Planning and Regeneration
Strategic Planning

Bromsgrove District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030

Proposed Submission Document

Statement of Compliance with Duty to Co-operate

September 2013

Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030

Statement of Compliance with Duty to Co-operate

Introduction

1.1 The Localism Act received Royal Assent on 15 November 2011. It aims to shift power from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils. The Localism Act introduces a 'duty to co-operate'. This Duty requires local authorities to work with neighbouring authorities and other prescribed bodies to maximise the effectiveness of the preparation of their development plan documents and supporting activities so far as it relates to a strategic matter. Section 110 of the Localism Act inserts a new Section 33A into the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

1.2 The impact of the Duty to Co-operate is to introduce a new way of working into local government and its partners. It requires councils and public bodies to engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in relation to planning of sustainable development. It also requires councils to consider whether to enter into agreements on joint approaches or prepare joint local plans (if an LPA). It applies to planning for strategic matters in relation to the preparation of local and Marine Plans, and other activities that prepare the way for these activities.

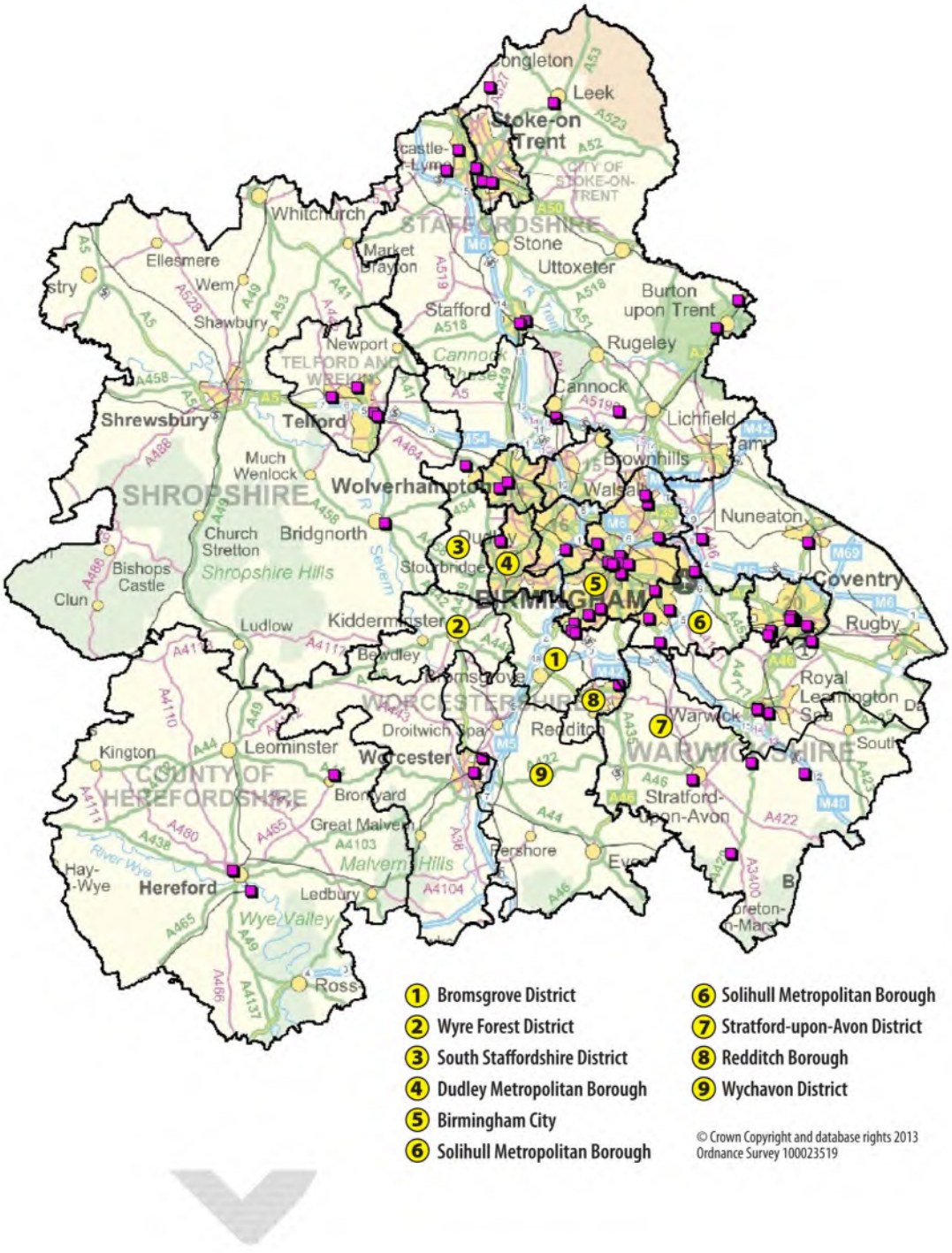
1.3 Local authorities neighbouring Bromsgrove District Council are identified in Map 1 below.

1.4 The prescribed bodies are defined in Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Those relevant to Bromsgrove District are:

- Environment Agency
- English Heritage;
- Natural England;
- Highways Agency;
- Homes and Communities Agency;
- Primary Care Trust;
- Office of Rail Regulation;
- Highway Authority.

1.5 In respect of other bodies Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are not defined by statute and are therefore not covered by the Duty. However, LEPs have been identified in the regulations as bodies that those covered by duty 'should have regard to' when preparing local plans and other related activities. A similar status is also now enjoyed by Local Nature Partnerships and Utility Companies.

Map 1


Leek
Stoke-on Trent
Whitchurch
Ellesmere
Wem
Shawbury
Market Drayton
Stone
Uttoxeter
Burton upon Trent
Stafford
Rugeley
Newport
Cannock
Shrewsbury
Telford
Much Wenlock
Wolverhampton
Walsall
Brownhills
Lichfield
Nuneaton
Church Stretton
Bridgnorth
Dudley
Stourbridge
Bishops Castle
Shropshire Hills
Clun
Coventry
Rugby
Ludlow
Kidderminster
Bewdley
Bromsgrove
Redditch
Warwick
Royal Leamington Spa
Droitwich Spa
Kington
Leominster
Worcester
Stratford-upon-Avon
Bromyard
Great Malvern
Malvern Hills
Tewkesbury
Hay-on-Wye
Hereford
Ledbury
Wye Valley
Ross
1 Bromsgrove District
2 Wyre Forest District
3 South Staffordshire District
4 Dudley Metropolitan Borough
5 Birmingham City
6 Solihull Metropolitan Borough
6 Solihull Metropolitan Borough
7 Stratford-upon-Avon District
8 Redditch Borough
9 Wychavon District
© Crown Copyright and database rights 2013
Ordnance Survey 100023519

1.6 Relevant planning policy issues to be considered under the Duty to Co-operate are also explained in National Planning Policy Framework (paragraphs 178 -181 and 156). Specifically it states "… the Government expects joint working on areas of common interest to be diligently undertaken for the mutual benefit of neighbouring authorities" (paragraph 178). Co-operation should be a continuous process of engagement from initial thinking through to implementation and should consider cross boundary issues such as:

- homes and jobs needed in a geographical area;
- infrastructure projects;
- retail, leisure and other commercial developments;
- social infrastructure;
- climate change mitigation and adaptation (e.g. flood risk);
- landscape and the natural and historic environment.
-

1.7 The outcome of the Duty to Co-operate is intended to enable the promotion of culture change and enhance the spirit of partnership working on strategic cross-boundary issues so that development requirements are more likely to be met. Significant potential benefits of Duty to Co-operate that might accrue include:

- it should act as a strong driver to change the behaviour of local authorities so that strategic leadership is strengthened;
- through the spirit of co-operation, greater potential access to the resources of other stakeholders can be achieved and by working alongside incentives (e.g. New Homes Bonus), the Duty is intended to increase the effectiveness of plans thereby giving confidence to funders and investors;
- through greater co-operation, help to reduce the costs of plan preparation through the sharing of the preparation of evidence and staff time and expertise. Further information on the duty to co-operate is outlined in a note published by the Planning Advisory Service available on its website.

2. Co-operation in the preparation of the Bromsgrove District Plan

2.1 Bromsgrove District Council has been working with neighbouring authorities to determine the key cross boundary issues that need to be addressed by the emerging local plan and to ensure that a coherent approach is prepared. The Inspector who will examine the local plan will check whether it has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Co-operate, which is a legal requirement. To do this the Inspector will check the policies in the Plan against various tests set out in paragraphs 178-181 of the (NPPF)

2.2 This Statement has been prepared to outline the principal activities undertaken by the Bromsgrove District Council in the preparation of the Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030.

2.3 At the point that the Duty to Co-operate was introduced (November 2011) the BDP (formerly known as the Core Strategy) was already at an advanced

stage of preparation having already been subject to six stages of informal consultation to inform the final draft plan.

2.4 Bromsgrove District Council has a long history of joint working and co-operation with its neighbouring authorities and key stakeholders to achieve better spatial planning outcomes. The BDP is no exception. On-going and constructive engagement with neighbouring authorities and relevant organisations has taken place since work on the Core Strategy began in 2004. It has long been recognized that when producing a local plan it is not possible to produce it in isolation as there are a number of cross boundary planning issues that need to be taken into account. Areas that neighbour the District and even those further afield can be affected by the proposals that Bromsgrove District Council plans for the next 15-20 years.

3 How does Bromsgrove interact with the wider area?

3.1 Bromsgrove District is situated in north Worcestershire lying to the south west of the West Midlands conurbation. The District is bounded by Birmingham, Dudley, Solihull, Redditch, Stratford-on-Avon, Wychavon and Wyre Forest. The District covers approximately 21,714 hectares. Although located only 22km (14 miles) from the centre of Birmingham, the District is predominately rural with approximately 90% of the land designated Green Belt. The West Midlands Green Belt extends all the way around the Birmingham and Black Country conurbation as well as around Coventry. It was established through previous development plans and has a range of functions including the control of urban sprawl and the prevention of towns merging into one another.

3.2 The connections of the District with areas beyond its boundary are also evident in the form of significant transport routes that cross the District, with the M5 running north to south and the M42 from east to west. The M5 and M42 connect with the M6 to the north of Birmingham and the M40 to the east. The District also benefits from train and bus connections into Birmingham City Centre and the wider region. Although the District benefits from excellent strategic road connections, it does experience localised environmental problems caused by high traffic volumes. The District has four Air Quality Management Areas and high carbon emissions are predominantly located around the motorways. Furthermore if there is a problem with traffic flows on the motorway(s) in the vicinity of Bromsgrove, traffic tends to divert through Bromsgrove, causing localised congestion and air quality issues at certain times.

3.3 The main centre of population in Bromsgrove District is Bromsgrove Town, with other centres being Wythall, Hagley, Barnt Green, Alvechurch, Rubery and Catshill and a series of smaller rural villages spread throughout the District.

Development pressures are high due in part to the District's proximity to the Birmingham conurbation and the motorway and railway connections. This exerts significant development pressures on the Green Belt.

3.4 In addition, interaction with neighbouring areas comes in other forms such as migration in and out of the District to live, as well as the distribution of raw materials and goods to other parts of the country to support the national and global economy. The District has strong environmental links with different areas, for example through its river valleys and sources of water supply. There are many sub-regional green infrastructure links that pass through the District, which are beneficial not only in terms of supporting biodiversity but also in helping manage the impacts of climate change, and in supporting leisure and recreational uses such as the Monarch's Way footpath and the Sustrans Number 5 National Cycle route.

3.5 Birmingham Plateau and Clent and Lickey Hills are located to the north of the area. The headwaters of 3 main rivers are located within the District including the River Salwarpe, Gallows Brook; and the River Arrow. The District is also traversed by 2 canals, the Birmingham and Worcester canal and the Stratford upon Avon Canal. The District is an area with rich biodiversity, geodiversity and attractive landscape. The District contains 13 Sites of Special Scientific Importance, 81 Special Wildlife Sites and 5 Regionally Important Geological and/or Geomorphological Sites. These sites are varied in their nature ranging from whole valleys and hills to ponds, reservoirs and rock exposures.

3.6 Interaction with adjoining areas can be expressed in a number of ways. In terms of people, interaction is often seen in the form of journeys to workplaces, to places of education, to shops, healthcare and other facilities, and to visit friends and relations. Of these different types of journeys, commuting to and from work and places of education tend to have the greatest routine impact on the transport network.

4 The implications for local planning

4.1 All of this interaction means that development in one area can have a significant impact on adjoining areas, and the larger the development, the greater the potential for wider and stronger effects. Co-operation with Neighbouring planning authorities on strategic matters is particularly important for those relating to sustainable development, strategic infrastructure or use of land that has, or would have, significant impact on at least two planning areas. Where these arise it may be appropriate to formally agree a joint approach to resolving these strategic matters during the preparation of development plan documents to ensure a consistent approach is taken. Co-operation with other bodies is also of importance in many cases, for example, to ensure the effective delivery of infrastructure required by proposed development.

4.2 This Statement identifies activities that have taken place before the Duty was introduced and others that are on-going. It should be emphasised strongly from the outset that BDC's approach is not confined to consultation

just to meet the statutory requirements. Rather, it is one based on building meaningful and productive engagement at the local level and ensuring that strategic solutions are reached at the appropriate scale with appropriate parties wherever these can be of benefit in the delivery of infrastructure and services to the communities. When taken together, these activities help to demonstrate how the duty to co-operate has been fulfilled in preparing the BDP.

Co-operation with prescribed bodies.

4.3 As described at paragraph 1.4 the prescribed bodies are defined in Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 with those appropriate to the Bromsgrove District context being:

- Environment Agency;
- English Heritage;
- Natural England;
- Highways Agency;
- Homes and Communities Agency;
- Primary Care Trust;
- Office of Rail Regulation;
- Highway Authority

4.4 Throughout the preparation of the BDP there has been on-going liaison and co-operation with the nominated statutory bodies with issues being identified initially via formal liaison and the consultation process. The following paragraphs provide evidence of those prescribed bodies that had a direct influence on the plan's development and the outcome of that cooperation.

4.5 On transport matters involving the Highways Agency and Office of Rail Regulation BDC has worked in very close liaison with Worcestershire County Council as the relevant Transport Authority. In this capacity Worcestershire County Council has been the lead authority on these matters on behalf of BDC. This has enabled BDC to ensure that their liaison with these bodies has been meaningful and credible whilst at the same ensuring that all such contacts are relevant to the wider transport strategy context and that the planning proposals coming forward through the BDP demonstrably take account of the strategic infrastructure issues through the utilisation of joint (BDC/ RBC/ WCC/ HA) modelling and evidence gathering and assessment.

4.6 The outcome of this close working has been the production of a number of policies in the BDP that will enable the provision of a comprehensive infrastructure solution, including BDP16 Sustainable Transport policy and RCBD1 together with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Other key outcomes includes the preparation of the Transport Network Analysis and Mitigation Report for Bromsgrove and Redditch in May 2013 which influenced the spatial strategy by:

- Demonstrating the overall impact of the proposed development on the road network

• Providing the basis for transport infrastructure costs and implications for delivery

4.7 Responses to informal and formal consultations led to amendments to strategic policies BDP16 Sustainable Transport policy and RCBD1. Highways officers attended the BDP consultation events, answering technical and transport policy questions raised by the public, resulting in more effective consultation and informed responses. Highways officers have also commented on the proposed housing and employment allocations in terms of their impact regarding highway issues and sustainable transport facilities together with comments on the impact on the network of detailed planning applications and suggested developer contributions.

4.8 Joint discussions have taken place with the Highways Agency to resolve implications of future development on the Strategic Road Network (SRN).This has involved meetings and input into the Highways Agency Route Based Strategies which will inform future HA investment based on future growth.

4.9 Co-operation with the Environment Agency has been extensive and ongoing, particularly in relation to input on Levels 1 and 2 of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessments and the Outline Water Cycle Study. Consequent to these discussions and the updating of the evidence base the joint working contributed directly to a significant strengthening and updating of the relevant policies (policy BDP 23 Water Management.

4.10 At earlier stages of the Plan, they were also involved in the development of Sustainability Appraisal objectives to assess the social, economic and environmental effects of the Plan. Work is ongoing under the Duty to Cooperate with the EA to ensure the implications of development proposals are adequately addressed.

4.11 Representations were also received from English Heritage on the BDP. The original policy has been rewritten to provide a clearer strategic framework for the protection of the historic environment and a focused approach to the management of the historic environment . Less formal engagement has been ongoing regarding a considered future site allocation for cross boundary Redditch growth close to the Hewell Grange Grade II* Registered Park and Garden.

4.12 All of the nominated Prescribed Bodies have been invited by BDP to participate on the various consultation stages on both the District plan and where necessary specifically the Infrastructure deliver plan, and through other less formal avenues.

5 Other Local Authorities

5.1 Birmingham

BDC and BCC have a long history of joint working, the main issues and outcomes are identified below.

Issues

Longbridge - Closure of MG Rover car factory at Longbridge. Implications for economy and opportunity for major mixed use cross boundary redevelopment scheme.

Housing - Unmet housing needs arising from Birmingham and the potential impact on Bromsgrove's Green Belt.

Economy - Impact of proximity of conurbation in terms of out migration and commuting, the economy of Bromsgrove is characterised by strong commuter links with Birmingham.

How dealt with
Longbridge - extensive joint working on the preparation and subsequent adoption of the Longbridge AAP which was formally adopted by both councils in April 2009

Housing and economy - Discussions at high level including Chief Executive, Leaders and senior officers, on the implications of Birmingham's housing need and potential for expansion of the City outside its administrative boundary. Currently work is being commissioned to establish the housing need and potential future impacts on development requirements across the LEP area. BDC and BCC both heavily involved and committed to this study. Similar work to be commissioned on establishing similar information on employment requirements across the LEP area.

Current Outcome
Ongoing commitment to LEP and potential other studies and appropriate policy wording included in the Bromsgrove District Plan 2011 – 2030 proposed submission version to cater for identified future growth needs of the West Midlands conurbation.

5.2 Redditch
The most significant amount of cooperation in the current plan has been with Redditch borough Council.

Predominantly, the issues facing Redditch Borough Council (RBC) and Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) revolve around the limited capacity within Redditch Borough to accommodate growth needs and a previous assumption across the Region that unmet growth needs could best be partly accommodated in Bromsgrove District and partly in Stratford on Avon District.

The regional planning tier raised two key Redditch-related issues, namely the designation of Redditch as a Settlement of Significant Development (SSD) and limited development capacity within Redditch's administrative boundary to meet development needs.

The second of these forms the underpinning issue, which has led to the preferred cross boundary development option in both Redditch and Bromsgrove Development Plans and is explored further in this document.

The first issue relating to SSD status for Redditch has been resolved by virtue of the Government's removal of the regional planning tier. However, it is important to highlight that collaborative working across multiple local authorities was effective long before the introduction of the Localism Act (2011) and the current emphasis on the Duty to Cooperate. At the time (2007/09), the SSD designation for Redditch was an issue on which both LAs agreed and were able to present a collaboratively prepared response during Examination in Public (EiP) evidence preparation and at the EiP hearing itself. The RSS Panel Inspectors agreed with the Local Authorities (and other consultation submissions) that the SSD status for Redditch be removed. This course of action was identified as a recommendation in the Panel Report (September 2009) and demonstrates the successful collaborative approach of RBC and BDC.

In order to document events which relate to the above issues, Table 1 below presents a chronological account of events since 2006 in order to helpfully follow the history of the cooperation issues between the two Authorities. Following this, the pertinent Key Issues are identified and examined in greater detail. It should be noted that the introduction of the RBC and BDC shared service management team in April 2010, has facilitated and ensured alignment of working wherever possible i.e. sharing evidence gathering and resources, regular meetings etc, although the two councils still remain two independent local planning authorities.

DRAFT

Table 1 – Timeline of Redditch & Bromsgrove Cross Boundary issues:

Date	Mechanism	What happened?
14 November 2006	RBC response to WCC's response to the RPB's Section 4(4) Authorities brief	• Capacity of Redditch overestimated due to sites listed being completed already and some double-counting of existing commitments • Raised prospect of Green Belt development to North/North West Redditch in Bromsgrove District • First raised issues of development in SW Redditch Green Belt based on previous findings • First raised issues of development in NW Redditch Green Belt based on previous findings • Suggested more work on feasibility of options for growth
4 January 2007	Letter to P Maitland (WCC) - Redditch Joint Study	• RBC having difficulty understanding implications of higher growth options • Raised need for technical evidence about ability of the area to accommodate growth • Evidence must explore potential of viable locations beyond Borough's boundaries in Worcestershire and Warwickshire • Need to rule out or confirm the South West as a development option, an up-to-date survey needed
2 March 2007	RBC - RSS Spatial Options responses (Council endorsed response)	• RBC stated Options 2 and 3 result in issues with allocating new sites to meet demands of the housing options • Concern that without a Joint Study, WMRSS review process will not have information to determine whether RBC target meets WMRSS objectives and whether growth options are deliverable • Could include the consideration of new settlement as an alternative to dwellings in Green Belt within Redditch Borough, Bromsgrove District and Stratford-upon-Avon
5 March 2007	BDC - RSS Spatial Options responses (Officer response)	• BDC stated that there was limited justification for meeting Redditch's unmet need in Bromsgrove. • Considered narrowing of strategic gap between Redditch and MUA damaging to function of Green Belt and unacceptable part of either option 2 or 3.BDC stated allocation in Bromsgrove to meet housing needs of Redditch will be strongly resisted
22 February 2007	WCC - RSS Spatial Options responses	• WCC stated that to meet locally generated growth needs development would most likely have to be directed to the North West within Bromsgrove District. The only alternative would be to seek growth East to Warwickshire but this too has been ruled out in the past
12 June 2007	Letter to R Poulter (WMRA) re. Redditch joint study (WYG1)	• Grateful for WCC lead and support from BDC but concerned about SOADC and Warks CC lack of contribution • RPB should have taken a leading role in bringing all relevant parties to the discussion
2 May 2008	Joint letter to Mark Middleton re. cross boundary working (from RBC, BDC and SOADC)	• Concerned about no local robust arrangements for splitting the target • Concerned that second stage study may not be forthcoming • GOWM not expressed a will for second stage study • No political will from BDC and SOADC for commissioning second stage study

Date	Mechanism	What happened?
September 2008	RBC response to BDC Town Centre AAP (Issues and Options)	• RBC fully supported statement “centre to serve their local communities in terms of retail provision, access to services and cultural and leisure facilities. The role of Bromsgrove Town Centre is not to provide retailing facilities for those from other districts and nearby rural settlements” and AAP's recognition of the role of Bromsgrove Town Centre in line with Policy PA12B Non-Strategic Centres - West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Review (Preferred Options) • RBC questioned appropriateness of wording when considering the role of Bromsgrove as set out in the WMRSS "expanded retailing so the town can compete with other shopping centres." • RBC considered it inappropriate to attract shopping from elsewhere other than to meet local needs of Bromsgrove • The response was considered alongside all other responses at the issues and options stage and fed into further iterations of the AAP, no further comments were received from RBC on subsequent versions and therefore the issues are considered resolved.
9 December 2008	RBC - WMRSS Preferred Option responses	• Elements of BDC and RBC response agreed and sent jointly. Namely: Climate change, Creating Sustainable Communities, Emphasis on development on brownfield land, Sustainable design and construction, Spatial Strategy Objectives, Planning in Partnership, The Sub-Regional implications of the Strategy (Worcestershire), Communities for the future, Improving air quality for sensitive ecosystems, The Spatial Strategy, Housing within the MUAs, Level and distribution of new housing development, Quality of the environment – Waste policies, Transport and accessibility • BDC and RBC objected to Redditch SSD (Settlement of Significant Development) designation • BDC, RBC and SOADC asks for the Redditch growth level to be split between authorities
8 December 2008	BDC - WMRSS Preferred Option responses	• BDC objected to Redditch growth level accommodated adjacent to Redditch citing alternative more strategically viable sites within the District • BDC and RBC objected to Redditch SSD designation • BDC, RBC and SOADC asks for the Redditch growth level to be split between authorities • Elements of BDC and RBC response agreed and sent jointly
3 December 2008	SOADC - WMRSS Preferred Option responses	• SOADC stated that evidence suggests that its necessary for Bromsgrove and/or Stratford-on-Avon Districts to take more than the 3,300 dwellings initially stated in the emerging RSS Revision • BDC, RBC and SOADC asks for the Redditch growth level to be split between authorities • The findings of the study (WYG2) should be incorporated into the final version of the RSS. This would enable the RSS to specify that none of the Redditch housing requirement would be accommodated in Stratford-on-Avon District
Cabinet Report 5 March 2008	WCC – WMRSS Preferred Option responses	• Without acceptable further explanation, WCC cannot support the policy amendment in relation to Redditch’s designation as an SSD

Date	Mechanism	What happened?
8 December 2008	GOWM - WMRSS Preferred Option responses	• GOWM stated it would be helpful if RSS could be more specific in relation to Redditch allocations in neighbouring Districts • Suggested questions that the Panel might consider included: *"Does the draft RSS provide sufficient clarity to local authorities in preparing LDFs about the allocation of housing where there are cross border allocations, such as around Redditch?"*
9 December 2008	RBC response to Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners (NLP) Report	• RBC objected to NLP Report proposing additional growth towards Redditch in Bromsgrove District due to its SSD designation
April 2009	RSS Examination	• RBC, BDC and SOADC continuing to request a split target for both housing and employment • RBC, WCC and BDC objected to SSD designation • WCC suggest Redditch growth restricted to natural growth • RBC supported principle of accommodating natural growth but concerned that accommodating PO level of development undermines urban renaissance • RBC objected to NLP Report proposed increases to Bromsgrove and suggestion to direct towards Redditch • RBC submitted that studies (listed) provide up to date evidence • RBC and BDC suggested housing numbers a matter for panel but locations a matter for CS • BDC objected to level of Redditch growth within Bromsgrove and/or Stratford; re implications for Bromsgrove green belt • BDC now commented that housing 'overspill' can only abut Redditch border and not be allocated to more appropriate sites in Bromsgrove
September 2009	RSS Phase 2 Panel Report	• Inspectors conceded that these Authorities needed a steer • Recommended 7000 dwellings for Redditch's needs, this is rounded up • Around 3000 of the 7000 dwellings to be located adjacent to Redditch in Bromsgrove District (Panel Report p.88, Recommendation R3.1). Paragraph 8.84 p.194 states *"We agree, however, with Bromsgrove Council that the choice of locality around the boundary of Redditch should be locally determined whether at or adjacent to the Webheath/Foxlydiate or Brockhill ADRs or in the Bordesley Park area or in some combination of these possibilities or elsewhere".* • Provision in Redditch should be at least 4,000 dwellings • The balance of employment to be located adjacent to Redditch in Bromsgrove District • Universally recognised Redditch has limited capacity • Provision in Redditch purely to meet local needs, not wider regional needs • Recommended removal of Redditch as SSD

Date	Mechanism	What happened?
		• Given constraints and overlapped travel to work area with MUA larger housing allocations not appropriate at Redditch • Green Belt review explicitly required to facilitate the development at Redditch in BD or SOAD • Disposition recognised to have not been resolved by the Councils. WYG Report intended to resolve issue, but did not • Near to Alvechurch, parts of Bordesley Park in clear view, some ADR and adjacent land appear well contained in landscape terms • No good reason to reverse October 2008 Study (WYG1) conclusions identifying parts or all of ADRs • Would have favoured development between Redditch and Studley on landscape and character grounds alone • Difficult to develop towards Studley or eastern Redditch fringe unless funded proposals solve traffic problems • Choice of locality around Redditch boundary to be locally determined • Important for closely aligned timetables and coordinated Examination
8 February 2010	Joint PINS Briefing	• Purpose was to consider what had been done so far in preparation of the two Plans and identify matters which may be problematic in terms of soundness • Cross boundary issues appear to present the greatest obstacle to the Plans' progress • Joint growth options for Redditch consultation is a promising start to joint working • There is still a lot of evidence-based work to undertake to inform the decision-making process • There appears to be some doubt as to which Plan is 'responsible' for cross-boundary strategic sites – PINS view is that both Plans have responsibility • Information should be collected and assessed on a joint basis and should be in place before either Plan is submitted • The matter of deliverability goes to the heart of both Plans and is a matter that should be jointly addressed • The issue of demonstrating the most sustainable and deliverable sites needs to be dealt with in both Plans, or their evidence bases, and the only sensible way to do so is through joint working • The Councils have set up a Joint Planning Board and a Joint Planning Advisory Panel which will provide the mechanism through which cross boundary issues can be aired • PINS welcomes the RSS Panels comments regarding the close alignment of Examination timetables • Options for 'swapping' employment/ housing allocations on SOAD/ BD land need to be explored jointly • Views of WMRA would need to be sought on the question of the effect these options would have on the general conformity of the Plans with the RSS • At any such Examination, it is critical that the two Councils are in a position to present a united front and produce robust evidence in support of their joint proposals • Any housing that is being provided specifically to meet RBs needs should go towards RBCs 5 year land supply • The same principle applies to employment land • If there is evidence which indicates a difference in house types to meet BDC or RBC needs, there is no inconsistency in the BDC Plan containing separate policies to deal with these requirements

Date	Mechanism	What happened?
		• Capacity may be less than the Panel Report estimates. It should be possible to identify sufficient land to build in an element of flexibility • Cross boundary development will involve removing land from the Green Belt. Proposals affecting the GB should relate to a timescale beyond the Plan period. If this is not the case, clear reasons need to be given • Dealing with infrastructure costs, CIL etc jointly would benefit from BDCs previous experience when dealing with matters such as the Longbridge AAP
8 February to 30 April 2010	Joint development options consultation for Redditch expansion	• Consultation for development targets for RB as recommended by the RSS Phase 2 Panel Report and options for accommodating the required development in BD
6 July 2010	DCLG letter from Chief Planner announcing revocation of RSSs	• Revocation of RSSs announced with immediate effect • Q&A attachment stressed that local authorities would be responsible for establishing the right level of local housing provision without the burden of regional targets • Q&A attachment also stressed the importance of transparent justification for the housing numbers that should be based upon reliable information and defended at Examination • Subsequent issues arose following this announcement relating to the legality of the process and the need for SEAs to be undertaken before revocation could take place • After the change of Government and RSS revocation announcement: - BDC reverted to its pre RSS stance in resisting the large scale GB releases to meet RBC needs - RBC adopted a capacity-led approach and communicated a lack of political appetite for growth despite the evidence • Joint working halted in late 2011
21 January to 31 March 2011	Revised Preferred Draft Core Strategy consultation	• Consultation for 3200 dwellings (2006 to 2026). This target was based on the currently identified deliverable sites within Redditch • RPDCS stated that *"later in 2011, following more detailed evidence being collected and once some further clarity on the correct mechanisms for dealing with the Redditch growth issue is established, the Borough Council will be in a position to consult on all issues, both cross boundary and internal growth."*
21 January to 15 April 2011	RBC officer response to BDC Draft CS2	• Highlights that Plan fails to address cross boundary issues • Offers to work collaboratively with BDC to research any new or emerging guidance on determining a locally derived housing requirement, other development requirements and to develop shared approaches which are consistent and which should be considered sound at Examination
March 2011	County-wide SHMA commissioned	• All six Worcestershire Authorities jointly commissioned the preparation of a SHMA to evaluate existing housing stock, analyse the future housing market and project the needs of future households which might occur under different

Date	Mechanism	What happened?
	(Published February 2012)	scenarios • The SHMA included separate Overview Reports for each Local Authority, which focussed on key areas and presented a more detailed individual authority narrative • RBC supplemented the SHMA Report with a further Annex (May 2012) to identify a specific housing requirement for Redditch
15 November 2011	Localism Act comes into force	• Insertion into the P&CP Act 2004 of *"Duty to co-operate in relation to planning of sustainable development"* • LPAs must co-operate to maximise the effectiveness of development plan preparation • The duty imposed requires constructive, active and on-going engagement
27 March 2012	Publication of the NPPF	• *"Planning strategically across local boundaries"* – paras 178-181 set out guidance for effective co-operation
27 April 2012	PINS briefing with Joint Management Team, RBC and BDC Members	• PINS advice at this meeting was interpretation of the intention of how the new planning system will work • Recognition that the situation had become more complicated without the regional tier • Emphasis on Duty to Cooperate • It would be a problem if the LA did not seek cooperation. This is a legal issue and there is nothing PINS can do about it • PINS considered that the Councils could demonstrate the Duty to Cooperate based upon what had already been done jointly • If there is a need to cooperate, can cooperation be demonstrated and is the outcome effective? • 5 years land supply would need to be demonstrated in the Plan and questioned whether the authorities were 'persistent under deliverers'. LAs would need to take into account peaks and troughs in the property market potentially over a 6-10 year period. If a 5 year supply of land cannot be demonstrated then LAs vulnerable at appeal • A robust housing figure would be needed which was capable of withstanding challenges made at the Examination • Highlighted the tension between the notion of localism and the presumption in favour of sustainable development • Government priority is the delivery of houses and local views cannot 'trump' a national policy • PINS accepted the principle that the two plans could be brought forward in parallel but neither authority would be able to progress significantly ahead of the other
3 May 2012		• As a result of the local elections in May 2012 there was a change of political control to Labour at RBC
5 July 2012	RBC Leader Duty to Cooperate letter to BDC Leader	• Intention of letter is to establish the first formal agreement of joint working under the new Duty to Cooperate • States LPA responsibilities under Localism Act • States relevant NPPF Guidance • States that PAS has suggested various forms of evidence to demonstrate compliance with the Duty to Cooperate • Outlines RBC issues of limited development capacity and the possibility of accommodating development to the north/ north west of Redditch in BD, preferably contiguous to the boundary

Date	Mechanism	What happened?
		• Stresses the importance of addressing the Duty to Cooperate issues as soon as possible in the plan making process • States that PINS is unable to assist LPAs in resolving Duty to Cooperate problems and that all issues must be resolved before plans are submitted for Examination
3 August 2012	BDC Leader's response to RBC Leader's Duty to Cooperate letter	• Acknowledges BDCs responsibility under Duty to Cooperate and that BDC will be happy to formally open discussions with RBC • Acknowledges the issue of BD accommodating Redditch growth needs has challenged both LPAs for a number of years without resolution • RBC request for joint working is a step closer to securing some certainty on this issue which will allow both LPAs to prepare and adopt sound development plans • BDC officers have been instructed to continue working with RBC officers in an attempt to find a mutually acceptable solution to the issue
6 December 2012	Joint Member Briefing	• Member briefing in Bromsgrove for Members from both Councils to present the findings of the Green Belt Review and the identification of locations for cross boundary growth
18 February 2013	Redditch Full Council	• RBC Members voted not to endorse consultation material on cross boundary growth and hence not proceed with planned joint consultation on this issue nor with emerging Local Plan No 4
21 February 2013	BDC Leaders Duty to Cooperate letter to RBC Leader	• Reminds RBC of Duty to Cooperate • Asks RBC to reconsider Executive decision • States that BDC resolved to go out to consultation on issue but would delay start of consultation to give RBC time to reconsider
25 March 2013	Redditch Full Council	• Members reconsidered the decision taken on 18 February and voted to endorse the consultation material on cross boundary growth and emerging Local Plan No.4
1 April to 15 May 2013	Joint Housing Growth consultation	• Joint consultation for two cross boundary development locations in BD, contiguous to RB. Site 1 – Foxlydiate (2400 dwgs) and Site 2 – Brockhill East (600 dwgs)
23 April 2013	DCLG letter from Chief Planner announcing formal revocation of the WMRSS	• Letter informs that the Order to revoke the RSS had been laid before Parliament and the Order would come into force on 20 May 2013
30 September - 11 November 2013	Publication of Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030 and Redditch Local	• Aligned publication of both Plans at Proposed Submission stage and aligned period for representations with a view to eventual aligned date for Submission stage and Examinations in Public.

Date	Mechanism	What happened?
	Plan No 4 (Proposed Submission version)	
30 September 2013	Publication of IDPs	• IDP evidence to support delivery of both Plans involved joint working and consultation with infrastructure providers to produce individual IDPs with identical joint transport sections

DRAFT

Issues

The following cross boundary strategic issues have been identified jointly by RBC and BDC:

Unmet Redditch Housing need
Unmet Redditch Employment need
Infrastructure Delivery

The Section below explains key issues and options that have arisen and been addressed by Redditch Borough Council and its Bromsgrove District Council neighbour.

Issue: Unmet Redditch Housing Need

Background

It was established early on in the Phase 2 review of the WMRSS that there were limits to Redditch Borough's capacity to accommodate the required levels of sustainable development. RBC has explored its development capacity in detail but still has a shortfall of available and suitable land to meet its development needs. By way of introduction to the RBC/BDC issue of resolving unmet housing need, this background information sets out the housing requirement and then details the undertakings to explore capacity within the Borough, firstly focussing on the urban area, and then on Green Belt and Areas of Development Restraint (ADR).

Redditch Housing Requirement:

Although the regional planning tier has been removed, the evidence that underpinned the RSS is still considered to be robust as it has been scrutinised through the RSS Examination process. In order to move away from Government set housing targets, the NPPF promotes setting locally derived requirements as long as they are based on robust evidence, which meets the full objectively assessed housing need.

Undertaking a Worcestershire-wide Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) presented the six Worcestershire Authorities with the opportunity to determine housing requirements based on more up-to-date population projections than those used in the RSS evidence base. The SHMA (Feb 2012) presented a range of scenarios, within which development requirements should fall. RBC undertook further SHMA work to take account of migration issues raised in the main SHMA report in order to pinpoint a robust housing requirement figure on which to progress a sound Local Plan.

The SHMA Annex (May 2012) concluded that Redditch related housing need equated to 340 dwellings per annum/ 6400 dwellings over the Plan period. Redditch has limited capacity to meet this need within its administrative boundary.

Redditch Urban Capacity:

There has been a lot of debate and speculation about Redditch's urban capacity throughout the RSS process. RBC took an open book approach to its SHLAA throughout the process, and agreed to external scrutiny on numerous occasions. Initially the capacity was scrutinised by participants in the RSS Examination process including developers, agents, adjoining authorities, other government bodies and indeed the Panel itself. Furthermore, both WYG 1 and WYG2 considered the Redditch internal capacity issue, including a full review and a review of previously dismissed sites and all open spaces and ecological sites within the town. Throughout all of these processes there has been no significant additional capacity identified.

The first Redditch SHLAA was undertaken in 2008. At this point in time, due to the awareness of the probable shortfall in capacity within the Borough, RBC and BDC officers worked closely together to develop an aligned SHLAA methodology and site assessment appraisal process. There was an acknowledgement by both Local Authorities that, although there was no firm conclusion that BDC would meet Redditch's housing capacity shortfall in its District, joint SHLAA preparation offered an appropriate opportunity to develop an aligned methodology should a joint capacity evidence base be required in the future. Once the methodology and appraisal processes were agreed, both LAs proceeded to assess sites within their administrative boundaries separately.

Following the RSS revocation announcement, BDC wished to further assess the capacity of the urban area so it could be satisfied that Redditch growth needed to be met in Bromsgrove District and prudent use of its Green Belt could be clearly justified to residents and members. Officers from both authorities undertook a thorough review of a range of various sites which RBC officers had previously dismissed from contributing towards its capacity. In all, 42 sites were considered as part of this exercise. This exercise offered a joint opportunity for frank and open scrutiny of the RBC SHLAA methodology and the opportunity to discuss the conclusions drawn regarding the appropriateness of site dismissals, especially in the context of RBCs high open space standard. As a result, there was no significant additional capacity identified and BDC concurred with the original RBC SHLAA conclusions.

Redditch Green Belt and ADR**:**

The recommended policy stance about the future status of Green Belt and ADR land within Redditch has become a confusing matter during the course of the plan-making process. The Redditch capacity assessments which informed the RSS process before spatial options were developed, excluded Green Belt development within Redditch. However once the RSS Preferred Option was released it became clear that growth in Redditch would be a lot higher than previously anticipated and would require Green Belt and ADR land to be considered as available capacity. As part of RBCs response to

RSS consultation, it was stated that development in the Green Belt to the south west of Redditch's urban area was highly unlikely to be deliverable due to constraints and should be discounted from offering any capacity contribution at an early stage. WYG1 did not appear to imply that there would be any issues with including ADR or Green Belt in north Redditch for development. However by the time WYG2 was produced the consultants had reversed this conclusion.

The RSS Panel report concluded that there were no valid reasons to exclude ADR land, and the Panel report recommendations about growth and Green Belt around Redditch would suggest that the principle of development at northern Green Belt areas was necessary. Subsequently a planning application was submitted for 200 dwellings and 5000 sqm. of B1 office development on the Brockhill ADR at Weights Lane. The open space element of the proposal was located cross boundary in Bromsgrove District. As a consequence of this, both LAs considered and subsequently approved the planning application. This proposal enables the ADR to be opened up at its eastern extent to ensure appropriate connectivity with Brockhill East (west of the railway) and the existing highway network. It was important that both LAs recognised the importance of enabling delivery of this site in order to secure opportunities and access to the wider northern Green Belt area both within Redditch Borough and beyond the Borough boundary in Bromsgrove District.

The RSS Panel recommendation to consider meeting Redditch needs cross boundary, acknowledges the RBC stance that development within the Borough in the south west Green Belt at the levels being proposed was unsuitable at that time. Further consideration of all the sites around Redditch was carried out as part of the Housing Growth Development Study (2013), which is discussed further below.

The unmet Redditch housing need Issue:

Since the Panel Report was released Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils undertook a joint consultation on Redditch growth options (Feb 2010). The consultation focussed on three broad locations for development options in an arc to the north/ north west of Redditch's urban area. The Councils' received mixed opinions about the public preference for preferred locations for growth.

Since that time, the Government announced the revocation of the RSS which caused confusion and subsequently some delay in reaching a commitment to having a robust housing requirement from RBC and agreement from BDC to meet the growth requirements for Redditch. However, the six Worcestershire Districts did establish an up to date local evidence base through the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). The draft findings of the SHMA, which presented a range of development scenarios for all six LAs, were presented to all LA members. As the SHMA was being finalised (2012), the NPPF was published and a joint discussion with PINS was undertaken with Members from both LAs to consider an appropriate way forward for both LAs Plans.

In May 2012, there was a change in political governance at RBC and an Annex for Redditch growth was undertaken to further analyse the SHMA scenarios and establish a housing requirement for Redditch.

With the two authorities of Bromsgrove and Redditch understanding the housing growth implications and levels of growth necessary, collaboration recommenced to find the Authorities' preferred growth location and this itself involved the investigation of a number of options. The collaborative approach of officers was underpinned by the formal acknowledgement and acceptance of the Duty to Cooperate by the Leaders of both LAs.

Options for resolving unmet Redditch housing need:
The option to deal with collaborative plan-making across administrative boundaries culminated in the preparation of the Housing Growth Development Study, which involved Broad Area Appraisals of all 20 areas around Redditch's urban area identified in WYG1, followed by Focussed Site Appraisals in the areas deemed to have the most growth potential. Undertaking the Study included joint team meetings to set out a methodology and a joint survey team to undertake the on-site assessments. The site assessments and subsequent Sustainability Appraisal led to the development of scenarios for alternative growth locations and a joint preferred option.

The identification of a preferred option for development led to the development of a cross boundary housing growth policy, which was the subject of a joint consultation period in April and May 2013. The consultation period and subsequent response to representations work was undertaken jointly by both Councils.

Outcome:

The outcome has resulted in both Plans preparing for concurrent proposed Submission/ Submission. BDCs District Plan includes a policy called 'Redditch Cross Boundary Development' jointly prepared and agreed by both Councils (within the Plan), which is included as a referenced Appendix in the RBC Local Plan.

Issue: Unmet Redditch Employment need
There has persistently been a call from the three authorities of RBC, BDC and SOADC for an indication of a development requirement split, mainly so that Bromsgrove and Stratford Councils have some clarity about what their plans would need to deal with. The RSS Panel recommended that the cross boundary employment provision be met through provision of at least 12 ha within SOAD, west of the A435 and the balance remaining out of a total of up to 37 ha in BD at a location or locations to be agreed in the RBC and BDC Plans.

Cross boundary provision of land for employment use is an issue which has previously been addressed by BDC in relation to RBC shortfall. The Ravensbank Business Park to the north east of the Borough was allocated for up to 30 ha of development in the Bromsgrove District Local Plan (2004)

(policy E2). Furthermore, the Bromsgrove District Local Plan made provision for an Area of Development Restraint of 10.3 ha to the south east of the allocated land at Ravensbank (policy BE3). The purpose of the ADR was to satisfy possible future Redditch employment needs, beyond the Plan period.

Options:

Two options were viable to investigate, firstly cross boundary provision at Ravensbank and within SOAD, and secondly, identification of alternative employment locations in other BD areas analysed through the Housing Growth Development Study. A limited amount of land with employment opportunities was identified through the HGDS in an alternative location. However, the analysis concluded that this land was not needed as sufficient land was available to meet Redditch's employment needs at Ravensbank and it was therefore unnecessary to release further Green Belt land in this location for employment purposes.

Outcome:

There was sufficient land (15 ha) at the Ravensbank ADR coupled with outstanding capacity at the Ravensbank Business Park, in a location where employment development was already established and further cross boundary opportunities with SOADC were emerging. Both BDC and SOADC acknowledge the need to meet this requirement for Redditch within their Plans.

Issue: Infrastructure Delivery

It has long been recognised that critical discussions on infrastructure capacity and planning may be more effectively and efficiently carried out over a larger area than a single local planning authority area. Paragraph 179 of NPPF states that LPA's should consider producing joint planning policies on strategic matters and informal strategies such as joint infrastructure and investment plans.

Infrastructure needs are not necessarily constrained by LA administrative boundaries and both authorities need an understanding of the impact of development on their areas. It was acknowledged that the cross boundary sites in particular would impact on infrastructure in both authorities for example; schools, drainage and highways and a detailed understanding of these joint aspects was therefore essential. Both authorities also need to demonstrate that their plans are deliverable which means ensuring that the infrastructure needs of development are identified and viable.

Options:

Three options were explored to approach Infrastructure Delivery in both authorities:

1. Authorities to work separately, duplicate work and prepare IDPs which may be complementary. This was considered to be a waste of resources and may have stored up future problems.

2. Authorities to share resources and work efficiently together to prepare independent IDPs. This was the method chosen as it made sound economic sense for both authorities to work together in obtaining information from infrastructure providers. The sharing of resources meant that efficiencies in the use of resources could be made for the authorities (and the infrastructure providers) in collecting similar information for both authorities at the same time.

3. Authorities to work together to prepare joint IDP. This option was not considered realistic as both authorities have independent and separate Plans containing growth and policies which are unrelated to the other area.

Outcome:

Joint working on collecting up to date information was carried out. This involved compiling Infrastructure packs which were sent to infrastructure providers. The infrastructure packs explained background context in both areas: the purpose of the consultation and what information was needed. The joint working also involved the sharing of contact databases; joint meetings where necessary with various infrastructure providers; agreeing a joint section on transport to be included in both IDPs and agreeing the next steps.

Both Authorities now have draft IDPs which are fully informed by up to date information from infrastructure providers to support the delivery aspects of both Plans. It should be noted that due to the nature of the transport IDP work it proved impossible to separate this work out between the two authorities, so an agreed replica section is included in each document. These IDPs are 'live' documents and capable of being updated as new evidence emerges. It is planned to consult on the draft IDP's at the same time as the Publication of the Proposed Submission documents are published from 30th September to 11th November 2013. It is intended that if any new evidence on infrastructure delivery is received this will be reviewed and incorporated into revised Infrastructure Delivery Plans as appropriate before final Submission of the Redditch Local Plan No 4 and Bromsgrove District Plan.

Plan-making evidence base

To underpin the premise of collaborative working by the two Local Authorities, several studies have been undertaken or commissioned, which form a Joint Evidence Base, upon which both Plans rely:

- WYG1 (Dec 2007)
- SHLAA – shared methodology (2008)
- WYG2 (Jan 2009)
- Bromsgrove and Redditch Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 (2009)
- Bromsgrove and Redditch Scoping Water Cycle Study (Jan 2009)
- Green Infrastructure Baseline Report (2010)
- SHLAA – interrogation of RBC SHLAA by BDC (Oct 2011)

- Bromsgrove and Redditch Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 (2012)
- Worcestershire SHMA (Feb 2012)
- Worcestershire SHMA - Redditch Updated Household Projections Annex (May 2012)
- Bromsgrove and Redditch Outline Water Cycle Study (May 2012)
- Housing Growth Development Study (Jan 2013)
- Bromsgrove and Redditch Cross boundary sites (transport modelling) (Jan 2013)
- Hewell Grange Estate – Setting of Heritage Assets Assessment (Jan 2013)
- IDP

5.3 Worcestershire County Council

Engagement with WCC has been on the basis as Infrastructure provider for Highways, education, waste, minerals, flooding (LLFA), libraries etc, and as facilitator of county wide joint working / assessments on:
Green infrastructure
Other infrastructure as identified above
CIL Viability assessment
Strategic Housing Market assessment
County wide agreed SA objectives

No significant issues have been identified although continual work on the ensuring WCC are fully involved on the updating of the IDP will be essential, as will continual liaison with WCC highways and the HA on transportation issues.

5.4 Dudley

Issues

Developments - Impact of development close to boundary and potential impact on Black Country regeneration corridors.

Housing Need - potential for housing needs of West Midlands conurbation to be met in adjoining authorities.

How dealt with

Development s - Via inter authority liaison and cooperation on planning application consultee responses, and policy officer meeting with Black Country authorities.

Housing need - via engagement in LEP studies as identified in BCC section above, although it is acknowledge that Dudley is not in the GBSLEP it is expected to contribute to the GBSLEP housing study. Further engagement with Black country authorities on Bromsgrove District Plan 2011 – 2030.

Outcome

Developments - Ongoing inter authority liaison and cooperation on planning application consultee responses, further engagement with Black country authorities on Bromsgrove District Plan 2011 – 2030.

Housing need - Ongoing commitment to LEP and potential other studies and Appropriate policy wording included in the Bromsgrove District Plan 2011 – 2030 proposed submission version to cater for identified future growth needs of the West Midlands conurbation.

5.5 Solihull

Issues

Development - Impact of proposed developments close to boundary with resultant demands on infrastructure

Housing Need - potential for housing needs of West Midlands conurbation to be met in adjoining authorities.

How dealt with

Via inter authority liaison and cooperation on planning application consultee responses.

Housing need - via engagement in LEP studies as identified in BCC section above and further engagement with Solihull on Bromsgrove District Plan 2011 – 2030

Outcome

Ongoing commitment to LEP and potential other studies and Appropriate policy wording included in the Bromsgrove District Plan 2011 – 2030 proposed submission version to cater for identified future growth needs of the West Midlands conurbation.

5.6 Stratford-on-Avon

Issues

Eastern Gateway employment site

Housing in vicinity of A435 - this is an issue for Stratford-on-Avon and Redditch to resolve as the site is within RBC

How dealt with

Joint working on Eastern Gateway scheme (Gorcott/Ravensbank/ Winyates Green) between 3 Councils and NW Economic Development and Regeneration. Jointly commissioned GVA to carry out Economic Impact Study March 2013.

Outcome

Ravensbank ADR part of the eastern gateway site included in the Bromsgrove District Plan 2011 – 2030, further commitment to joint working to bring this development opportunity forward.

5.7 Malvern/Wychavon/Worcester

Issues

No strategic issues identified

Outcome
Agreed position statement , see letter below.

5.8 Wyre Forest

Issues

No strategic issues identified

Outcome

Agreed no strategic issues, see letter below

6 Other Prescribed Bodies

6.1 Environment Agency
Statutory Consultee at all stages of plan making process including SA, SFRA, WCS, no issues identified at this stage to prevent progress of the Plan.

6.2 English Heritage
Statutory Consultee at all stages of plan making process including SA
Input in relation to major potential strategic allocation at Hewell Grange Grade2* Registered Historic Park and Garden

6.3 Natural England
Statutory Consultee at all stages of plan making process including SA.
Checking of HRA at all relevant stages. No issues identified at this stage to prevent progress of the Plan.

6.4 Civil Aviation Authority
Consultee on stages of plan making process including SA
The Civil Aviation Authority have advised that they would not be responding to any core strategies or other strategic planning documents unless there was a direct aviation implication or in respect of a relevant planning application.

6.5 Homes and Communities Agency
Statutory Consultee at all stages of plan making process including SA
Major landowner of potential strategic site in Green Belt. No issues identified at this stage to prevent progress of the Plan.

6.6 Primary Care Trusts/NHS Trust/ Clinical Commissioning Group
Statutory Consultee at all stages of plan making process including SA.
Member of Bromsgrove Partnership.
Involvement via IDP process.
No issues identified at this stage to prevent progress of the Plan.

6.7 Office of the Rail Regulator

Consultee on plan making process. See reference above

6.8 Highways Agency
Statutory Consultee at all stages of plan making process including SA
M42 and M5 pass through Bromsgrove District. See reference above para 4.5
Continue to be involved in IDP work.

6.9 Highway Authorities WCC
Statutory Consultee at all stages of plan making process including SA See reference above IDP work.

7. Bodies not covered by statute but which Councils should have regard to:

LEPS

7.1 Greater Birmingham and Solihull (GBSLEP)
Bromsgrove is represented on the LEP at all appropriate levels, and have engaged in the preparation of the brief for the current housing study, as well as ongoing input in to the LEP spatial framework.

7.2 Worcestershire LEP (WLEP)
Bromsgrove is represented on the LEP at all appropriate levels and continue to support the LEP priorities including the development of the Redditch Eastern Gateway, partly falling within Bromsgrove and Stratford- on- Avon Districts.

Utility companies:

7.3 Severn Trent Water Ltd
Representations on plan making.
Involvement in Levels 1 and 2 SFRA and Outline Water Cycle Study.
Modelling of cross boundary growth scenarios carried out by STWL.
Involvement in IDP preparation.

7.4 South Staffs Water
Involvement in IDP preparation.

7.5 National Grid Gas
Involvement in IDP preparation.

7.6 Western Power Distribution
Representations on plan making.
Involvement in IDP preparation.
Liaison also via WCC Infrastructure Strategy.

DRAFT

Duty to co-operate BDC timeline			
Date/ period	**Body (+ BDC)**	**Project**	**Interaction**
ongoing	WPOG		Meetings and tasks ie MuO
ongoing	POG		Meetings and tasks
ongoing	CADHAG		Meetings of EH, County and District Conservation officers to share information, learning and complete tasks
2007-ongoing	LSP (Bromsgrove Partnership) Act on Energy, BARN, BDHT, NEW college, NHS Worcs, RBCCG, West Mercia Police, CALC and WCC	A forum for local organisations to come together and address issues that are important	Board meetings Theme groups
2005-ongoing	EA, EH, NE	Sustainability Appraisal	Involvement in all stages of development of LDF/local plan
2005-to date	Birmingham City Council	Longbridge Area Action Plan	1) Longbridge Project meetings 2) Longbridge Delivery Board meetings
May 2006-2009	WCC and Districts/ Borough, EA, EH, NE	Worcestershire Joint SA objectives	Working group meetings
Dec 2007	WCC, RBC, SDC	WYG 1	Joint working and funding
Early 2008	Redditch BC	Agree SHLAA methodology	Joint meetings
20/3/08-2/07/08	Redditch BC, Stratford DC and stakeholders	CIL and cross boundary working with infrastructure providers	Meetings with various service providers to establish contact, gain joint understanding of programmes funding and advise on future growth
3/09/08 (ongoing)	Highways Agency	Information exchange/communication/ identification of showstoppers	Meetings
9/9/08	Severn Trent/BT/Central networks	Information exchange/communication/ identification of showstoppers	Meetings
10/11/08	Redditch BC	RSS Phase 2 revision response	Joint member briefing on RSS Phase 2 Revision responses, indicating areas of agreement/disagreement between the 2 authorities
Dec 2008-to date	Redditch BC	Redditch Growth-Joint Leaders and	Joint Planning Advisory Panel meetings

DRAFT

(frequency irregular)		Member involvement	
09/09/08-20/11/09	Key stakeholders/ infrastructure providers (not 'prescribed bodies' under Regs but need to discuss cross boundary development with them regarding delivery)	Maintenance of ongoing dialogue with infrastructure providers	Meetings to discuss future infrastructure requirements (including cross boundary) with utility companies, STW, National Grid and Central Networks etc
Jan 2009	WMRA, WCC, RBC and SDC	WYG 2	Joint working and funding
Jan 2009	Redditch BC, EA and ST	Level 1 SFRA	Joint study
8/2/10	Redditch BC	PINS frontloading	Frontloading meeting
Feb- Apr 2010	Redditch BC	Redditch growth	Joint consultation
09/10	Worcs SCS	Single Sustainable Strategy for Worcs	Agree strategic vision for Worcestershire and focuses activity on what is needed in the short term to improve the quality of life of people who live, visit or work in the county.
10/10-ongoing	GBS LEP	Partnership to encourage economic regeneration	Meetings of partners/ stakeholders, visioning event and themed seminars. Joint working on commissioning of Housing Study for LEP area.
12/10	W LEP	Partnership to drive economic development and enterprise and strategic leadership	Meetings of partners Agree objectives and produce Business Plan
Feb 2011-ongoing	WCC, Worcs authorities and stakeholders	Strategic Infrastructure delivery	Investment and Delivery Steering Group Meetings. Focus on Strategy priorities and 'gamechanger' sites. Attendance and presentations by key infrastructure providers
27/04/12	Redditch BC	PINS frontloading	Frontloading meeting
May 2012	Redditch BC, EA and ST	Outline Water Cycle Strategy	Joint study
2011-ongoing	WCC and Districts/ Borough	CIL Steering Group	Jointly funded study to ascertain viability of setting CIL rates across County

DRAFT

2012	WCC, Worcs authorities	Strategic Housing market Assessment SHMA	Jointly funded study on Strategic Housing Market Assessment. Stakeholder events including developers and RSLs.
9/05/12	Dudley/ South Staffs	DTC	Meetings of policy officers to discuss growth issues
June 2012	RBC, EA and ST	Level 2 SFRA	Joint Study
July/Aug 2012	RBC	DTC	RBC letter and response
8/08/12 ongoing	Birmingham CC	Unmet need	Letters and meetings
2012	EA, EH, NE, WCC, developers	Green Infrastructure Concept Plan	Work to develop GI Concept Plan on Perryfields including meetings site visits etc
21/09/12	WCC Minerals	Minerals planning	Meetings and consultation involvement
21/02/13-ongoing	RBC	DTC	Letters re: DTC
Spring 2013	WCC, Worcs authorities	Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Assessment(GTAA)	Jointly commissioned study to examine at future needs post 2013 (previous GTAA covers the period up to 2013)
06/13	RBC and infrastructure providers including utility companies	Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)	Joint collection of data from infrastructure providers. Joint Transport Section of IDP for both authorities.

DRAFT

South Staffordshire Council

Mike Dunphy
Strategic Planning Manager
Bromsgrove District Council
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

Please ask for: Kelly Harris

Direct Dial: (01902) 696317

Email: k.harris@sstaffs.gov.uk

29 August 2013

Dear Mr Dunphy,

South Staffordshire Local Plan 2006-2028 and the Bromsgrove District Plan 2011- 2030: Duty to Cooperate

Thank you for your letter dated 16th July 2013 regarding the preparation of your Local Plan and Duty to Cooperate. I concur with your view that at this point in time there are no strategic planning issues between our two authorities, but welcome the opportunity to maintain dialogue with you throughout the preparation of both our plans.

Yours sincerely

Kelly Harris
Local Plans Team Leader

Direct Line : 01789 260399
Fax :
e-mail : dave.nash@stratford-dc.gov.uk
My ref :
Your ref : RW/DTC
Date : 18 July 2013

Mike Dunphy
Strategic Planning Manager
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
B60 1AA

Paul Lankester
Chief Executive

Dear Mike

Bromsgrove District Plan 2011- 2030: Duty to Cooperate

Thank you for your letter dated 16 July.

I confirm that our previous discussions have identified two cross-boundary issues relevant to your Council and Redditch Borough Council, namely:

1) The "Eastern Gateway"- Winyates Green Triangle and Gorcott Hill
2) Housing in the vicinity of the A435 and Mappleborough Green to help meet the housing needs of Redditch.

My Council's Proposed Submission Core Strategy continues to make progress and, subject to a decision due to be made by full Council next Monday, we will shortly be carrying out a focused consultation on two key proposals that we wish to include in the strategy but upon which there has been no previous specific consultation. These involve a regeneration site in the town of Stratford-upon-Avon and a new settlement proposal within the M40 corridor between Leamington Spa and Banbury.

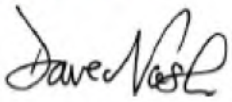
Our emerging plan incorporates proposals for the Redditch Eastern Gateway project and proposes the allocation of land for employment purposes at both Winyates Green Triangle and Gorcott Hill. It does not make any specific proposal for housing in the vicinity of the A435. There have been mixed messages concerning this issue, and to my mind there is no agreement about the role that any such development would play in meeting housing need.

Our current position is that there may be scope for some housing development along this corridor and within the Redditch Borough boundary, but that the scope on land within this District is very limited. It is constrained by landscape issues and the importance of retaining the identity and character of Mappleborough Green. We are proposing that the capacity for housing development in this vicinity will be assessed via our proposed Site Allocations DPD, but our current assumption is that development on land within this District will be limited and will be carried out to meet the housing needs of Mappleborough Green rather than Redditch.

There have been several attempts to arrange a meeting between the relevant stakeholders to discuss this further, but to date that has not come to fruition. I am copying this letter to Ruth Bamford at Redditch BC in anticipation that it may reinforce the need to convene that meeting so that we can jointly agree how we propose to take this matter forward.

The only other cross-boundary matter I'm aware of, and one that has been referred to only briefly in the past, is that of the implications running from development proposals north of Redditch on flooding and drainage associated with the River Arrow. I appreciate that given the requirement to incorporate sustainable drainage systems to serve such development there should not be an issue, and arguably there could be some betterment. Clearly the downstream communities including Studley and Alcester would wish that any opportunity to provide betterment be grasped, and we would request that the scope to achieve this whilst bringing forward the planned strategic growth should be fully considered.

Yours sincerely



Dave Nash
Planning and Housing Policy Manager

Copy to Ruth Bamford, Redditch BC

DRAFT

Wyre Forest District Council

Jonathan Elmer
Principal Planning Policy Officer
tel: 01562 732552
fax: 01562 732556
email: jonathan.elmer@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
my ref: JE/HET/FP-NA/BROM
your ref: RW/DTC
date: 24 July 2013

Bromsgrove District Council
(For the attention of Mike Dunphy)
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
B60 1AA

By Email

Dear Mike

Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030: Duty to Co-operate

Thank you for your letter dated 16th July 2013 regarding Bromsgrove's District Plan. It is noted from the accompanying key diagram that the majority of sites proposed by Bromsgrove District Council do not have a strategic impact on Wyre Forest District and appear to be well related to existing settlements within Bromsgrove.

With regard to the Duty to Co-operate, your letter identifies that *"it is not considered that there are any strategic issues which need detailed co-operation at this point."* Wyre Forest District Council would concur with this assessment of the current situation with regard to Bromsgrove District's Plan and the relationship with Wyre Forest and its Development Plan. It is noted from your letter that Bromsgrove District Council is proposing to undertake an early review of the plan, including a Green Belt Review, to identify a further 2,500 houses to meet the identified need. Wyre Forest District Council looks forward to actively engaging with Bromsgrove District Council on this matter and providing comments accordingly.

Continued/...

Economic Prosperity and Place Directorate
Wyre Forest House
Finepoint Way
Kidderminster
Worcs DY11 7WF

Mike Parker, Director of Economic Prosperity and Place

Wyre Forest District Council continues to have active and positive dialogue with all our neighbours, including Bromsgrove District Council, through a number of well established groups and working parties. Additionally, we have a shared interest in the regeneration of our areas through the North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration Service. This continued, pro-active collaboration between the two Councils helps to ensure that both authorities work together in a positive manner for the good of the area as a whole.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Elmer
Principal Planning Policy Officer

DRAFT

Redditch Borough Council
Town Hall,
Walter Stranz Square,
Redditch,
Worcestershire B98 8AH
tel: (01527) 64252
fax: (01527) 65216
minicom: 595528
dx: 19016 Redditch

Councillor R. Hollingworth
Leader of the Council
Bromsgrove District Council
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire
B60 1AA

Councillor Bill Hartnett
Leader of the Council
Redditch Borough Council

Thursday 5th July 2012

Dear Roger,

Duty to Co-operate – Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council

The Localism Act (S. 110) inserted a new section into the Planning and Compensation Act 2004 (S. 33A) called the 'Duty to Co-operate'. The 'Duty to Co-operate' is a legal obligation, which requires local authorities to co-operate with each other in relation to planning for sustainable development, in particular the preparation of development plan documents relating to a strategic matter.

The Act defines a strategic matter (within subsection 4) as *"sustainable development or use of land that has or would have a significant impact on at least two planning areas"*.

As you are aware, Redditch Borough's boundary is very close to the existing urban area, therefore restricting the capacity of the Borough to sustainably accommodate all identified development need within its boundaries. Redditch Borough Council considers that development need which cannot be accommodated within the Borough boundary could be sustainably located to the north/ north-west of Redditch, in Bromsgrove District, preferably contiguous to the boundary.

The Duty to Co-operate is a legal requirement of the plan making process. Both authorities must address the Duty in order for the two emerging plans to be found 'sound' at examination.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (paragraph 181) states that *'Local planning authorities will be expected to demonstrate evidence of having effectively cooperated to plan for issues with cross-boundary impacts when their Local Plans are submitted for examination'*. In accordance with this, local authorities will have to provide evidence that they have complied with the legal duty. The Planning Advisory Service (PAS) has suggested that there are various forms of evidence that can be produced to demonstrate the compliance with the Duty to Co-operate including:

- Memorandum of understanding;
- Statement of common ground;
- Shared or common evidence bases;

- Agrees shared policies; and
- Joint plans

PAS advises that evidence should be as formal as possible and must be reasonable and proportionate.

It is important to address this issue as soon as possible in the plan making process. The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) has clearly stated that they are unable to assist Local Authorities in resolving problems with the Duty to Co-operate, and that all issues must be resolved before plans are submitted for examination. This is evidenced in their most recent involvement with the City of York Core Strategy. In this instance the Inspector felt that not enough work had been done to identify the cross boundary sites that would be critical to the delivery of the plan. As a result, the City of York intends to withdraw its Core Strategy in order to allow time to prepare the additional evidence required.

It is the intention of this letter to establish the first formal agreement of joint working under the new 'Duty to Co-operate'. It would be very helpful if you could respond in agreement to this letter in order to progress with the collation of joint evidence to underpin what I hope will be two 'sound' plans.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

Kind regards

Councillor Bill Hartnett
Leader of the Council
Redditch Borough Council

DRA

Bromsgrove District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

From the Office of the Leader of the Council
The Council House, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove
Worcestershire B60 1AA
Telephone: (01527) 881400
Textphone: (01527) 881291
Fax: (01527) 881212
DX: 17279 Bromsgrove

Our ref: RH/WR

3rd August 2012

Councillor Bill Hartnett
Leader of Redditch Borough Council
Town Hall,
Walter Stranz Square,
Redditch
B98 8AH.

Dear Bill,

Duty To Co-operate - Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council

I write in response to your letter of the 5th July concerning the above.

Bromsgrove District Council is fully aware of its responsibility under the Duty to Co-operate introduced by the recent legislative changes, and with this in mind the Council will be happy to formally open discussions with Redditch Borough Council.

As you are aware, the issue of Bromsgrove District accommodating some of the growth needs of Redditch Borough within its administrative boundaries, is one which has challenged both Councils for a number of years without any resolution. Your request for joint working is a step closer to securing some certainty on this issue allowing both Councils to prepare and adopt sound development plans. As such Bromsgrove District Council officers have been instructed to continue working with Redditch Borough Council officers, in an attempt to find a mutually acceptable solution of accommodating the element of Redditch's growth needs which cannot be met within the Borough's boundaries.

I look forward to meeting to discuss the outcome of this work shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Hollingworth

Cllr Roger Hollingworth
Leader of Bromsgrove District Council

EQUALITY FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BUILDING PRIDE

Bromsgrove
District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

From the Office of the Leader of the Council
The Council House, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove
Worcestershire B60 1AA
Telephone: (01527) 881400
Textphone: (01527) 881291
Fax: (01527) 881212
DX: 17279 Bromsgrove

Our ref: RH/WR

21st February 2013

Councillor B. Hartnett
Leader Redditch Borough Council
Town Hall
Walter Stranz Square
Redditch
B98 8AH

Dear Councillor Hartnett

I write concerning the duty to cooperate agreement reached between the Councils last summer, and the subsequent events that took place at the respective Council meetings this week.

In response to the decision taken by Redditch Borough Council on the 18th February not to endorse the housing growth material for public consultation, Bromsgrove District Council considered a revised recommendation at its Council meeting on the 20th February.

Firstly, I can confirm that Council approved the Housing Growth Consultation document and decided to proceed with public consultation on Sites 1 and 2.

Secondly, Members considered the position of the two Councils under the duty to co-operate imposed by the Localism Act, and agreed that Redditch Borough Council should be asked to re-consider its position regarding the public consultation on cross border growth as a matter of urgency.

It is the view of Bromsgrove District Council that the evidence prepared by a joint team of planning officers, and which supports the development areas identified in the consultation material, is robust, and in accordance with the decisions taken by the Bromsgrove Cabinet and the Redditch Executive does not warrant any further amendments before consultation with the public.

To that effect, Bromsgrove District Council has resolved to delay the publication of the consultation in order to give sufficient time for Redditch Borough Council to respond to this request. It is still the wish of Bromsgrove District Council to carry out a joint consultation with Redditch as we firmly believe this is in the best interests of the residents in our respective authorities, and also in accordance with the duty to cooperate and the best principles of successful plan making.

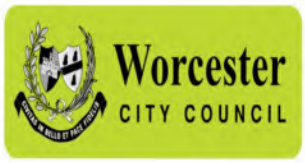
We hope that a positive response to this request will be forthcoming. However, in the event that Redditch Borough Council does not endorse the information for public consultation it is the intention of Bromsgrove District Council to publish this material on 1st April for a 6 week consultation period.

We look forward to your response and continued commitment to work together to achieve sound sustainable development plans for both Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Roger Hollingworth
Leader of Bromsgrove District Council

DRAFT



24th September 2013

Your reference RW/DTC

Mr M Dunphy
Strategic Panning Manager
Planning and Regeneration
Bromsgrove District Council
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire B60 1BJ

Dear Mike

Bromsgrove District Plan 2011 – 2013: Duty to Cooperate

Further to your letters of 16th July and 17th September 2013 I am replying on behalf of the South Worcestershire partner authorities with a response to the Duty to Cooperate consultation.

The South Worcestershire authorities welcome the opportunity to respond on this matter and I can confirm that we have been kept informed of the progress of the emerging Bromsgrove District Plan throughout formal consultations and via informal discussions between the authorities.

With respect to the preparation of the plan, the partner authorities are satisfied that there are no cross boundary matters of a strategic nature with respect to either sustainable development or the infrastructure requirements of South Worcestershire or Bromsgrove District which require a specific response in either the emerging Bromsgrove District Plan or the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP).

In particular the partner authorities agree that, at this time, there are no identified and tested unmet needs arising from Bromsgrove District for which you are seeking provision in South Worcestershire. Similarly, the South Worcestershire authorities

through the SWDP are not indicating that there any strategic housing, employment or infrastructure needs arising in South Worcestershire which need to be accommodated in Bromsgrove District.

You will be aware that the South Worcestershire partner authorities have conducted a review of the Green Belt within our plan making area, which included testing whether this element of West Midlands Green Belt, continues to meet its intended purposes. As an adjoining authority with contiguous Green Belt designation you will be aware that the emerging SWDP does not propose any major revisions to the adopted Green Belt in South Worcestershire and none that directly affect Green Belt within Bromsgrove District.

The South Worcestershire Authorities have considered carefully the policies and proposals of the emerging SWDP and consider that any issues associated with these for Bromsgrove represent essentially local issues of a non-strategic nature.

However, the partner authorities are keen to recognise the close cooperation and engagement that has taken place between the authorities which has included:

- Joint commissioning of the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2012) with an on-going commitment to support annual monitoring;
- Recent joint commissioning of a Worcestershire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment to support development plan production across the county;
- Joint input to the Worcestershire Infrastructure Strategy which will establish a co-ordinated picture of county wide strategic infrastructure requirements;
- Production of the Worcestershire CIL Viability Study (January 2013) and joint liaison during its production;
- Input to the development of the Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy and Action Plan
- Joint support for implementation of the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership's priorities and objectives, as set out in the LEP Business Plan, including a commitment to bring forward the LEP's 'game changer' sites.

The South Worcestershire partner authorities are conscious that their work and the work of other prescribed bodies such as the Highways Agency has had regard to cross boundary implications arising from proposed development in both plan making areas with respect to potential impact on the M5 motorway and its junctions , in particular junction 5.
Consideration has been given to cross boundary issues through the preparation of Strategic Flood Risk Assessments for South Worcestershire and Bromsgrove District which have both had regard to the potential flooding effects of proposed development ensuring that any existing flood conditions in adjoining areas are not worsened through implementation of the emerging development plans.

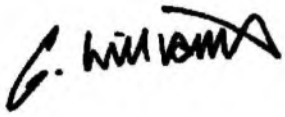
Informal cooperation is also provided through the joint working of the Worcestershire Planning Officers Group WOG), which has included providing joint representation at West Midlands regional planning events and meetings. This has recently included consideration at the Worcestershire level of joint input to the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership's (GBSLEP) proposal

to undertake a Housing Study for the GBSLEP, in which Bromsgrove District Council is also a partner.

On the basis of the above evidence the South Worcestershire partner authorities consider that the on-going requirements associated with the Duty to Cooperate have been and will continue to be met.

As the SWDP is about to enter the hearing phase of its preparation (starting 1st October 2013) it would be helpful if you could confirm your agreement with the description of the key activities undertaken.

Yours sincerely



Gary Williams
Head of Planning, Economy and Housing
Malvern Hills District Council
(on behalf of the South Worcestershire partner authorities)

DRAFT

We will consider reasonable requests to provide this document in accessible formats such as **large print, Braille, Moon, audio CD or tape or on computer CD**

"Need help with English?" Contact Worcestershire HUB, Bromsgrove 01527 881288

'Potrzebujesz pomocy z angielskim?' Skontaktuj się z Worcestershire HUB, Bromsgrove, tel.: 01527 881288

"İngilizce için yardıma ihtiyacınız var mı?" 01527 881288 numarayı arayıp Worcestershire HUB, Bromsgrove ile irtibata geçin

"ইংরাজির জন্য সাহায্য চাই ?" 01527 881288 নম্বরে উস্টাশায়ার হাব [HUB] ব্রমস্‌গ্রুভ [Bromsgrove]-এ টেলিফোন করুন

''ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਵਿਚ ਮੱਦਦ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ?'' ਵੁਰਸੈਸਟਰਸ਼ਾਇਰ ਹੱਬ [HUB] ਨੂੰ ਬਰੋਮਸਗ੍ਰੋ [Bromsgrove] ਵਿਖੇ 01527 881288 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ

"انگریزی میں مدد چاہتے ہیں؟" ورسیسٹر شائر ہب [HUB]، برومزگرو [Bromsgrove] میں 01527 881288 پر رابطہ کریں

Bromsgrove District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Planning and Regeneration
Strategic Planning
Bromsgrove District Council, The Council House
Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 1AA
Main Switchboard: (01527) 881288
Fax: (01527) 881313
DX: 17279 Bromsgrove
Email: strategicplanning@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk