing to hi tech industries

---

<sup>1</sup> Bromsgrove DC (2008): *Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping and Baseline Report – Planning in Bromsgrove 2008-2011*, Bromsgrove DC, Bromsgrove

- Degradation of the Environment as a whole

### **Methodology for Appraising Sustainability**

- 1.5 The sustainability objectives are based on the sustainability issues affecting the District, as identified in the baseline study, plans and strategies affecting the LDF and consultation with the public including feedback from the Local Strategic Partnership. They form the SA framework of the Core Strategy DPD and can be seen from para 2.6 to 2.8.

### **Summary of SA Findings**

- 1.6 A number of recommendations for mitigation were made for improving the sustainability of the draft policies in the SA report. Generally the recommendations suggested either re-wording or expanding policies. These changes were then incorporated into the Draft Core Strategy and this version will be subject to public consultation.
- 1.7 The SA findings show that most of the policies contribute positively to the sustainability objectives. The policies that performed strongest were: climate change, high quality design, sustainable transport and sustainable communities. These are some of the key overarching policies that performed strongly against both social and environmental objectives.
- 1.8 The policies that did generally did not perform so well were the housing policies. In particular the policy on Cross Boundary Growth performed poorly against many of the environmental objectives. The emerging RSS identifies that Redditch growth will need to take place in Bromsgrove and/or Stratford District. Catering for Redditch growth would result in over 3000 homes and associated infrastructure being built in the Green Belt. This is likely to have a negative effect on the natural environment by impacting upon the character of the landscape and harming biodiversity.

### **Monitoring**

- 1.9 The purpose of monitoring is to ensure that the delivery of the Core Strategy will meet the sustainability objectives. Monitoring will test the Core Strategy to assess whether the predicted effects are accurate and whether policies implementation is working or in need of modification.
- 1.10 The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for the Local Development Framework will provide a key mechanism to report on the monitoring process and will be carried out annually by Bromsgrove District Council. The Council has proposed a number of indicators and targets in the Draft Core Strategy DPD (Performance Indicators) and also in the SA report (Table 2.14).

### **Next Steps**

- 1.11 The draft Core Strategy DPD and its associated SA will be available for consultation from 31st October 2008 to 16th January 2009. As required by Regulation 25 of the Local Development Regulations, notification letters and emails were sent to the interested individuals and organisations. A public notice will be placed in local newspapers and copies of the documents will be

available for inspection at Bromsgrove District Council, The Council House, libraries and the council website.

- 1.12 The draft Core Strategy DPD and the SA report will be revised to take into account of any significant changes that arise as a result of the consultation. Any significant changes to the draft Core Strategy will be further appraised and a revised SA Report will then be published with the final submission DPD for examination. A Final SA report that records the whole SA process will be published with the adopted Core Strategy DPD.

**How to comment on this SA Report**

- 1.13 If you have any comments on the SA of the Draft Core Strategy DPD please complete the attached response form, as this will enable us to process your comments in the most effective way. We would be grateful for any comments by 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Comments can be sent to the Strategic Planning team by post or email.

Post: Strategic Planning Team  
Bromsgrove District Council  
The Council House  
Burcot Lane  
Bromsgrove  
B60 1AA

Email: [ldf@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@bromsgrove.gov.uk)

**This Document can be provided  
in large print, braille, CD, audio tape and computer disc.**

Need help with English? Ethnic Access Link Tel: 01905 25121  
'Potrzebujesz pomocy z Angielskim - skontaktuj się z Ethnic Access  
Tel: 01905 25121'  
Potrebujete pomôct's angličtinou? Kontaktujte etnickú prístupovú linku  
na telefómom čísle 01905 25121  
„Aveți nevoie de ajutor cu engleza? Contactați Ethnic Access la numărul  
de telefon: 01905 25121.”  
क्या अंग्रेजी में सहायता चाहिए? ऐथनिक ऐक्सेस लिंक [Ethnic Access Link]  
से फोन: 01905 25121 पर संपर्क करें  
[Ethnic Access] آپ انگریزی میں مدد چاہتے ہیں— نسلیاتی رسائی  
01905 25121 سے رابطہ کریں ٹیلیفون:



**Bromsgrove  
District Council**

[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)



**Planning and Environment Services**

Bromsgrove District Council, The Council House, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 1AA.  
Tel: (01527) 881316/881323/881314, Main Switchboard: (01527) 881288, Textphone: (01527) 881291,  
Fax: (01527) 881313, DX: 17279 Bromsgrove, e-mail: [ldf@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@bromsgrove.gov.uk)