

Bromsgrove District Council

Sustainability Appraisal

SCOPING & BASELINE REPORT

Planning in Bromsgrove
2008-2011

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Planning and
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Introduction

The spatial planning system has a key role in delivering sustainable development and reflecting the aspirations and priorities of local communities. As such to promote sustainable development it is essential that sustainability considerations are built into the preparation and adoption of plans. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) will report on the extent to which the implementation of plans will achieve the social, environmental and economic objectives by which sustainable development can be defined.

The undertaking of a SA is vital in the promotion of sustainable development and the better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. SA will not be a separate activity but an integral part of the plan making process in Bromsgrove

Purpose of this Report

This report will set the context, objectives and establish the baseline for deciding the scope of the sustainability appraisal. In particular it will;

- ➔ identify environmental, social and economic objectives and aims contained in other relevant plans and programmes.
- ➔ identify and assess the broad environmental, social and economic characteristics of Bromsgrove District, and how these may change.
- ➔ from evidence resulting from the above work, identify the key issues that the Local Development Framework should address in the pursuit of sustainable development.
- ➔ set a timetable for carrying out the sustainability appraisal, including objectives against which future options and policies can be assessed, and indicators to monitor the objectives.
- ➔ use findings as a basis for consultation on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

European Directive 2001/42/EC requires that planning authorities undertake an 'environmental assessment' of plans that are likely to have a significant affect upon the environment. This process is referred to as 'strategic environmental assessment' (SEA).

In respect of planning legislation requirements, the Planning and Compulsory Act (2004) requires that local planning authorities undertake a sustainability appraisal (SA) of all emerging Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents. As the SA and SEA processes are similar processes that involve a comparable series of steps, it is recommended that the SA and SEA processes are integrated.

It is also important though to note the difference between the two processes, while the SEA focuses on environmental effects the SA is concerned with the full range of environmental, social and economic matters. Due to the incorporation of SEA into the SA process a greater emphasis has been placed on environmental issues when defining appraisal objectives than would have otherwise have been done if only a SA had been undertaken.

Any future documentation produced by Bromsgrove District Council in respect of sustainability assessment/appraisal will incorporate the requirements of both items of legislation and be called Sustainability Appraisal (SA). While the combined process will be called Sustainability Appraisal it will be made clear in all documentation how the requirements of the European Directive will be or have been met.

Methodology

Sustainability Appraisal (which incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment) assesses the environmental, social and economic impact of Development Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents. This Scoping Report has been prepared in accordance with the 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks', issued in November 2005 and SEA Directive 42/2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004).

The principle of assessing the environmental consequences of plans is not new. However, what the SA and SEA process require is the use of an explicit and systematic method to comprehensively and impartially identify and assess the environmental consequences of planning documents produced by the Council.

The Scoping Report covers the first stage of the process, Stage A – Baseline. The Scoping Report will provide the scope and level of detail for the initial and, subsequently, the final Sustainability Appraisal and Environmental Report to ensure a robust and comprehensive Sustainability Framework process to appraise plan documents in subsequent stages.

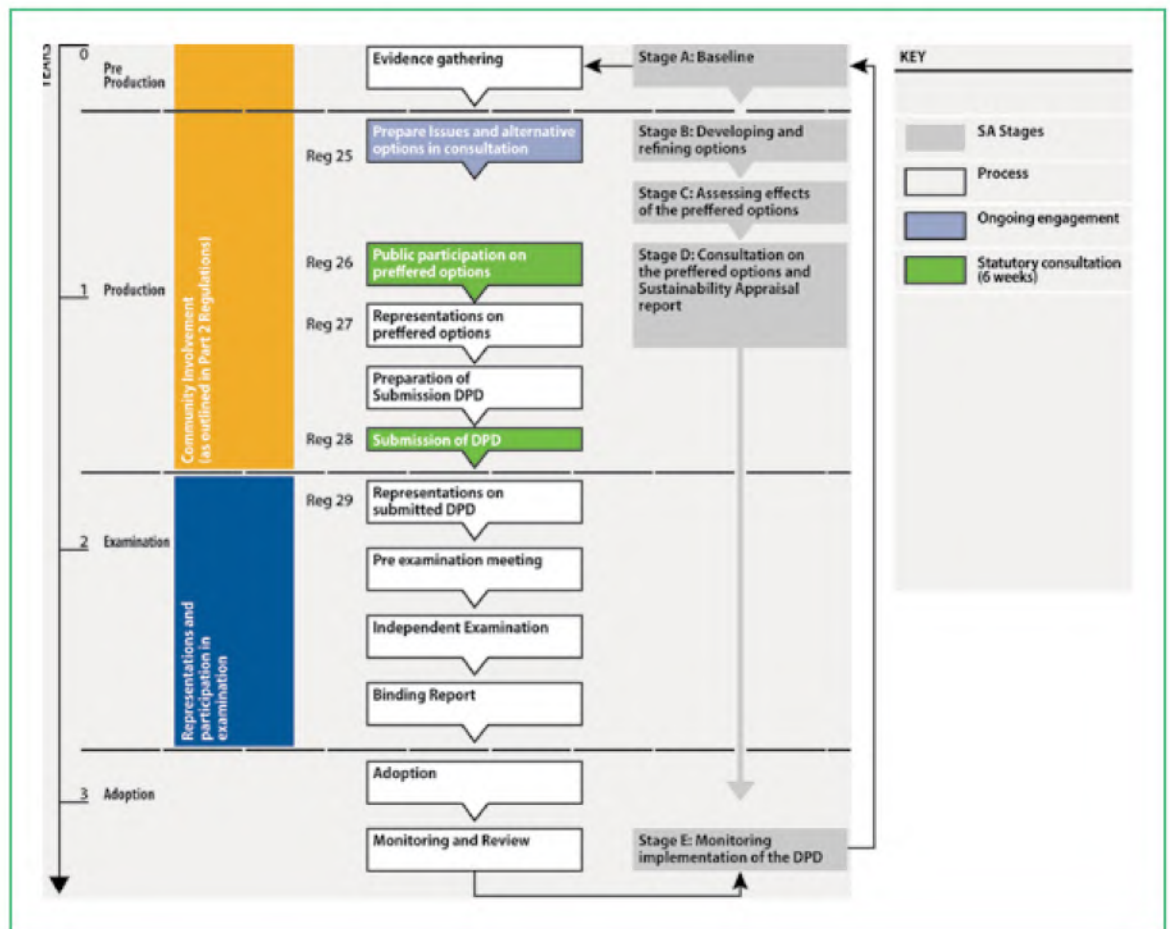


Section 1 Introduction



Programme and stages of Assessment

The Sustainability Assessment Process will run in parallel with the preparation of Local Development Documents. The diagram below highlights the different stages of assessment and they relate to the production of Development Plan Documents.



(ODPM, 2004)

Although the approach is presented as a sequence, relevant objectives, policies and proposals may be re-examined in light of information gathered through the SA process and in associated consultations.





The Council's Local Development Scheme sets out the timetable for production of Local Development Documents (LDDs). In respect of the Core Strategy which will be the key strategic document in the Local Development Framework the Council have the following timetable;

Timetable for production of the Core Strategy and links to the SA process

LDF Stage	Stage in SA Process	Dates
Evidence Gathering.	Develop Baseline Study and Scoping Report and consultation.	Ongoing.
Preparation of Issues and Options.	Developing and refining options.	Ongoing.
Consult on Issues and Options.	Consult on initial Sustainability Report.	August 2007.
Prepare Preferred Options.	Assess effects of preferred options.	September 2008.
Consultation on Preferred Options.	Consultation on Draft Sustainability Report.	Oct/Nov 2008.
Submission to Inspectorate.		June 2009.
Consultation on submission.	Consultation on Final Sustainability Report.	July 2009.
Adoption.		August 2010.
Monitor.	Monitoring implementation of Document.	Annual.

The Environmental/Sustainability Report

The Scoping Report will set the baseline and framework for assessing policy options. A Sustainability Appraisal Report will need to be prepared to document the findings of the assessment. This Report will be a key output of the SA/SEA process. The report will be prepared in stages, an initial report at the Core Strategy Issues and Options Stage, as necessary and full draft report at the Core Strategy Preferred Options Stage

In addition to information in the Scoping Report the Initial SA Report will set out:

- ➔ Any revisions of the plan objectives as a result of the initial SA process;
- ➔ When the appraisal was carried out, by whom, and who was consulted;
- ➔ The strategic options considered and how they were identified;
- ➔ Comparison of the social, environmental and economic effects of the options;
- ➔ How social, environmental and economic issues were considered in choosing the preferred options; and
- ➔ Proposed mitigation measures.

The Draft and Final SA Reports will be structured as follows;

1. Summary and outcomes
2. Appraisal Methodology
3. Background
4. Sustainability objectives, baseline and context
5. Plan issues and options and how they were identified
6. The effects of the preferred policies and mitigation measures
7. Implementation and proposals for monitoring





Consultation Strategy

To ensure a robust and comprehensive sustainability appraisal is undertaken it is important that as many stakeholders as possible have chance to contribute their knowledge and influence the process. Box 1 outlines the key consultation requirements of the SEA Directive. These will be adhered to throughout the SA/SEA process.

Box 1: Consultation Requirements of the SEA Directive

'Authorities which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programme... shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report.' (Article 5.4).

'The Authorities [with relevant environmental responsibilities] and the public... shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme... and the accompanying Environmental Report before the adoption of the plan or programme' (Article 6(2)).

'The environmental report... the opinions expressed [by consultees] and the results of any transboundary consultations... shall be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme... and before its adoption...' (Article 8).

'When a plan or programme... is adopted, the [environmental] authorities [and] the public... are informed and the following items [shall be] made available to those so informed: (a) the plan or programme... as adopted, (b) a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme... including the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with... and (c) the measures decided concerning monitoring' (Article 9(1)).

Consultation of Scoping Report

The Environment Agency, Natural England (now incorporating English Nature and Countryside Agency) and English Heritage are 'authorities are designated as bodies with environmental responsibilities' through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

A first stage scoping report was published in July 2005. Statutory consultees were also invited to a workshop on the scoping report with consultants in April 2005. Other agencies were also consulted to provide feedback on the environmental, social and economic aspects of the Scoping Report and included:

Environmental Consultees

- ➔ Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
- ➔ Severn Trent Water

Social Consultees

- ➔ Bromsgrove Local Strategic Partnership
- ➔ Worcestershire Education Authority
- ➔ Redditch and Bromsgrove Primary Care Trust
- ➔ West Mercia Police
- ➔ Bromsgrove District Council Highways Partnership

Economic Consultees

- ➔ The Redditch & Bromsgrove Chamber of Commerce
- ➔ Bromsgrove District Council Economic Development Officer
- ➔ Herefordshire & Worcestershire Learning Skills Council

The Statutory Consultees were reconsulted on this updated scoping report for a 5 week period.



Section 1 Introduction



This updated Scoping Report will be made available to members of the public and sent to relevant local groups. The report will also be posted on the Council's website and be available to download free of charge.

Consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Report

To meet the requirements of the SEA Directive the consultation bodies together with other stakeholders and the public will be consulted at appropriate stages throughout the production of the LDF documents and SA Report. Responses will be encouraged through the provision of feedback forms. The Council will take into account the responses received during each consultation process and publish its responses to the Preferred Options Plan and Draft SA Report at the same time as submission of the documents to the Secretary of State. A series of questions are detailed below which provide a framework on which to base responses.

1. Do you consider there to be any other relevant plans, policies, programmes or objectives that may affect or influence the Core Strategy DPD other than those identified?
2. Are you aware of any relevant baseline data which is not set out in this report?
3. Are you aware of any inaccuracies in the information set out in this report?
4. Are you aware of any other sustainability issues for which evidence can be provided that should be considered in the SA report?
5. Do you consider that the SA objectives are suitable or do you consider that any should be added/removed?

The Council will clearly state their response to each representation and how it has or has not affected the production of the final document and reasons why. The table on the next page summaries the consultation process.





Summary table of Consultation Process

Consultation Stage and Objectives (LDF stage in brackets)	Document	Consultation bodies/groups	Methods of Consultation
Determination the plan requires SEA.	None.	Statutory bodies.	Letters.
Decision on scope and level of detail of the assessment.	Scoping Report.	Statutory bodies. Other relevant agencies and bodies. Identified Stakeholders. General Public.	Letters. Website. Workshop.
Initial sustainability appraisal of broad options (Issues and Options).	Initial SA Report.	Relevant agencies and bodies. Identified Stakeholders. General Public.	Letters. Website. Public displays.
Sustainability and environmental assessment of options and identification of preferred option (Preferred Options).	Draft SA Report.	Statutory bodies. Other relevant agencies and bodies. Identified Stakeholders. General Public.	Letters. Website. Press notice. Workshop. Public displays.
Publication of proposed plan taking account of views (Submission Document).	Submission SA.	Statutory bodies. Other relevant agencies and bodies. Identified Stakeholders. General Public.	Letters. Website. Press notice. Workshop. Public displays.
Publication of final report after period of independent examination (Adopted).	SA Report.	Adopted documents made available to Statutory bodies, stakeholders and the public.	Website. Letters. Press notice.





Introduction

Before an assessment is made of how policies in the LDF contribute to sustainable development, sufficient information about the current and likely future state of the District needs to be collected to allow the plan's or programme's effects to be adequately predicted. This baseline information contained in Appendix 1 will provide the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and help to identify sustainability issues and problems.

From this it will be possible to devise 'sustainability objectives' against which plans and policies in the LDF can be tested to examine how they contribute to sustainable development. Initially this baseline will relate to strategic issues to reflect that the first document the Council will be producing will be the Core Strategy.

The study has been split into the following topics which reflect the requirements of both the Sustainability Appraisal regulations and the Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Social Characteristics of the District

- ➔ Population
- ➔ Deprivation
- ➔ Community Safety
- ➔ Housing
- ➔ Education
- ➔ Transport
- ➔ Culture and Leisure

Economic Characteristics of the District

- ➔ Economy
- ➔ Material Assets

Environmental Characteristics of the District

- ➔ Biodiversity
- ➔ Landscape
- ➔ Air Quality
- ➔ Noise
- ➔ Soil and Land Quality
- ➔ Water Quality and Flooding
- ➔ Waste
- ➔ Climate Change
- ➔ Health
- ➔ Historic Environment

Summary Profile of the District

The Bromsgrove District covers approximately 21,714 hectares and at 2001 had a population of 87,837, (2001 Census). The population of Bromsgrove was projected to increase to around 91500 by 2007 falling back steadily to about 90800 by 2011.

Bromsgrove District remains largely rural, although it supports a varied and dynamic economy based on a range of small and medium sized businesses.

The area is well served by motorways, the M5 running north to south and the M42 from east to west. These routes connect with the M6 to the north of Birmingham and the M40 to the east. The District is also well served by train connections with a number of commuter routes passing through the District into Birmingham. Due to these links and the attractiveness of the area historically as a desirable place to live has resulted in sustained inward migration from the nearby conurbation.

Due to excellent strategic links the area has also become attractive to businesses considering expansion, relocation or establishing for the first time. As a result and combined with inward migration, there is continuing pressure to meet increased demand for leisure, health, education, housing and other personal and social requirements. The need for an improved highway network and better local transport facilities are inextricably linked to these developments.

Summary Analysis

Introduction

Below is a summary of the key environmental and sustainability issues arising from the baseline characterisation study. The full characterisation study is contained in Appendix 1. Following the analysis there are two summary tables. The first table details the key issues that have arisen from the study and possible cumulative or synergistic effects that could arise. The second table states potential indicators that could be used to measure the baseline.



Section 2 *Baseline Characterisation*



Social Analysis

The District has a rising population with a slightly higher older population than the national average. This older population has implications for service delivery including, accessible transport options for the less mobile, suitable housing for the needs of the older person and increasing demands on health facilities. Therefore, the Local Development Framework (LDF) will need to taken account of the specific needs of the District's slightly older population.

The LDF also has a role to play in providing the framework within which regeneration and renewal can take place. Although, generally the District has low instances of deprivation compared to other areas of the West Midlands, barriers to housing and services is identified as an issue of deprivation in rural areas. The provision of housing that meets the needs of rural communities and access to services, including public transport, jobs, healthcare etc are issues that need to be addressed.

Bromsgrove is generally a safe place to live. However, as with many other parts of the Country, it is the fear of crime that is a concern rather than actual incidences of crime. The LDF can play a key role in ensuring safe neighbourhoods and development that designs out crime. Reducing fear of crime can also lead to less car use and potentially a healthier population.

It is clear from the housing study that the District has an under provision of social housing accommodation. This could be due to a number of factors including, lack of affordable and available land, too much market housing compared to affordable housing and little on site affordable housing provision on market housing schemes. The level of in-migration pressure for affordable housing also needs consideration. Whatever the cause it is a serious issue that needs to be tackled through the LDF. Lack of future provision could have serious implications for the creation of sustainable mixed communities in the District.

To ensure that the countryside is protected and greenfield sites are not unnecessarily used for development then current high use of brownfield land will need to be continued with future growth linked to the availability of brownfield sites. However, due to the finite amount of brownfield land available new development cannot always be accommodated on brownfield land. This also has implications for the quality of local environments and an appropriate balance needs to be struck between the use of brownfield and greenfield sites.

Environmental Analysis

The concentration of new development on brownfield sites not only protects the open aspect of the Green Belt but also it ensures the quality of the environment and important areas of biodiversity in the District are protected. However brownfield sites are not always devoid of wildlife and comprehensive assessments should be taken of these sites prior to development and mitigation measures implemented where appropriate.

The District has a high amount of car use compared to public transport. This is perhaps partly explained by the proximity of the district to the West Midlands conurbation and the employment opportunities it contains, the District's rural character and the excellent motorway and A road network. Improvements need to be made to the public transport infrastructure to try and halt the upward trend in car use.

It is essential that options are provided in the District for the cultural and leisure needs of the population so as to promote sustainable communities and to reduce travel. The provision of facilities that meet the needs of the population and are easily accessible is vital to reduce travel and impact on the environment. The District also attracts visitors, primarily from the conurbation, who explore the District's special landscape features such as the Lickey Hills. A choice of travel modes should be available for such visitors. A balance should be struck between the value of maintaining allotments against the need to find land for development in sustainable locations.

The District has a landscape dominated by the Lickey and Clent Hills which form a natural barrier between the District and the Conurbation. The rest of the District is characterised by farmland and small woodlands. Trees play a very important role in the character of the District whether in woods or single urban trees. Accessibility to important landscape features must be balanced against their protection. Balance must also be achieved between maintaining the historic farmland character of the area and promoting diversification in the rural environment.



Section 2 *Baseline Characterisation*



While the District has an efficient and comprehensive road system the consequences of this are the pollution effects that high traffic incidences create. The Council has one Air Quality Management Area and has produced a strategy to improve the air quality in this area. The LDF will have a role in improving air quality in this location and throughout the District via the promotion of more sustainable development patterns. However there are limits to what can be done within the District as most of the traffic passes through the District due to the presence of the two motorways. Increasing traffic on the main routes through the District also poses noise pollution issues. Most residents of the main urban area in the District can hear and are affected by road noise. Localised pollution is also caused by closed landfill sites.

Although the global issue of climate change is being addressed at national and international levels, it is recognised that each individual can help in reducing the effects through changes in lifestyle including reducing the number, frequency and length of journeys by, for example, private car, aeroplane, choice in purchases and recycling attitudes. On a local level the improvement and promotion of public transport, business practices, new building techniques etc, can all help to reduce the effects.

It is important to monitor the levels and amount of localised flooding that occurs especially that caused by water run-off. Bromsgrove is on the head of the River catchment for the Spadesbourne Brook which flows into the River Salwarpe. Due to its geographical location the area does not have wide floodplains, however parts of Bromsgrove are affected by fluvial flooding. Culvert blockages and debris together with reservoirs, surface water and canals can also be a source of flooding. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems can play an important role in reducing run-off and preventing pollution of water courses. The impacts of climate change are of relevance in relation to flooding particularly due to the incidence of more intensive rainfall events.

The District is constantly changing and further changes including the redevelopment of the town centre will have a major effect on the image of historic character of Bromsgrove Town. An Area Action Plan for the town centre is being prepared with issues and options currently being examined. Outside the major urban areas there are remnants of historic farmsteads that are also important. The massive growth that has occurred in the District since the 2nd World War has, to some extent, over time diluted the historic character and form of many of the settlements.

The District has a relatively healthy population in respect of illness. However this does not take account of how fit the population is or how much physical exercise is taken. For example, whilst males have a higher life expectancy than males in Worcestershire or England life expectancy for females is slightly lower. Furthermore, the mortality rate from circulatory diseases decreased by 19% between 2001-2003 and 2003-2005 whereas the mortality rate from suicide increased by 18%.

(source: www.communityhealthprofiles.info2006) The promotion of good health must be seen in a wider context than the incidences of illness or the provision of health and leisure facilities/ associated land use implications of this. The LDF needs to help shape the commercial and cultural environment we live in, so that it is easier to choose a healthy lifestyle. This can be through discouraging the use of the private car and encouraging exercise through walking and cycling.

Economic Analysis

The District has a diverse economy. Historically the District's economy has been based on farming. While this does continue, over time as new employment areas have emerged then the economy has changed and the majority of jobs are not situated in the urban areas. There appears to be an imbalance between the type of jobs and pay available in Bromsgrove to the average wages of its population. Employment sectors with higher paid jobs need to be encouraged to stay or locate in the District so as to correct this imbalance and reduce the daily flow of the population to other employment centres which is unsustainable.





Potential Transboundary Impacts

The SEA Directive requires transboundary issues to be addressed within the SA/SEA. Specifically this refers to impacts upon other member states of the EU, although good practice relates this to neighbouring authorities in the case of development planning. A number of key environmental and sustainability issues for Bromsgrove District relate directly to neighbouring authorities. These were discussed during a workshop with neighbouring authorities in April 2005. The key issues are as follows:

Housing: The RSS Phase 2 Revision identifies a need for an additional 2100 dwellings to be provided in the District up to 2026. It identifies Redditch as a Settlement of Significant Development (SSD) with a projected need for 6600 dwellings in a corresponding period. Since Redditch does not physically have the capacity to accommodate such growth within its boundaries, the adjoining districts of Stratford Upon Avon and Bromsgrove will be called upon to identify locations for growth equating to 3300 dwellings adjacent to the boundary of Redditch. Bromsgrove land adjacent to the boundary of Redditch is all classified as green belt land. Bromsgrove is currently facing an oversupply of housing with the result that no general housing is currently being allowed. This has the effect of shifting the housing burden to neighbouring authorities, in particular Worcester. The location of housing and commuting patterns between the districts and the Birmingham conurbation, and the associated environmental and sustainability effects is a particular issue that should be afforded attention during the development planning process.

Commuting: Bromsgrove lies within the commuter belt for the Birmingham conurbation and is an attractive place to live for higher paid workers from the city. This is an issue shared by neighbouring authorities. It can have the effect of causing house prices to rise and consequently reduce the affordability of housing. Furthermore, the economic benefits of the residents of Bromsgrove tend to remain in the major urban centres. Traffic congestion is a further knock-on effect of these commuting patterns. The District is crossed by two major motorways and several major 'A' roads which feed to and from Birmingham. Increased congestion, particularly across the borders has a direct effect on environmental quality in the District and in neighbouring authorities.

The Local Transport Plan for Worcestershire (2006-2011) was published in March 2006 and has been submitted to Government. New documents produced as part of the Local Development Framework will need to link to the Transport Plan to try and reduce the need to travel and promote more sustainable means of travel.

Closure of the Longbridge Plant: The economic and employment effects resulting from the closure of the Rover Plant at Longbridge has been felt not only in Bromsgrove but also in neighbouring districts which supplied a workforce and the knock-on effect on supply chain industries throughout the county and the West Midlands. An Area Action Plan has been developed for this site in conjunction with Birmingham City Council with the preferred option likely to be submitted in the near future. A variety of uses are proposed for this large site including a High Technology Park and a new local centre, which includes retail, office, leisure and residential uses.

Relationships between issues and potential cumulative effects

The table below highlights any possible relationships between issues and the potential effects of these relationships. In the future the SA process will assess the cumulative effects of proposed plan policies against sustainability objectives.

SOCIAL TOPICS

Topic/Issue	Related Topics/ Issues	Comments on potential direct and/or indirect effects
S1 - Population.	S2, S4, S5, S6, S7, EV3, EV7, EV9, EC1.	The cumulative effect of an increasing population from both inward migration and birth rates is having an effect on a number of other issues. In particular, housing need, provision of education and transport infrastructure, air and noise quality and waste production. The increasing age in population in Bromsgrove can be attributed to in migration, improving health care provisions and a decline in traditional industries over time.



Section 2 Baseline Characterisation



SOCIAL TOPICS *continued*

Topic/Issue	Related Topics/ Issues	Comments on potential direct and/or indirect effects
S2 - Deprivation.	S1, S3, S4, S5, S6, EV9, EC1.	Deprivation can be linked to a low paying local economy, unaffordable housing, low education levels and a poor local natural and built environment. As such the cumulative effect of these can result in increasing levels of deprivation.
S3 - Community Safety.	S2, EV2, EC1.	The cumulative impact of poor and inadequate housing, a poor natural and built environment and deprivation can lead to increasing crime levels and a fear of crime. This may have been exacerbated by the increase in elderly population.
S4 - Housing.	S1, S2, S6, EV1, EV2, EV4, EV5, EV6, EV7, EV8, EV9, EC1.	A secondary effect of flood protection measures within a new housing scheme could mean that flooding could occur in other parts of the District and beyond. Combined with the effect on the landscape of developing housing on greenfield sites in Bromsgrove a secondary effect may be that brownfield sites in urban areas are not redeveloped, with a negative impact on biodiversity. The cumulative development of houses and associated development such as road improvements can lead to loss of tranquillity, an increase in, air and noise pollution and strain on local services.
S5 - Education.	S1, S2, S7, EV9, EC1.	The cumulative impact of developing a number of school sites at the same time can lead to significant changes in traffic movements and significant increase in brownfield land availability in the urban areas (compared to previous land availability rates). The need to increase educational provisions has, over time, been derived from increased population through inward migration.
S6 - Transport.	S1, S2, S4, S7, EV1, EV2, EV3, EV4, EV8, EV9, EC1.	A reduction in waste, less transport use and more sustainable use of material assets will contribute to lessening the negative impacts of climate change. Increased traffic over time has resulted from increased car ownership (potentially as a result in reduction in bus services) which has resulted in poorer air quality within the AQMA.
S7 - Culture and Leisure.	S1, S5, S6, EV1, EV2, EV10.	The cumulative impact of a growing population and better transport access can lead to increased demand and support for increased leisure and cultural facilities. However increased demand can result in increase pressure for land to develop new facilities resulting in pressure on the existing natural and built landscape.

ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS

Topic/Issue	Related Topics/ Issues	Comments on potential direct and/or indirect effects
EV1 - Biodiversity.	S4, S6, S7, EV2, EV5, EV6, EV7, EV8, EV9.	The infilling of brownfield sites and better use of urban land can lead to habitat fragmentation, although focussing development upon brownfield sites should lead to the safeguarding of biodiversity on Greenfield sites. The protection of biodiversity and landscape can be intrinsically linked. A variety of impacts relating to air quality, noise water and land pollution, increase in traffic etc. can all combine to impact upon the districts biodiversity.



Section 2 Baseline Characterisation



ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS *continued*

Topic/Issue	Related Topics/ Issues	Comments on potential direct and/or indirect effects
EV2 - Landscape.	S3, S4, S6, S7, EV1, EV5, EV6, EV7, EV8, EV9, EV10.	The cumulative impact of a rising population and associated housing and infrastructure needs, unless properly managed, can have a detrimental impact on the landscape, in terms of land take, increased noise and visual impact. Impacts upon townscape and associated cultural heritage features can also be affected in the same way, particularly if development is to be focused around urban areas.
EV3 - Air Quality.	S1, S6, EV4, EV7, EV8, EV9, EC1.	<p>The synergistic effect of having better air quality, water quality, lower deprivation, a tranquil living environment and accessible leisure opportunities can lead to a healthier population.</p> <p>The growth of the economy, population to support it and also the development of additional supporting transport infrastructure have all cumulatively lead to lower air quality, particularly within the AQMA. Impacts upon the AQMA are also likely to be as a result of through traffic and transboundary effects rather than purely as a result of traffic generated from Bromsgrove.</p>
EV4 - Noise.	S4, S6, EV3, EV9.	High incidences of noise adjacent to the M42 results from the cumulative impact of traffic increases.
EV5 - Soil and Land Quality.	S4, EV1, EV2, EV6, EV7.	Increased development can place pressure on existing watercourses leading to flooding of good quality farming land so reducing soil quality. This is driven by population increases. An increase in reuse of brownfield sites and the associated remediation should have reduced the amount of contaminated land over time.
EV6 - Water Quality and Flooding.	S4, EV1, EV2, EV5, EV8.	Incremental development of housing on high density brownfield sites and associated infrastructure can lead to increased runoff and pressure on the drainage system leading to localised flooding and also higher water levels in brooks passing through the District. The cumulative impacts of climate change and its causes and an increase in urban development may lead to increased flood risk.
EV7 - Waste.	S1, S4, EV1, EV2, EV3, EV5, EV8, EC1, EC2.	A reduction in waste, less transport use and more sustainable use of material assets may mitigate against the impact of climate change.
EV8 - Climate Change.	S4, EV1, S6, EV2, EV3, EV6, EV7, EV9, EV10, EC1, EC2.	Climate change is a cumulative effect of the release of greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to transport, housing and the economy. Although the impacts of Bromsgrove District specifically cannot be measured accurately, it is likely that over time the cumulative causes of climate change will have been contributed to by Bromsgrove District.
EV9 - Health.	S1, S2, S4, S5, EV1, S6, EV2, EV3, EV4, EV8, EC1.	The cumulative impact of increased journeys by car resulting from poor public transport access, poor local retail choices, a badly designed local environment, an ageing population and poor access to green spaces can together lead to a decline in the health of the population over time. This may, to some extent have been offset by improvements in health care.



Section 2 *Baseline Characterisation*



ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS *continued*

Topic/Issue	Related Topics/ Issues	Comments on potential direct and/or indirect effects
EV10 - Historic Environment.	S7, EV2, EV8, EC1, EC2.	The cumulative impact of additional traffic and the resulting poor air quality and increased noise levels over time may lead to a deterioration of the fragile fabric of historic buildings. The cumulative effects of very small impacts upon the landscape can have a large impact upon the overall historic landscape character.

ECONOMIC TOPICS

Topic/Issue	Related Topics/ Issues	Comments on potential direct and/or indirect effects
EC1 - Economy.	S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, EV3, EV7, EV8, EV9, EV10, EC2.	High levels of employment result from good transport connections, affordable housing, inward investment, a trained workforce and a diverse local economy. As such the synergy of these factors have worked together to create high levels of employment and all the associated benefits to the individual and society.
EC2 - Material Assets.	EV7, EV8, EV10, EC1.	A reduction in waste, less transport use and more sustainable use of material assets may assist in mitigating the impact of climate change.

Potential indicators to measure the baseline

The table below details indicators that could be used to measure the baseline of each topic/issue and the source of the data.

SOCIAL TOPICS

Topic/Issue	Potential Indicators	Data Sources
S1 - Population.	2001 census. Countywide Population projections.	Office of National Statistics 2001 Census. Worcestershire County Council population projections.
S2 - Deprivation.	Index of multiple deprivation. Benefit Claimants.	ODPM indices of deprivation. Office of National Statistics 2001 Census.
S3 - Community Safety.	Number of recorded crimes per 1000 population. Types of crimes recorded. Levels of people who fear crime.	Home Office National Crime Statistics. Home Office National Crime Statistics. Worcestershire County Council, Citizens Panel. West Mercia Crime and Safety Survey October 2006.



Section 2 *Baseline Characterisation*



SOCIAL TOPICS *continued*

Topic/Issue	Potential Indicators	Data Sources
S4 - Housing.	<p>Housing completions.</p> <p>Number of affordable homes built.</p> <p>Number of persons registered as homeless.</p> <p>Average House price.</p> <p>Average House price against earnings.</p>	<p>Bromsgrove District Council, Housing land availability.</p> <p>AMR reports.</p> <p>BDC Strategic Housing.</p> <p>Land Registry.</p> <p>Land Registry / New Earnings Survey.</p>
S5 - Education.	<p>Performance of districts schools.</p> <p>% of school leavers attending Higher Education.</p> <p>% of the Districts school leavers with 5 A*-C GCSE's.</p> <p>% of the District's population with a FE/HE qualification.</p> <p>Completion of new schools under PFI.</p> <p>Number and percentage of applications permitted which contribute towards education facilities.</p>	<p>DfES School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.</p> <p>Office of National Statistics 2001 Census.</p> <p>Worcestershire LEA.</p> <p>S.106 monitoring.</p>
S6 - Transport.	<p>Number of trips made by public transport.</p> <p>Modal split of transport methods.</p> <p>Methods of travel to work.</p> <p>Length of districts cycle ways.</p> <p>Daily motor vehicle flows.</p> <p>Amount and percent of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of areas of employment (500 or more jobs).</p>	<p>Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2.</p> <p>Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2.</p> <p>Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2.</p> <p>Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2.</p> <p>Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2.</p> <p>County accessibility mapping.</p>
S7 - Culture and Leisure.	<p>No of visitors to districts tourist attractions.</p> <p>% of jobs in the Tourism sector.</p> <p>Hectares of open space per 1000 population.</p> <p>Participation in cultural and sporting activities.</p> <p>No. of sporting pitches per 1000 population.</p>	<p>Bromsgrove District Council.</p> <p>Bromsgrove District Council.</p> <p>Bromsgrove District Council.</p>





ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS

Topic/Issue	Potential Indicators	Data Sources
EV1 - Biodiversity.	<p>Condition of SSSIs.</p> <p>Biodiversity action plan targets.</p> <p>Number of applications refused/amended/conditional due to potential adverse impact on natural environment features or wildlife.</p> <p>% of LPA area that is open space or countryside and is protected by one or more planning policy.</p> <p>Number of veteran trees lost.</p> <p>Number of sites designated for nature conservation lost to new development.</p>	<p>Natural England SSSI information.</p> <p>Bromsgrove District Biodiversity action plan.</p> <p>Bromsgrove District Council.</p> <p>Bromsgrove District Council.</p>
EV2 - Landscape.	<p>Planning permissions affecting AGLVs/ Landscape protection areas and Green Belt locations.</p> <p>Broadscale approach to measuring change in the character of the countryside.</p> <p>No of applications refused, amended or conditioned because of their impact on Landscape Character.</p> <p>% of LPA area included within an up to date Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p>Hectares of land granted planning permission for Change of Use from agricultural use.</p>	<p>Bromsgrove District Council.</p> <p>Natural England's Countryside Quality Counts Initiative.</p> <p>WCC.</p>
EV3 - Air Quality.	<p>No of Days per year of air pollution high/moderate.</p> <p>Levels of NO2 emissions.</p> <p>Designation of AQMAs and exceedence of air quality management plan limit.</p> <p>No of AQMA's in the District.</p>	<p>Bromsgrove District Council local air quality management report.</p> <p>Lickey End Air Quality Management Action Plan.</p> <p>Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2.</p>
EV4 - Noise.	<p>Vehicle flows through urban areas.</p> <p>Number of noise related complaints received.</p>	<p>Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2.</p> <p>Bromsgrove District Council Environmental Health section.</p>
EV5 - Soil and Land Quality.	<p>% of new development on Previously developed land.</p> <p>No of contaminated land sites.</p> <p>No of developments built on contaminated land.</p>	<p>Bromsgrove District Council.</p> <p>Bromsgrove District Council.</p> <p>Bromsgrove District Council.</p>



Section 2 *Baseline Characterisation*



ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS *continued*

Topic/Issue	Potential Indicators	Data Sources
EV6 - Water Quality and Flooding.	Quality of rivers, canals, freshwater bodies.	Environment agency General Quality Assessment (GQA) of Rivers.
	Number of planning permissions granted on flood plains or major aquifers and/or contrary to EA advice.	Bromsgrove District Council.
	Number of new development incorporating SUDS.	Bromsgrove District Council.
	Abstraction rates by purpose/data from water meters.	Environment Agency.
	Properties at risk from flooding.	BDC/WCC/EA.
	No of homes built in flood zones 2 and 3.	BDC/WCC/EA.
	No of homes affected by flood events.	BDC/WCC/EA.
	Percentage of developments incorporating SUDS.	BDC DC or BC.
EV7 - Waste.	Household waste collection per year.	
	%/Amount of Waste Recycled per year.	
	%/Amount of waste gone to landfill.	BDC DC.
	% of developments incorporating recycling facilities.	BDC DC.
	%/Amount of waste composted.	
	%/Amount of waste incinerated sent to waste energy plants.	EA.
EV8 - Climate Change.	No of new developments with energy efficient Design.	Bromsgrove District Council.
	% of new developments incorporating on site renewable energy generation.	Bromsgrove District Council.
	Transport related emissions.	Bromsgrove District Council local air quality management report.
	Industry related emissions.	
	CO2 emissions by sector End User Local and Regional Estimates of Carbon Emissions.	DEFRA.
	Countrywide CO2 emissions.	British Gas.
	CO2 emissions from new development.	Eco Homes standards.



Section 2 *Baseline Characterisation*



ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS *continued*

Topic/Issue	Potential Indicators	Data Sources
EV9 - Health.	Life expectancy.	Office of National Statistics 2001 Census.
	Percentage of population describing their health as good.	Office of National Statistics 2001 Census.
	% of residents with limiting long term illness.	Office of National Statistics 2001 Census.
	Death from circulatory disease, cancer and respiratory disease.	National Statistics.
	Access to a GP.	
	Number of homes within 800 metres of a doctors surgery.	District GGP mapping system.
	Number of homes within 800 metres of a dental surgery.	District GGP mapping system.
	Number of homes within 800 metres of an open space area.	District GGP mapping system.
	% of residents taking at least 30 Minutes exercise at least three times a week.	Sport England.
	% of residents suffering from mental health problems.	National Statistics.
Life expectancy.	National Statistics.	
EV10 - Historic Environment.	Number of Listed Buildings (all grades).	Bromsgrove District Council.
	Number and % of Listed Buildings at risk (all grades).	
	Number of Scheduled Monuments.	Bromsgrove District Council.
	Number of Scheduled Monuments (at risk).	
	Number of Registered Parks and Gardens.	Bromsgrove District Council.
	Number of Registered Parks and Gardens (at risk).	BAR register.
	Places of Worship at risk.	
	Number of Conservation Areas and % of Built Environment covered by conservation Areas.	Bromsgrove District Council.
	% of Conservation Areas with an up to date character appraisal.	Bromsgrove District Council.
	% of Conservation Areas with published management proposals.	
	Number of planning applications received for work in conservation areas/on listed buildings.	
% of planning applications for which archaeological mitigation strategies were developed and implemented.		



Section 2 *Baseline Characterisation*



ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS *continued*

Topic/Issue	Potential Indicators	Data Sources
EV10 - Historic Environment <i>continued.</i>	<p>Number of actions taken in response to breach of Listed Building/Conservation Area consents.</p> <p>Number of locally listed buildings.</p> <p>Number and % of locally listed buildings at risk.</p> <p>Number of derelict historic buildings brought back into use.</p> <p>Number of visits to historic sites.</p>	

ECONOMIC TOPICS

Topic/Issue	Potential Indicators	Data Sources
EC1 - Economy.	<p>Employment figures.</p> <p>Employment land supply.</p> <p>Town Centre Vacancy rates.</p> <p>Number of VAT registered businesses.</p> <p>% of the resident population who are economically active.</p> <p>Number of Benefit claimants, job seekers, family credit etc.</p> <p>Survival rates for VAT registered businesses.</p> <p>% of new retail developments located in town centres.</p>	<p>Office of National Statistics 2001 Census.</p> <p>Bromsgrove District Council, Employment land availability report.</p> <p>Bromsgrove District Council.</p> <p>Worcestershire Economic Assessment.</p>
EC2 - Material Assets.	<p>Energy use of buildings.</p> <p>Use of motor vehicles by employees for work purposes (in miles).</p> <p>Area of Green Belt land lost to development.</p> <p>Number/area of homes and employment sites on previously developed land.</p>	<p>Bromsgrove District Council.</p>



Section 3 *The Local Development Framework and other plans and strategies*



Introduction

The content of plans produced as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) will be influenced by the social, environmental or economic objectives of other relevant plans and strategies. It is essential that the LDF objectives reflect the land use and development objectives of other strategies and plans. Spatial expression will therefore need to be given to those elements of other relevant strategies and programmes which relate to the use and development of land.

This Section identifies relevant international, national, regional, county and local plans and strategies that the Bromsgrove LDF will need to have regard to. Appendix 2 contains a table summarising the impact of each document on the LDF. This table documents relevant aims, objectives and targets and implications for both the Local Development Framework and Sustainability Appraisal. These are not exhaustive lists as other strategies and programmes will be produced and existing ones reviewed which could influence the production of the Bromsgrove LDF.

International treaties or strategies influencing the Local Development Framework

The LDF will need to reflect the requirements of relevant international strategies, treaties and legislation. The requirements of international treaties and strategies have generally been incorporated into national policy guidance. However it is still useful to identify relevant international treaties or strategies and how they may effect the preparation of the Bromsgrove LDF.

International treaty or strategy	Comments
The Rio declaration on Environment and Development 1992.	Committed countries to the principles of sustainable development. Incorporated into national and regional planning guidance.
The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development 2002.	Re-affirmed nations' commitment to sustainable development. Incorporated into national and regional planning guidance.
Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice: The EU Sixth Environmental Action Plan.	Aims for high level of protection of the environment and human health, and for general improvement in the environment and quality of life. Translated into national planning guidance.
EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.	Member states must take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species. General aims have been translated into national and regional guidance.
The Appropriate Assessment (Regulation 48) The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994.	Imposes requirement to consider the significant effect of any proposal on a European site and to make an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the site in view of that sites conservation objectives.
EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC.	A framework for the conservation of wild birds. Translated into national and regional guidance.
European Biodiversity Strategy The Convention on Biological Diversity 1998.	This strategy aims to anticipate, prevent and attack the causes of significant reduction or loss of biodiversity at the source. Incorporated into local biodiversity action plans.
The Kyoto Protocol 1997.	Enhancement of energy efficiency and the limiting and/or reducing of greenhouse gas emissions. Reflected in UK Climate Change Programme.



Section 3 *The Local Development Framework and other plans and strategies*



International treaty or strategy	Comments
Aarhus Convention 1998.	Links environmental rights and human rights. It acknowledges that we owe an obligation to future generations. It establishes that sustainable development can be achieved only through the involvement of all stakeholders. It links government accountability and environmental protection. It grants the public rights and imposes on public authority's obligations regarding access to information and public participation and access to justice.
EU Air Quality Framework Directive 2000.	Requires the control of levels of certain pollutants and the monitoring of their concentrations in the air.
EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC.	Establishes a framework for the protection and enhancement of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and of aquatic ecosystems. The directive also promotes sustainable water use, protection from groundwater pollution and provision of mitigation against floods and droughts. Requires all waters to have 'good' ecological status by 2015.
Waste Framework Directive 91/156/EEC.	Various measures to improve efficiency and consistency including taking action to ensure the responsible removal and recovery of waste, taking measures to restrict the production of waste, particularly by promoting clean technologies and products which can be recycled and reused, taking into consideration existing and potential market opportunities for recovered waste.
European Commission 2001 Transport White Paper.	Proposed a comprehensive strategy aimed primarily at shifting the balance of transport in Europe from road and aviation towards rail, shipping and intermodal operations by 2010. No legislative or executive force. Sets out what National and local governments should be doing in the transport field and in other areas such as urban and land use planning and budget/fiscal policy.
EU Sustainable Development Strategy (updated 2005).	Provides a policy framework to deliver sustainable development. Key objectives include environmental protection, social equity and cohesion, economic prosperity and meeting international responsibilities. The policy guiding principles are the promotion and protection of fundamental rights, solidarity within and between generations, open and democratic society, involvement of citizens, involvement of business and social partners, policy coherence and governance, policy integration, use of best available knowledge and making polluters pay.
EU Directive on Electricity Production from Renewable Energy Sources (RES Directive) 2001/77.	Sets the target that 22.1% of renewable electricity consumption to the overall electricity consumption should be reached by 2010. Sets a UK target for 10% of energy to come from a renewable source by 2010, against a backdrop of 1.7% in 1997.
EU Directive on the Promotion of the Use of Biofuels and other Renewable Fuels for Transport 2003/30.	Its main objective is to raise the part of biofuels used for transport purposes from the current 0.6% to 5.75% by 2010.



Section 3 *The Local Development Framework and other plans and strategies*



International treaty or strategy	Comments
EU Directive on the Promotion of Energy Efficiency in Buildings 2001/226.	Lays down a framework intending to lead to increased co-ordination between the legislation of Member States. Covers the establishment of a standardised methodology for calculating integrated energy performance of buildings; application of minimum standards in new buildings and certain existing buildings when renovated; certification on the basis of standards and public display of energy performance certificates; specific inspection and assessment of boilers and heating/cooling installations.
Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive 96/61/EEC.	Integrated approach to establish pollution prevention from “stationary” installations. The objective is to achieve a high level of protection of the environment through measures to prevent or where that is not practicable to reduce emissions to air, water and land. Member states must put into place a system requiring operators of certain industrial installations to prevent or reduce pollution from their operation.
Freshwater Fisheries Directive 78/659/EEC.	It requires that certain designated stretches of water (rivers, lakes or reservoirs) meet quality standards that should enable fish to live or breed in the designated water, although this will also depend on physical conditions.
Groundwater Directive 80/68/EEC.	This Directive prohibits the direct or indirect discharge into groundwater of a substance or product. It specifies groups of substances that are considered undesirable in groundwater. The Directive does not apply to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discharges of domestic effluents from isolated dwellings not connected to a sewerage system and situated outside areas protected for the abstraction of water for human consumption; - Discharges which are found by the competent authority of the Member State concerned to contain substances in lists I or II in a quantity and concentration so small as to obviate any present or future danger of deterioration in the quality of the receiving groundwater; - Discharges of matter containing radioactive substances.
European Landscape Convention 01/03/07.	Aims to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional, national and international level for protecting, managing and planning landscapes throughout Europe. Landscape is defined as “an area, as perceived by people whose character is the result of action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”. This definition is applied to urban and rural areas alike, to both outstanding and ordinary landscapes to degraded as well as preserved places.



Section 3 *The Local Development Framework and other plans and strategies*



National Policies and Strategies influencing the Local Development Framework

The LDF will need to reflect the requirements of relevant National Planning Policy Statements (PPSs), old Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs) and other relevant plans and strategies. PPSs issued by the Government provide the national policy framework to which all Development Plans must have regard to. The LDF must be in conformity with national planning policy and reflect National Government aspirations, as expressed through white papers and national strategies. The table below details relevant national policies and strategies and when they were adopted.

NATIONAL POLICY DOCUMENTS, PLANS OR STRATEGIES THAT MAY INFLUENCE THE LDF

Title of National Policy Document, Plan or Strategy	Adopted
Securing the Future – The UK Sustainable Development Strategy	2005
Sustainable Communities Plan	2003
Transport 10 Year Plan (2000)	2000
Urban White Paper	2000
Rural White Paper	2000
UK Climate Change Programme	2004
Energy White Paper- Our energy future- creating a low carbon economy	2003
Wildlife and Countryside Act	1981
The Countryside and Rights of Way Act	2000
A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive	2005
Sustainability of the Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Frameworks	2005
Minerals Policy Statement 2; Controlling and Mitigating the effects of mineral extraction in England	2005
PPS 1: Delivering Sustainable Development	2006
Planning and Climate Change supplement to PPS 1	2007
PPG 2: Green Belt	1995
PPS 3: Housing (as amended)	2006
PPG 4: Industrial, commercial development and small firms	1992
Draft PPS4 Planning for Sustainable Economic Development	2008
PPS 6: Planning for Town Centres	2005?
PPS 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas	2004
PPG 8: Telecommunications	2001
PPS 9: Nature Conservation Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	2005
PPS 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management	1988
PPS 12: Local Development Frameworks	2004
PPG 13: Transport	2001



Section 3 *The Local Development Framework and other plans and strategies*



NATIONAL POLICY DOCUMENTS, PLANS OR STRATEGIES THAT MAY INFLUENCE THE LDF *continued*

Title of National Policy Document, Plan or Strategy	Adopted
PPG 15: Planning and the Historic environment	1994
PPG 16: Archaeology and Planning	1990
PPG 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation	2003
PPG19 Outdoor Advertisement Control	1992
Good practice guide on planning for tourism	2006
PPG 21: Tourism	1992
PPS 22: Renewable Energy	2004
PPS 23: Planning and Pollution Control	2004
PPG24: Planning and Noise	2001
PPS 25: Development and Flood Risk	2006
The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (DCMS)	2001
Working with the Grain of Nature – a Biodiversity Strategy for England	2002
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	2005
UK Waste Strategy	2000
The Eddington Transport Study	2006
Barker Review of Land Use Planning	2006
Strong and Prosperous Communities	2006
Directing the Flow Priority for Future Water Policy (DEFRA)	2002
Waste Strategy for England	2007
Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change	2006
Diversity and Equality in Planning	2005
Code for Sustainable Homes	2006
Environment Act Part IV local Air Quality Management	2003
Blueprint for Water:10 steps for sustainable water by 2015	2006
Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites Circular 01/2006 (ODPM)	2006
Sustainable Communities a shared agenda a share of action a guide for local authorities	2006
A Strategy for Englands Trees (DEFRA)	2007
Safer Places The Planning System and Crime Prevention	2004
By Design Urban Design in the Planning System-towards Better Practice (CABE)	2000
Heritage Protection White Paper	2007
Heritage Protection Bill	2008
Planning(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas)Act	1990
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act	1979





Regional Plans and Strategies influencing the Local Development Framework

The LDF will also need to reflect the requirements of relevant regional plans and strategies. The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) provides the planning framework within which the Bromsgrove LDF will have to operate. Any documents produced by the Local Authority must be in general conformity with the RSS. As such the LDF objectives must not conflict with the wider spatial objectives of the RSS. The aims and spatial objectives of the RSS are detailed in Appendix 2. The LDF will also need to take account of the emerging RSS Phase II revision.

REGIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES THAT MAY INFLUENCE THE LDF

Title of Regional Plan or Strategy	Time Period
Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands	2004 to 2021
RSS Phase 2 Revision	2008
Regional Economic Strategy for the West Midlands	2004 to 2010
West Midlands Economic Strategy Review	2006-2007
Regional Sustainable Development Framework	2006
West Midlands Innovation Consultation	2007
West Midlands Regional Cultural Strategy	2001-2006
West Midlands Regional Visitor Economy Strategy	2004
West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework	2004
West Midlands Regional Biodiversity Strategy	2005
Restoring the Regions Wildlife The Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands	2005
West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy	2004
West Midlands Rural Delivery Framework	2006
Ecological budget West Midlands - county consumption	2006
West midlands declaration on climate change	2006
Severn Trent water resources plan	2005-2010
West Midlands Regional Health and Well Being Strategy	2007
Regional Transport Strategy for the West Midlands	2004 to 2021
West Midlands Cultural Strategy	2001 to 2006
West Midlands Housing Strategy	2006 to 2021
West Midlands Sustainable Development Framework	Adopted 2005
Sustainable Communities in the West Midlands: Building Action for the Future	Adopted 2005
Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands	Jan 2005



Section 3 *The Local Development Framework and other plans and strategies*



County Plans and Strategies influencing the Local Development Framework

The LDF will also need to conform with county plans and strategies.

COUNTY PLANS AND STRATEGIES THAT MAY INFLUENCE THE LDF

Title of County Plan or Strategy	Time Period
Worcestershire Local Area Agreement	2006
Partnership towards excellence a community strategy for Worcestershire	2008
Worcestershire County Structure Plan	1996-2011
Worcestershire Local Transport Plan	2006-2011
Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy submission document	2007
Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan	2007
Worcestershire Supporting People Strategy	2005-2010
Worcestershire Countryside Access and Recreation Strategy	2003-2013
Worcestershire County Council Tourism Strategy	2002
Worcestershire County Council Sustainability Policy and Worcestershire Sustainability Action Plan	2006-2007
A Cultural Strategy for Worcestershire	2002-2007
Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan	1997
Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy	2005-2011
Biodiversity Challenge Worcestershire	1997
New Look at the Landscapes of Worcestershire	2004



Section 3 The Local Development Framework and other plans and strategies



Local Plans and Strategies influencing the Local Development Framework

The table below lists relevant local strategies or plans. The majority of these documents have been produced internally by other departments within the Council or in joint partnership with Worcestershire County Council. The key local document that the LDF must have regard to is the Sustainable Community Strategy for Bromsgrove (SCS).

This document reflects the visions of the local community. As such it is intended that the LDF will adopt the vision and aims of the SCS. **It states as its vision:**

“We will make Bromsgrove District a better place to work, live and visit by driving forward change”

It identifies six priority areas as follows:

1. Communities that are safe and feel safe
2. A better environment for today and tomorrow
3. Economic success that is shared by all
4. Improving health and well being
5. Meeting the needs of children and young people
6. Stronger communities

The Local Plan and Strategies that may influence the LDF are discussed in Appendix 2 together the objectives that are intended to be developed through the Local Development Framework.

LOCAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES THAT MAY INFLUENCE THE LDF

Title of Local Plan or Strategy	Time Period
Bromsgrove Community Plan	2003 to 2013
Bromsgrove Corporate Plan	2005 to 2008
Sustainable Community Strategy	2007-2010
Local Air Quality Management Action Plan	Adopted 2004
A Community Strategy for Worcestershire	Adopted 2003
Sports Pitch Strategy	Adopted 2002
Housing Needs Survey	Draft (2004)
Countryside & Access Recreation Strategy	Adopted 2004
Bromsgrove District Biodiversity Action Plan	Adopted 2000
Local Transport Plan	2001-06/2006-11
Community Safety Strategy	2002-2005
Local Agenda 21 Strategy	Adopted 2001
Contaminated Land Strategy	Adopted 2001
Tourism Strategy	2002 to 2005
Cultural Strategy	2002 to 2007
Arts Strategy	2003-2008
Redditch and Bromsgrove PCT Local Delivery Plan	2003-2006
West Mercia Crime and Safety Survey	2006
Bromsgrove Evidence Report- Bromsgrove Profile	2007
Private sector stock condition survey	2004





Introduction

As shown in Section 3 and in Appendix 2 a framework of plans and strategies exists that will influence the LDF. The LDF Objectives were developed using evidence from the baseline characterisation study and the analysis of other plans and strategies. The proposed objectives for the Local Development Framework are detailed below. Appendix 3 contains further details in a table which identifies the source of each objective, including its relationship to objectives from other plans and strategies, the baseline study and indicators that could be used to measure success.

Social Objectives

- ➔ Create communities where people want to live, work and socialise
- ➔ Meet the housing requirements of all members of the community
- ➔ Ensure the community has accessible healthcare
- ➔ Provision of leisure and educational facilities to meet the needs all the community
- ➔ Better quality of life through a safer and better designed urban and rural environment
- ➔ Promote thriving, balanced, inclusive and sustainable rural communities
- ➔ Ensure all members of the community have a viable choice of transport options
- ➔ Seek an improvement in retail opportunities and choices throughout the District

Environmental Objectives

- ➔ Protect our existing special natural environment
- ➔ Promote biodiversity enhancement
- ➔ Conserve and enhance the historic environment
- ➔ Promote the enhancement of existing areas of conservation
- ➔ Seek to identify and protect further areas of historical and natural importance
- ➔ Seek to reduce travel and promote an improvement in sustainable transport options
- ➔ Promote efficient use of the earth's resources and promote renewable energy
- ➔ Maintain the principles of Green Belt designation

Economic Objectives

- ➔ Maintain a high and stable level of employment by supporting economic modernisation
- ➔ Improve people's access to job opportunities in new technologies
- ➔ Ensure opportunities for growth are linked to meeting the needs of the community
- ➔ Enable schemes that promote sustainable tourism
- ➔ Ensure sufficient sites are provided to ensure sustainable economic growth
- ➔ Provide positive support towards rural diversification
- ➔ Encourage cross-border economic linkages

Relationships between Objectives

The LDF Objectives need to be tested against each other to identify possible synergies and conflicts. Appendix 4 contains a compatibility matrix which summarises the relationships between the objectives.



Section 5 Sustainability Framework – Issues and Options



Introduction

The SA Framework will be the primary means of assessing the Core Strategy Policies and Objectives in terms of their sustainability. An SA Framework consists of sustainability objectives which are separate from the core strategy/LDF objectives although in some cases they may overlap.

The West Midlands Regional Sustainable Development Framework (WMRSDF) sets out 29 objectives for sustainable development in the Region. These reflect key regional priorities around environment, resources and the economy. The WMRSDF recommends that the objectives are incorporated into the appraisals of LDD's.

Worcestershire County Council is co-ordinating a joint Worcestershire SEA/SA Framework for the County. This involves a single appraisal framework covering all of Worcestershire which ensures consistency of approach in appraisal and in data collection. It includes agreement to a suite of generic SA objectives that reflect the WMRSDF, Community Strategy and sustainability issues that can be supplemented with a set of decision making criteria to reflect the detail and scope of each DPD/SPD being prepared and an agreed method for prioritising SA objectives. Through an analysis of the baseline characterisation, the review of other plans and strategies and the results of a public participation exercise in March 2005 a number of key sustainability issues relevant have been identified. These issues are identified in table form in Appendix 5 together with the source of the issue.

Identification of Sustainability Issues

The identification of key sustainability issues provides an opportunity to then identify sustainability objectives and indicators to monitor change. A consultation on the draft Scoping Report is also due to be carried out with a number of key agencies that have environmental, social or economic responsibilities. This consultation will enable these bodies to comment on the issues and possibly suggest additional issues that have not been covered. It will also enable these bodies to comment on the appropriateness and scope of the objectives, indicators and baseline assessment.

Summary of Sustainability Issues

A number of Environmental and Sustainability Issues were identified from the baseline study and the assessment of other plans and strategies. These are detailed below together with a brief summary of the issue:

Rising older population

- ➔ Bromsgrove has an above average retired population. Impact on service provision, housing needs and workforce availability.

Barriers to housing and services in rural areas

- ➔ The District has many small settlements without their own services. High house prices due to inward migration. Many local facilities and transport options considered unviable due to dispersed population.

Large identified greenfield sites for future development needs

- ➔ The District contains a number of large greenfield sites that were formerly identified as ADR's. Some of these sites contain diverse habitats and the designations can act as a blight on an area. Balance perceived development needs of District against actual need and loss of greenfield land. The RSS Phase 2 Revision identifies a need for an additional 2100 dwellings to be provided in the District up to 2026.

Housing to meet local needs

- ➔ The new RSS requires that the District normally only provides housing for 'local needs'. However, the phase 2 Revision identifies Redditch as a Settlement of Significant Development with a projected need for 6600 dwellings in this period. Since Redditch does not have the capacity to accommodate such growth within its boundaries, it will fall to the adjoining districts of Stratford Upon Avon and/or Bromsgrove to identify locations to accommodate 3300 new dwellings adjacent to the boundary of Redditch.

Reducing fear of crime

- ➔ Bromsgrove is a low crime area and whilst fear of crime is declining, certain areas within district still generate fear. High fear of crime leads to increased use of 'safe' private transport and the avoidance of sustainable means of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.

Under-provision of affordable housing

- ➔ Unaffordable housing for local people leading to social exclusion and harm to community life and networks.





Implications of redeveloping brownfield sites

- ➔ High density development within existing settlements can lead to a negative impact on local environments. Possible loss of green corridors and informal wildlife opportunities within existing derelict/underused sites if they are redeveloped.

High car usage and congestion

- ➔ High incidences of car usage compared to public transport, cycling and walking leading to congested roads at peak periods.

Commuting out of District

- ➔ Commuting out to work not only has an impact on the pool of labour for businesses in the District but also house prices and high incidences of car usage throughout the District.

Local facilities to meet the needs of the population

- ➔ Facilities lost due to high housing development rates leading to an imbalance in service provision to population size.

Air quality

- ➔ Poorer air quality in parts due to high car usage and major motorways passing through District.

Changing economy

- ➔ The District is undergoing a change in its economy from heavy industry to high tech industries.

Degradation of the Natural Environment

- ➔ Degradation of the natural environment as a whole has been realised incrementally over time as a result of damaging land use practices. Specific concerns relate to conservation of biodiversity and cultural heritage and the protection of groundwater supplies.

Policy Options

During the process of preparing policies for the LDF a number of options must be considered as there is not necessarily one single way of meeting the needs of the population of Bromsgrove. Some options may be more sustainable than others, and to ensure that the Bromsgrove LDF contributes to sustainable development a number of different options will need to be assessed. At this stage in the SA process only the broad policy options will be identified. These will be refined and possibly other options added after consultation.

The guidance on SA assessment describes options as the range of rational choices open to plan-makers for delivering plan objectives. Options put forward should be reasonable, realistic and relevant. Options should also be sufficiently distinct in order to highlight the different sustainability implications of each, so that in the future meaningful comparisons can be made. Some options are discrete, that is it involves a choice between one option or another. Options can also be grouped into sceneries and the 'most sustainable' option or a combination of options selected. There is also always the option to 'do nothing'.

The options must be realistic in that they take account of the requirements and policies of plans at a higher level. It is not possible for Bromsgrove to produce policies that conflict with higher planning policies at the regional or national level. Therefore it would be a wasted exercise to assess options that eventually could not be pursued. To avoid repetition the option to 'do nothing' has been omitted from each issue. This option will however be considered as part of the SA of each issue as the option to do nothing can sometimes turn out to be the most sustainable option and it is also useful to know what would happen without the influence of the LDF.



Section 5 Sustainability Framework – Issues and Options



The Planning Inspectorate published a document entitled **Local Development Frameworks: Lessons Learnt Examining Development Plan Documents** in June 2007. It contains further advice in relation to options. It states that at examination LPA's will need to show a clear trail of option generation, appraisal, selection or rejection and the role that Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and community engagement have played in this process. It goes on to state that "Options need to encompass the full range of reasonable spatial options. Meaningful options should be developed on such matters as the broad location and balance of development across the authority area, the management of the housing supply, the balance between employment and housing and the delivery of affordable housing. Infrastructure requirements resulting from the strategy should be identified as should the delivery mechanisms....." and "LPA's need to ensure that the preferred options documents include details of the alternative options being considered and of any options proposed for rejection, as well as reasons behind those choices." and further "There is no point in producing unrealistic options. If a LPA is of the view that there are no alternative options the reasons for this view will need to be fully explained and justified.... Options should not be excluded because they may be politically unpopular or because the LPA feels that they may be controversial"

It is important to stress that the options below are only preliminary suggestions that are subject to consultation. Other issues or options may also come to light further in the SA process that will need to be assessed. The process of SA must be seen as a fluid process that is subject to change due to outside influences, including changes in the baseline and the publication of new planning guidance.

INITIAL ISSUES AND OPTIONS TABLE

Sustainability Issue	Policy Options
Rising older population.	Ensure policies promote an increase in accessibility to public transport. Regenerate local centres to meet the needs of the older population.
Barriers to housing and services in rural areas.	Prevent reuse of essential village facilities. Designate mixed use village centres. Promote new affordable housing developments in villages to support new facilities.
Large identified greenfield sites for future development needs (ADRs).	Use sites to improve local facilities. Re-designate sites as Green Belt. Ensure full environmental assessment of sites prior to development where appropriate.
Housing to meet local needs.	Ensure all housing is only to meet local needs. Allow for local population growth to support new services. A mix of some market housing and high levels of affordable housing.
Reducing fear of crime.	Incorporate minimum 'design out crime' standards in all new development. Promote regeneration of 'run down' town and village centres. Promote safer walking and cycling routes.



Section 5 Sustainability Framework – Issues and Options



INITIAL ISSUES AND OPTIONS TABLE *continued*

Sustainability Issue	Policy Options
Under-provision of affordable housing.	Promote 100% affordable housing schemes. Develop policies that allow limited market housing that cross funds new affordable housing units. Redevelop Council owned Town Centre sites with a high number of affordable housing units.
Implications of redeveloping brownfield sites.	Require full environmental assessment of all brownfield sites prior to development. Ensure minimum design and open space standards. Ensure development reflects the character of the area.
High car usage and congestion.	Ensure new developments contribute to improvements in public transport. Support improvements to public transport interchanges. Ensure housing, services and employment are located together in mixed use developments.
Commuting out of District.	Allocate additional employment land to encourage major businesses to relocate to Bromsgrove. Promote an improvement in transport routes out of the District. Ensure housing is only provided where it matches employment growth.
Local facilities to meet the needs of the population.	Resist change of use of essential local facilities to residential. Develop a minimum services list for each town and village. Promote the use of Council owned land for new facilities.
Air quality.	Reduce the need to travel by car by enhancing public transport options and developing sustainable communities. Maintain buffer zones between new housing and major roads.
Changing economy.	Designate new employment sites to meet the needs of 'new industries'. Ensure old employment uses in sustainable areas are not lost to housing redevelopment. Promote more mixed use schemes with small starter units.
Degradation of the Environment as a whole.	Promote policies which protect and enhance all elements of the natural and historic environment. Preparation of Conservation Area Appraisals. Strategy for biodiversity. Promote/encourage the use of renewable energy, recycling and water harvesting.



Section 6 Sustainability Framework – Objectives



Introduction

The Sustainability Appraisal Framework is central to the Sustainability Appraisal process as it provides, through the defining of objectives, a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. An objective is a statement of what is intended, specifying a desired direction of change.

The overall aim of the appraisal process is to help ensure that the LDF makes an effective contribution to the pursuit of 'sustainable development'. The sustainability objectives are distinct from the objectives of the plan, though they may in some cases overlap with them.

The West Midlands Regional Sustainable Development Framework (WMRSDF) sets out 29 objectives for sustainable development within the region. These reflect key regional priorities around society, the environment, resources and the economy. The WMRSDF recommends that the objectives are incorporated into the appraisals of LDD's.

Worcestershire County Council is co-ordinating joint Worcestershire SEA/SA Framework for the county. This involves a single appraisal framework covering all of Worcestershire which ensures consistency of approach in appraisal and data collection. It includes agreement to a suite of generic SA objectives that reflect the WMRSDF, Community Strategy and sustainability issues that can be supplemented with a set of decision making criteria to reflect the detail and scope of each DPD being prepared and an agreed method for prioritising SA objectives.

A set of sustainability objectives have therefore been devised which aim to ensure the sustainability of the District is improved. These 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.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

Sustainability Appraisal objectives provide a yardstick against which the social, environmental, and economic effects of a plan can be tested. The first step in assessing the sustainability effects of a plan is the defining of objectives. Sustainability objectives can include both externally imposed objectives from other plans and programmes and others devised specifically in relation to the context of the plan being prepared. Baseline information gathered during the evidence gathering stage can also be useful in identifying and modifying objectives. Sustainability Objectives can also be different from the objectives of the Plan being prepared.

National and Regional Sustainability Objectives

Securing the Future', the government's national Sustainable Development Strategy (2005) sets out five guiding principles to help deliver a sustainable future for all:

- ➔ Living Within Environmental Limits
- ➔ Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society
- ➔ Achieving a Sustainable Economy
- ➔ Promoting Good Governance
- ➔ Using Sound Science Responsibly

The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy states the following aim for the West Midlands over the coming decades:

"The overall vision for the West Midlands is one of an economically successful, outward looking and adaptable Region, which is rich in culture and environment, where all people, working together, are able to meet their aspirations and needs without prejudicing the quality of life of future generations."



Section 6 Sustainability Framework – Objectives



Specifically the West Midlands Spatial Strategy Vision looks forward to a Region;

- a) where there are opportunities for all to progress and improve their quality of life;
- b) with an advanced, thriving and diverse economy occupying a competitive position within European and World markets;
- c) where urban and rural renaissance is successfully being achieved;
- d) with diverse and distinctive cities, towns, sub-regions and communities with Birmingham as a “World City” at its heart;
- e) which is recognised for its distinctive, high quality natural and built environment;
- f) with an efficient network of integrated transport facilities and services which meet the needs of both individuals and the business community in the most sustainable way;
- g) where all Regional interests are working together towards a commonly agreed sustainable future.

Bromsgrove LDF Sustainability Objectives

The SA Objectives incorporate externally imposed social, environmental and economic objectives laid down by law or policy or in other plans and strategies. Some objectives have also been incorporated specifically to address local circumstances and issues that have arisen from the baseline study.

The objectives, where possible, have been expressed in terms of targets, the achievement of which will be measured using indicators. The role of indicators is discussed below. The number of objectives has been limited, to ensure that they do not make the SA process of plans and plan options unmanageable.

The objectives and associated indicators will be used throughout the production of Local Development Framework (LDF) documents to continually influence and assess the impact of future proposals and policies. However, not all objectives will be directly relevant to every document that will be produced as part of the LDF. There may also be a need to develop sub-objectives and indicators to provide a more detailed assessment of issue or area specific plans. All the objectives and indicators below will however need to be reflected within the Core Strategy document as the Core Strategy provides the over arching strategic policy base for the district.

It should be appreciated though that the LDF may have only limited scope to significantly influence some of the objectives, such as improve health and well being, as the LDF will need rely on or combine with other plans and strategies to have an effect.

The objectives may also be revised as more baseline data is collected, the baseline changes or higher level plans or strategies are changed. Furthermore the objectives may also change through the consultation process.

Social Objectives

- 1) Provide decent affordable housing for all, of the right quality and tenure and for local needs, in clean, safe and pleasant local environment.
- 2) An improvement in the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health.
- 3) Improve the quality of and equitable access to local services and facilities regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, socio economic status or educational attainment.
- 4) Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 5) Reduce need to travel and move towards more sustainable travel patterns.
- 6) Provision of opportunities for communities to participate and contribute to decisions that affect their neighbourhood and quality of life, encouraging pride and social responsibility in the local community.





Environmental Objectives

- 1) Preserve, enhance and recreate the District's biodiversity and geodiversity.
- 2) Ensure efficient use of land through safeguarding of mineral resources, the best and most versatile agricultural land, land of green belt value, maximising of previously developed land and reuse of vacant buildings where this is not detrimental to open space, biodiversity or historic interest. Protect the countryside, green spaces, green belt and best agricultural land.
- 3) Protect, enhance and manage the character of the landscape and townscape maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.
- 4) To preserve and enhance sites, features, areas and settings of archaeological, architectural, historical and cultural heritage importance.
- 5) Seek well-designed, high quality built environment in new development proposals.
- 6) Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy, 1) reduce, 2) reuse, 3) recycling and composting 4) recovery 5) disposal.
- 7) Ensure inappropriate development does not occur in high risk flood prone areas and does not adversely contribute to fluvial flood risk or contribute to surface water flooding in all the areas.
- 8) Promote energy efficiency and energy generated from renewable energy and low carbon sources.
- 9) Protect and enhance the quality of water, soil and air quality.
- 10) Reduce causes of and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Economic Objectives

- 1) Develop a knowledge driven economy, the infrastructure and skills base whilst ensuring all share the benefits, urban and rural.
- 2) Promote and support the development of new technologies of high value and low impact especially resource efficient technologies and environmental technology initiatives.
- 3) Raise the skills levels and qualifications of workforce.
- 4) Sustainable use and development of material assets.

Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives

It is useful to test the internal compatibility of the SA objectives to identify compatibility or tensions between objectives (Appendix 7). This is so that future decisions are well based and mitigation measures can be considered. It is also useful to test the SA objectives against the LDF objectives so as to identify overlap and any potential conflict between objectives (Appendix 7).

Sustainability Indicators

To measure the success of the Local Development Framework in achieving Sustainable Development a set of indicators need to be identified. The table in Appendix 6 identifies the sustainability objectives together with proposed indicators.

The number of indicators may increase as more baseline data is collected, the baseline changes or higher level plans or strategies are changed. Furthermore the indicators will change in line with any changes to the objectives through the consultation process.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Requirements

While the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive it is still a requirement for the Council to state within the Scoping Report and subsequent Environmental Reports how the requirements of the SEA Directive will be met.

The objective of the SEA Directive is, "to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans".

The Directive defines "environmental assessment" as a procedure comprising:

- ➔ the preparation of an Environmental Report on the likely significant effects of the draft plan;
- ➔ carrying out consultation on the draft plan and accompanying environmental report;
- ➔ taking into account the Environmental Report and the results of consultation in decision making; and
- ➔ providing information when the plan is adopted and showing how the results of the environmental assessment have been taken into account.



Section 6 Sustainability Framework – Objectives



The Council through the production of this Scoping Report and subsequent Environmental Reports will meet the requirements of the Directive. The preparation of a Scoping Report is essential to this process as it sets the framework for the assessment. The requirements of the Directive in relation to setting the context, baseline and deciding the scope of the SEA are detailed below together with where they are met within the Scoping Report.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE SEA DIRECTIVE

STAGE A: Setting the context and establishing a baseline

SEA stages and tasks	Relevant part of Scoping Report
Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives.	Section 3 and Appendix 2.
Collecting baseline information.	Section 2 and Appendix 1.
Identifying environmental problems.	Section 5 and Appendix 5.
Developing SEA objectives.	Section 6 and Appendices 3 & 4.

STAGE B: Deciding on the scope of SEA and developing strategic alternatives

SEA stages and tasks	Relevant part of Scoping Report
Testing the plan or programme objectives against SEA objectives.	Appendix 7 – Compatibility Matrix.
Appraising strategic alternatives.	Section 5 – Policy Options.
Consulting on the scope of SEA.	Section 1 – Consultation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Objectives and Indicators

While the SEA Directive does not require objectives to be developed for the SEA itself, they are widely used in SEA to ensure that the right level of consideration is achieved. The objectives and indicators for the Sustainability Appraisal Framework incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive. Appendix 6 contains a table which details the objectives and indicators applicable to each SEA topic. Key headline indicators, which can be used as generally representative of the issue as a whole have also been identified. These should be supported by a wider, more detailed set of indicators as described.





Social Characteristics of the District

Population

Having an accurate record of the current population as well as reliable projections of future population is important when devising policies and plans that can not only cater for the needs of the districts current residents, but also in order to plan ahead for likely changes in the demographic make up of an area.

At the time of the 2001 Census Bromsgrove had a population of 87,837. This was an increase of approximately 5.5% over the 10 years since the 1991 Census. In respect of other local authorities in the West Midlands the District had the 11th (out of 34) largest population growth. Local Authorities above the District in the list were other shire authorities on the edge of the conurbation while the authorities seeing a decline in population were those inside the main urban areas. The population of Bromsgrove was projected to increase to around 91500 by 2007 falling back steadily to about 90800 by 2011.

Recent trends for Worcestershire show that the County has been gaining population at an average rate of over 21000 per annum. The majority of this increase is due to net migration into the County with the increase in natural change in comparison quite small. The largest population increases have been seen in Bromsgrove and Wychavon due to the high level of net migration into the districts. The number of people in the 65+ age group is projected to rise from 15100 to 18400 in this period, whereas the numbers in the 0-17 age groups are projected to decrease by around 800 (source: Worcestershire County Council – population projections).

In mid-2006 the resident population of the UK was 60,587,000, of which 50,763,000 lived in England. The average age was 39.0 years, an increase on 1971 when it was 34.1 years. In mid-2006 approximately one in five people in the UK were aged under 16 and one in six people were aged 65 or over.

The UK has a growing population. It grew by 349,000 people in the year to mid-2006 (0.6 per cent). The UK population has increased by 8 per cent since 1971, from 55,928,000. Growth has been faster in more recent years. Between mid-1991 and mid-2006 the population grew by an average annual rate of 0.4 per cent and the average growth per year since mid-2001 has been 0.5 per cent.

The UK has an ageing population. This is the result of declines in the mortality rate and in past fertility rates. This has led to a declining proportion of the population aged under 16 and an increasing proportion aged 65 and over.

In respect of the location of retired people in the District, 18.3% live in the rural areas and 16.3% live in the urban areas. Closer analysis of the figures show that in the urban areas there is a significantly higher percentage of retired people in the established neighbourhoods than in areas with new large housing estates.

The vast majority (92.8%) of the population of Bromsgrove are classed as White, with the remainder split between other ethnic groups. At the 2001 Census Christianity, was the dominant religion within the District, with 80.1% of the population, which is higher than the 71.8% national average. The next largest religious group are those with no religion (11.8%). The rest of the population is split relatively evenly between the other major religions. 6.8% didn't state any religion. These figures indicate the lack of a significant ethnic minority population in the District.

The majority of the population live within the main population centres of Bromsgrove Town, Catshill, Wythall, Hagley, and Rubery, with a number of varying size rural settlements accounting for the remainder of the population.

Deprivation

There are no areas in Bromsgrove that fall within the most deprived 20% of Super Output Areas (SOA) across England. The most deprived areas in Bromsgrove are parts of Sidemoor and Charford wards which fall within the most deprived 20-40% of SOA's in England. Conversely there are a number of areas of Bromsgrove that fall within the least deprived 20% of SOA's across England*. (source: DCLG- Index of Multiple Deprivation).

The deprivation in a community is measured on many different levels, with different data sets showing what could be perceived as deprivation. All these different indices are evaluated to arrive at an index of multiple deprivation which presents an overall picture of the deprivation in a community.

Bromsgrove is the lowest ranking and least deprived district in Worcestershire and ranks in the bottom fifth of most deprived local authorities across England. Historic trend data could not be obtained for deprivation. It has no Super Output Areas (SOAs) in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) top 10% or 20% in England. SOAs are geographic areas not based on Ward or Parish boundaries but instead based on 2001 Census Output Areas. These are areas consistent in size with boundaries that do not change, unlike Ward and Parish boundaries. The most deprived SOA in the District is the northern part of Sidemoor, which is ranked 8,558th out of the 32,482 SOAs nationally.





Crime and barriers to housing and services are the two largest contributors to deprivation in Bromsgrove. In terms of crime, there are 2 SOAs in the District within the top 10% most deprived nationally. These are the SOA area containing Frankley Service Station on the M5 which is the most deprived with a rank of 899 and the SOA containing Hopwood Service Station on the M42 which also ranks highly at 2991. However, it is possible that these rankings have been skewed due to the nature in which crimes are recorded and attributed. Crimes along stretches of motorway are often attributed to the nearest service station. Also, the indicators used for the crime domain involve rates based on resident population, and due to the rural location of both SOAs, population is lower than in other SOAs relative to the crimes that have been attributed to that area. Historic crime data and trends could not be obtained for the purposes of this study.

In September 2004, 12.39 per cent of people claiming work-related benefits in Bromsgrove had been doing so for more than 12 months; this compared with 20.9 per cent in September 1999.

Within the barriers to housing and services domain, the SOA encompassing the villages of Rowney Green and Holt End is the most deprived in the District with a national ranking of 2329.

In a 2000/2001 survey of satisfaction with the Local Authority and street cleanliness, 65% responded to be very or fairly satisfied.

Community Safety

Bromsgrove is a safe place to live, with levels of crime being lower than both national and regional figures. As with the rest of the country the fear of crime in Bromsgrove is more prevalent than actual incidences of crime. Vehicle crime and criminal damage offences are most common.

Fear of crime has significantly reduced since surveys were carried out in 2005. Overall the proportion of people worried about crime declined from 86% in 2005 to 52% in 2006. The majority of respondents felt safe in their neighbourhood or district during the day and although most respondents also felt safe after dark there are still certain areas where residents felt more fearful.

(source: West Midlands Police Crime and Safety Survey October 2006)

Drug offences in Bromsgrove are very low. Alcohol related offences in the District are the second lowest in the country with only 1135 alcohol related offences recorded in 2002/03 and of these offences only 796 people were charged.

Of the other offences recorded only burglary was higher than the national average, with robbery offences, sexual offences and violence against the person all lower than national averages.

In line with the national trend incidences of anti social behaviour appear to be a problem although, as this is a relatively new classification of crime the ability to refer to previous data is not possible.

Housing

The housing market in the District has been buoyant in recent years due to the District's proximity to the West Midlands conurbation. The average house price in 2007 was £234,885, which is significantly higher than the regional average of £210,578.

In 2001 the number of dwellings in the District was 35,168 (Census 2001). Of this 29,136 were owned, 2178 were private rented or people living rent free, 138 were shared ownership and 3716 were social rented. The overwhelming majority of people in the District live in households (98%) the remainder (2%) live in communal establishments such as nursing homes. The tenure of these households is dominated by the owner-occupier sector with around 83% of the properties in the District owner occupied. This figure is significantly higher than both the County (75%) and National (68%) figures.

The social rented sector has recently undergone a significant change with the large scale voluntary transfer of the Council's housing stock to the Bromsgrove District Housing Trust which is a registered social landlord (RSL). Taking into account this transfer the social housing sector now accounts for approximately 11% of the District's housing stock. This compares with an approximate national figure in 2001 for social housing stock of 19%, a West Midlands figure of 21% and a Worcestershire average of 16%.

A 2004 Housing Needs Assessment and a more recent Strategic Housing Market Assessment reinforced the shortage identified above by confirming a significant need for new affordable housing in the District. However this level of need is exacerbated by in-migration which is not compatible with the objectives of the Regional Spatial Strategy.





The need for an increase in the levels of affordable housing provision has been identified as a national issue and PPS3 reduced the threshold for affordable housing to 15 units or 0.5 hectares on sites where market housing is to be provided. The Council is currently preparing a Supplementary Planning Document on affordable housing which will attempt to address affordable needs in the context of planning guidance for the region however the moratorium on market housing that was introduced in 2003 is still in place. This means that there is a complete reliance on 100% affordable housing schemes to come forward to deliver any new affordable homes through the planning system.

In the late twentieth and early twenty first century large scale market house building took place, not only on allocated sites such as The Oakalls where 787 new properties have been built but also on windfall sites. These windfall sites have ranged from a single dwelling up to a new 500 dwelling development on part of a former industrial site vacated by Garringtons/UEF. As a result of the scale of new house building, the District now has an oversupply of houses in respect of requirements placed on it by the Structure Plan and Regional Spatial Strategy.

The Worcestershire County Structure Plan (1996–2011) contains a housing requirement for the District to 2011 of 3950. At April 2007, 4337 dwellings had been completed in the District; this is already 387 above the districts total requirement to 2011. Completions on new dwellings have now reduced significantly to 276 in 2006/7 due to the continued stance of enforcing the policy of housing restraint. The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) contains a housing target for Worcestershire to 2021 of 4100 dwellings, of which 11% should be within Bromsgrove. By 2007 this 11% target was exceeded by 201 dwellings.

However the RSS is currently under review and the preferred options document identifies 2100 dwellings for the district of Bromsgrove between 2001 and 2026. The document also identifies that some Redditch growth (3300 homes) will need to be located in Bromsgrove and/or Stratford-Upon-Avon. However, there is sufficient uncertainty to suggest that these housing figures may be revised upwards before the revised RSS document is adopted.

Education

Education in Bromsgrove is administered by the Local Education Authority (LEA), which in this case is Worcestershire County Council. Some parts of the District, namely Hagley, Wythall and Rubery have a two tier system of education based on 4–10 age group primary schools, and 11–18 age group secondary schools. In Bromsgrove town and the surrounding villages education is provided via 4–8 age group first schools, 9–12 age group middle schools and 13–18 age group high schools. The breakdown of the 38 LEA schools is as follows: 16 first schools, 5 middle schools, 2 x 13–18 high schools, 9 primary schools, 4 secondary schools, serving 11–18 year olds, and 2 special schools. Some of the first and primary schools have attached LEA run nurseries. There are also independent schools and pre-school settings within the District.

Bromsgrove middle and secondary schools, on average, have lower levels of authorised and unauthorised absences than Worcestershire middle and secondary schools as a whole.

Data on access to schools cannot be obtained for Bromsgrove specifically. However, regional statistics for the West Midlands show that access to primary and secondary schools from rural areas (such as in Bromsgrove District) is poor. According to the latest available data, 80.2% of the region's rural population live within 2km of a primary school, one of the lowest percentages of all English regions. Only just over 58% of the region's rural population live within 4km of a secondary school, (Countryside Agency, State of the Countryside Reports 2007).

Over the five year period, 2002–2007, the number of children aged 4–18 educated in the LEA schools in the District increased by 1.6% from 14,406 to 14,632. These figures hide differing trends in different parts of the District. Secondary schools in Hagley, Wythall and Rubery are popular and sited on the edge of the West Midlands conurbation from which they attract large numbers. However, a housing moratorium in Bromsgrove coupled with a general decline in pupil numbers, has resulted in a 3% decline in numbers of children being educated in the town's schools.

Worcestershire County Council has recently embarked on a £60 million PFI project to rebuild 7 of the District's schools. These are, North Bromsgrove High School, South Bromsgrove High School, Parkside Middle School, Meadows First School, Alvechurch Middle School, Crown Meadow First School, and Sidemoor First School.

In respect of qualifications the District has a higher percentage of its population qualified to Degree level or higher than the English average (22% against a national average of 20%). Also the number of people with no qualifications is lower than the national average (26% against a national average of 29%). This could be due to a number of factors including, low deprivation, good schools and also the amount of skilled people who have migrated from the conurbation to live in Bromsgrove but still work in the City.





Transport

Bromsgrove District is well served by the national road network, with two major motorways passing through the District (M42 and M5), several major A-roads (A38, A435, A441) and an extensive rural road network linking the main urban areas in the District with rural villages.

Car ownership in Bromsgrove is higher than the national average especially those households having two or more cars or vans. The methods people use to travel to work show a high dependence on the motor car, with 68% of the population of Bromsgrove driving to work by car compared to a national figure of only 55%.

The provision of public bus services has been in steady decline for the last decade with a reduction in bus use nationally of 11%. Recent cancellations and withdrawal of services in the District have reflected this national decline. There are currently 15 bus services operating within the District. These mainly serve the main urban areas as well as linking to neighbouring settlements such as Birmingham, Worcester and Kidderminster. Many rural areas are poorly served with unreliable and infrequent bus services.

The District is reasonably well served by the rail network, although Bromsgrove train station suffers due to its isolation from the Town Centre and limited facilities. For example, the train station at Bromsgrove is served by bus routes that are relatively infrequent, exist to serve other locations, and are not linked to the arrival of trains at the station. Other stations that provide a commuter service into Birmingham are situated at Barnt Green, Alvechurch, Wythall and Hagley. All train lines run through the District into Birmingham. Apart from travelling between Barnt Green and Alvechurch it is impractical to travel via train between settlements in the District. A feasibility study is currently underway which is examining the relocation and improvement of Bromsgrove Station. The existing station has insufficient platform length which means that larger trains cannot stop at Bromsgrove. It also has substandard customer facilities i.e. no waiting room, facilities for people with disabilities and inadequate car parking.

Plan Showing the Road and Rail Network



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Culture and Community Services

The Council are responsible for the following key leisure services, allotments, arts development, tourism information centre, museums, play areas, parks, open spaces and sports pitches, sports development and sports facilities at the Dolphin Centre and Haybridge Sports Centre.

The Council are responsible for 6 adult and 6 junior football pitches in Bromsgrove District, the use of these pitches varies from season to season and are marked out to reflect the local demand. The Council is also in the process of enhancing its playing pitch stock as part of its forward capital programme. The Council operates 34 play areas, 6 Multi Use Games Arenas and 3 skate parks distributed throughout parts of the District.





The District contains a number of Commons and Greens in rural areas. The commons are; Clent Common, Gannow Green Common, Hollies Hill Common, Romsley Hill Common, Sling Common, The Marlhole, Putney Lane, Romsley, Uffmoor Green Common and Walton Pool Common. A number of traditional Village Greens are also located in the District's rural areas. These are; Alvechurch Green, Belbroughton – Bradford Lane Green, Belbroughton – Holy Cross Green, Broad Green, Tardebigge, Holy Cross Village Green and Woodcote Green. The Council is also responsible for nature reserves at Beaudesert in Wythall, Hagley Sweet Pool and Hopwood Nature reserve.

The District Council operates 8 allotment sites of varying sizes the biggest being at Lickey End, which has 162 plots, and the smallest being in Aston Fields. A number of smaller sites are also operated by the parish councils. The major District sites are mainly provided within the Bromsgrove settlement boundary. It is vital that the benefits of allotments are promoted to ensure uptake of plots and that a comprehensive assessment is undertaken of all allotment sites to ensure best use is made of the land, to support these principles the Council has restructured its Parks and Open Spaces Team to provide additional operation support in this area. Allotments not only provide many social benefits but can also provide a green lung for the urban areas and a semi-rural outlook for many living in urban areas.

There are three Country Parks in the District; Clent Hills Country Park, Waseley Hills Country Park and the Lickey Hills Country Park and the principle urban parks in Bromsgrove and Rubery Town centres. These three country parks form a natural boundary to the conurbation and are important for leisure and wildlife purposes.

There are a number of private leisure facilities throughout the District including, Health & Fitness operators (private health clubs), Bromsgrove & District Indoor Bowls Club, Rubery Community Crown Green Bowls Centre and various other smaller sports and working men's clubs with sports facilities.

Due to the rural nature of the District and population spread it is important that dual use/community use opportunities are maximised across the district to meet local demand and the extended schools agenda. Existing dual/community use schemes include, Bromsgrove School Artificial Turf Pitch, Woodrush High School Artificial Turf Pitch, Haybridge Sports Centre and the new provisions being developed as part of the PFI initiatives across Worcestershire.

There are no cinemas in the District, however the Artrix Arts venue opened in April 2005 with the capability to show films, as part of the Districts SLA with the operator an expansion to the programme including cinema provision is being planned for 2008. Due to the dispersed population and the closeness of major cultural centres such as Birmingham, Worcester and Stratford, the potential for major cultural facilities in the District is limited, however by adopting a more focused local programme the potential of the facility will be maximised.

Environmental Characteristics of the District

Biodiversity

Bromsgrove is a mainly rural district with around 90% of the land designated as green belt. Amongst this green belt there lies pockets of urban development. This mixture of both urban and rural environments contribute towards a rich biodiversity across the district.

It is not the place of a SA or SEA to address the details of each of the protected sites and species within the district, rather to focus upon key issues and to give an overview of the baseline for the district. Where specific spatial allocations are proposed, more detailed baseline surveys will be required for those areas in question.

Currently there are 8 separate Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) as well as a number of SSSIs which come under a larger collective SSSI defined as the Birmingham Plateau Grasslands. The SSSIs are in various states of recovery, decline, or stability. The majority are either in favourable or unfavourable condition but recovering, with only a few in unfavourable condition but not declining, or in unfavourable condition and getting worse. Unfortunately in one case the SSSI seems to have been destroyed. Over the page, details can be found of each SSSI, its condition and if applicable the reason for decline.



Appendix 1 Baseline Characterisation Study and Potential Indicators



Site Name	Condition	Reason for Adverse Condition
Feckenham Forest.	94.5% Favourable. 3% Unfavourable – Recovering. 2% Unfavourable – No change.	Forestry and Woodland management.
Sling Gravel Pits.	100% Unfavourable – Declining.	Earth science feature obstructed.
Madeley Heath Pit.	100% Destroyed.	Earth science feature destroyed.
Hewell Park Lake.	favourable – Change (was 100% unfavourable).	Freshwater abstraction, inappropriate scrub control.
Hopwood Dingle.	100% Favourable.	
Romsley Manor Farm.	100% Unfavourable Recovering.	Undergrazing.
Bittell Reservoirs.	100% Unfavourable – No Change.	Fish stocking and pollution.
Burcot Lane Cutting.	100% Favourable.	

SSSIs in Bromsgrove October 2007 (source: Natural England)

Birmingham Plateau SSSI sites	Condition	Reason for Adverse Condition
Hurst Farm Pasture.	100% Favourable.	
Little Royal Farm Pastures.	100% Favourable.	
Penorchard and Spring Farm Pastures.	100% Favourable.	
Berry Mound Pastures.	100% Unfavourable – Recovering.	
Romsley Hill.	100% unfavourable – Recovering.	Under grazing.
Oakland Pasture (Birmingham Plateau).	100% unfavourable – Recovering.	

Birmingham Plateau SSSI sites in Bromsgrove (Source: Natural England)

There are also 96 Special Wildlife Sites (SWS) and 5 Landscape Protection Areas in the District. These sites are varied in their nature ranging from whole valleys and hills such as the Lickey, Clent, and Waseley hills, canals, protected ancient woodlands, and reservoirs which all serve as habitats for many species of plants and animals.

Information is presently unavailable on the condition of the SWS within the district. This detailed information should be obtained if specific area allocations are to be investigated. It is sufficient at this point to recognise the value of Bromsgrove's biodiversity and to ensure that it is afforded protection via the LDF.

The Bromsgrove District Biodiversity Action Programme was adopted in 2000. This programme highlights a number of issues that need to be addressed in the District. High levels of water abstraction from bores holes underlying Bromsgrove for private and, above all, public water supply has resulted in worrying falls in the water table, resulting in long term damage to a number of key wildlife sites. Both Hewell Park Lake and Catshill/Battlefield Brook and Bow Brook and their associate Marshes have seen reduced water flow resulting in harm to marshes and loss of biodiversity. Reduced abstraction by Severn Trent Water for the public water supply is the only long term solution.





Apart from designated wildlife sites or SSSIs, at the other end of the range there are a number of much smaller localised sites such as ponds, marshes, and streams, which are equally important in ensuring the continued biodiversity of the district. Allotments not provide many social benefits but also have an important biodiversity value.

The following habitats, highlighted within the Biodiversity Action Plan for Worcestershire are found within the District;

Habitat	Example within Bromsgrove District
Arable.	Where old field patterns are retained, species such as Corn Bunting can still be found.
Traditional Orchards.	
Ancient/Species Rich Hedgerows.	Lower Bentley area.
Scrub.	Clent Hills.
Woodland.	Chaddesley, Pepper and Uffmoor Woods Nature Reserves.
Lowland Wood Pasture and Veteran Trees.	Hagley Hall Estate.
Wet Woodland.	Bogs Wood Complex SWS, Romsley.
Reedbeds.	Hewell Park Lake SSSI.
Fen and Marsh.	Catshill Marsh (now subject to drying out).
Lowland wet grassland.	Wythall Meadows.
Lowland Hay Meadows and Neutral Pastures.	Penorcharad Farm and Romsley Manor Farm SSSIs.
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland.	Clent Hills.
Lowland Heathland.	The Lickey Hills.
Road Verges.	
Canals.	Worcester and Birmingham Canal.
Open Water (Ponds and Lakes).	Hewell Park Lake & Bittel Reservoirs SSSIs.
Rivers and Streams.	The Arrow and Salwarpe Rivers and their tributaries.

(Bromsgrove District Biodiversity Action Programme, 2000)

In respect of species under threat in the District, the following were identified in the County Plan and are found within the District;

- Otters
- Great Crested Newt
- Slow Worm
- Water Vole
- Bats
- White Clawed Crayfish (uncertain)

Each of these species is afforded legal protection, although Slow Worm are only protected against sale or possession under Section 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).





A number of targets are contained in the Bromsgrove District Biodiversity Action Programme relate to the protection of these species. They include, restore otter populations to pre-1960's levels, halt the decline of bat populations, restoration of water vole habitats, creation of a slow worm 'sanctuary' on new developments if they are present on a site scheduled for development and the protection of the newt and crayfish through a reduction in runoff from roads into ponds.






The identification and protection of wildlife corridors through urban areas can enable the movement of animals between sites. New developments need to take account of existing corridors and not block routes between existing habitat sites.

Appendix 1 of the Bromsgrove District Biodiversity Action Programme contains a detailed list of actions that the local authority needs to undertake to promote biodiversity. The LDF will need to take account of these requirements.

Landscape

The landscape within Bromsgrove is a major attraction. Located on the southern border of the West Midlands conurbation it provides swathes of open countryside, immediately adjacent to an area of dense urban form. As identified above there are 5 landscape protection areas within the District which broadly follow the boundaries of Areas of Great Landscape Value as identified in the Worcestershire County Structure Plan. The Landscape Protection Areas identify places where the landscape forms an important element of local or even regional importance. These important areas include the Clent and Lickey hills and the Birmingham and Worcester canal. The Landscape Protection Areas are;

The uplands defined by the Clent, Walton Hill, Romsley Hill and Lickey Hill;

-  The upland based upon Weatheroak Hill, Forhill, Hob Hill and Newbourne Hill;
-  The ridge of high ground containing Butler's Hill, Copley Hill and Scarfield Hill;
-  The ridge of high land accommodating part of the Birmingham to Worcester Canal;
-  The varied undulating landscape and historic field patterns around Chaddesley,
-  Randan and Pepper Woods.

The County Council undertook a Landscape Character Assessment in 2004 of Worcestershire. This was based on work previously done in the mid 1990's by the Countryside Agency which resulted in a character map of the whole of England.

Instead of looking at and identifying good and bad areas the assessment took a holistic view looking at the landscape as a whole and what makes one landscape different from another. Bromsgrove is primarily made up of, timbered pastures, timbered plateau farmlands, wooded hills and farmlands, principal wooded hills, principal timbered farmlands, enclosed commons, urban, unenclosed commons and principal village farmlands. The District slopes down from the Birmingham plateau and merges into a rolling and undulating landscape. The District also contains large areas of ancient woodland.

As shown above the District has a landscape primarily dominated by farmland and wooded hills. The main concentration of built form is Bromsgrove Town which sits at the bottom of the Lickey Hills.

Air quality

Air pollution is a vitally important aspect that needs to be assessed monitored and improved wherever possible. Many of the perceived big polluters of previous decades have all but disappeared including typically heavy engineering and manufacturing industries such as the Garringtons/UEF forging works. When considered alongside the massive rise in the use of motor vehicles newer forms of pollution have become more prevalent. Bromsgrove has not escaped this shift in pollution, with 2 motorways and a number of high capacity trunk roads crossing the district.

This issue is highlighted by the designation of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) around junction 1 of the M42 due to its high levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), which have been directly linked to the emissions from vehicles using





To tackle this air quality issue an Air Quality Management Action Plan was adopted by the Council in February 2005. This contained a number of proposals to try to improve the air quality in this part of the District. The measure of whether the Council has achieved better air quality is the designation of no more air quality management areas and the achieving of targets in the Air Quality Management Action Plan.

The Detailed Assessment in April 2007 recommended introducing continuous monitoring in the Redditch Road, Buntsford Hill, Bromsgrove for a minimum of 6 months, to more accurately assess nitrogen dioxide levels and compliance with the annual mean objective, this work will commence in early 2008.

In addition the Assessments recommended monitoring NO₂ at all the current diffusion tube locations in order to ensure that any future changes in air quality are detected, notably locations representative of the relevant exposure, i.e., at the façade of the residential properties.

Noise

Noise pollution associated with heavy route ways such as the motorways is also an issue especially when surrounding land uses contain a significant element of residential. With two motorways passing through the District and a number of major A roads noise is an issue for adjacent settlements. Road based noise can be improved using better road treatments, barriers and by slowing traffic. The responsibility for trunk road noise control measures rests with the Highways Agency.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (principal legislation), provides statutory noise nuisance controls, in particular, the power to serve notices for the prevention of an occurrence/recurrence, and prohibition of statutory nuisances. In respect of noise problems in domestic premises new construction materials can play an important role in reducing conflict over noise. However the need to make the best out of brownfield sites is resulting in dense forms of development leading to people living closer together and consequently resulting in increased instances of noise complaints. Figures now exist for noise complaints in recently built developments, which could be used to check that developments are being built to minimise noise disturbance.

In the early 1990s, the Countryside Agency and CPRE prepared broad maps of 'Tranquil Areas' in the UK, indicating areas that were not affected by noise from man made influences such as major roads, airports, urban areas etc. Whilst these maps are now out of date and were considered inaccurate at the time, new more accurate surveys are being planned which would provide useful baseline noise data for Bromsgrove District.

Soil and Land Quality

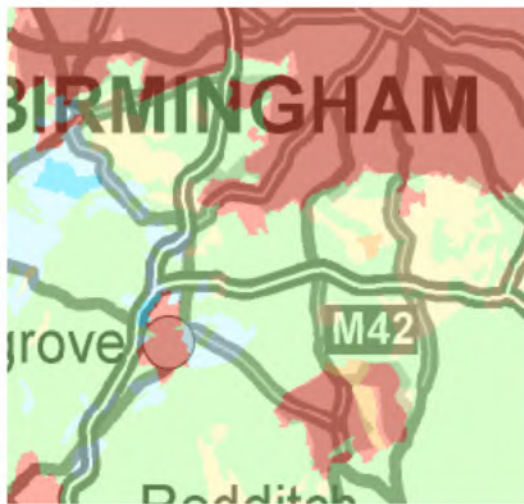
Contaminated land can be classed in many different ways and at different levels dependant upon the types and intensity of the contaminant and also the intended use of the land. Accurate data for sites within the District is temporarily unavailable, although the presence of the housing moratorium has prevented many new housing sites coming forward. This could mask the number and location of many contaminated sites within the district.

In December 2007 87% of new and converted dwellings was on previously developed land. This figure, whilst above nationally set targets is below what was achieved in 2006 (92%). This figure may however be misleading as the District council has released no Greenfield sites for housing in the past year due to the continuing moratorium. Any Greenfield sites coming forward would be from permission granted prior to the moratorium in 2004. At October 2004 nearly 90% of new housing was being built on brownfield land, exceeding national and regional requirements. However, this figure has only been achieved recently. Only two years ago it was running at under 50%, below the national target. The reason for this sudden change was the completion in 2003 of the Oakalls, the last major Greenfield development in the District. The regional target of 65% of future housing provision to be provided on previously developed land between 2001-2011 is to rise to at least 70% between 2011-2021 (Worcestershire State of the Environment Report).

The quality of the land in the rural areas of the District is of importance, not only to the biodiversity of the district but also the economy of the district. Agriculture is a major land use which reflects the quality of agricultural land, which is generally very good (Grade 1: Excellent, Grade 3 :Good, Grade 5: Very Poor).

The District contains pockets of excellent and very good land, but there are also pockets of land classified as poor. While the poor soil cannot be improved it is important that excellent areas are maintained for agricultural purposes. It would be useful to have data showing the loss over time (if any) of excellent and good quality agricultural land. The Map on the following page shows the quality of agricultural land in the District.





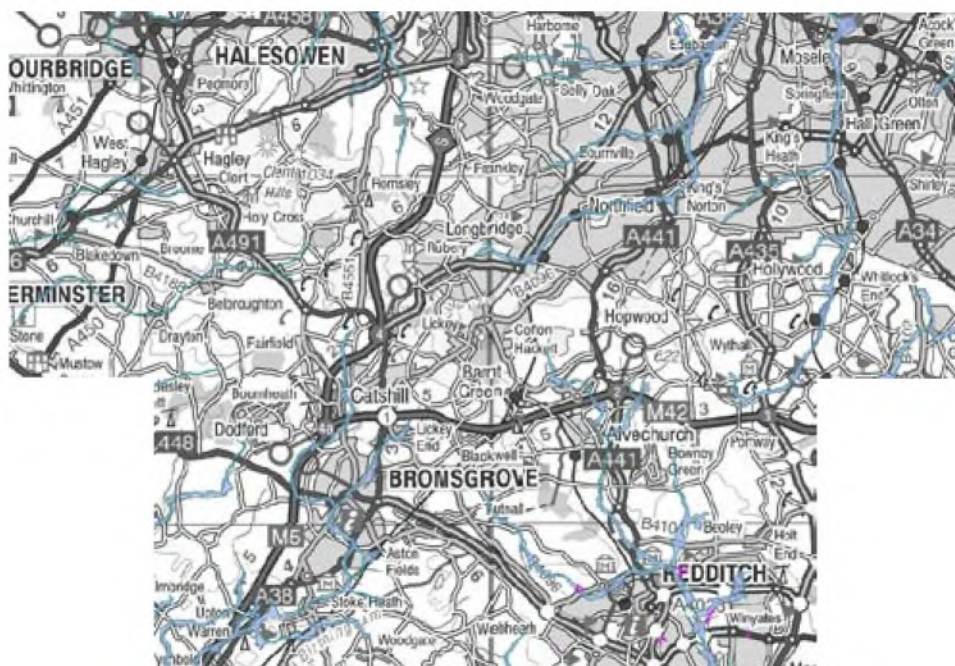
- Selected Features
- Agricultural Land Classification (Provisional)
- GRADE 1
- GRADE 2
- GRADE 3
- GRADE 4
- GRADE 5
- NON AGRICULTURAL
- URBAN

Map produced by MAGIC on March 10 2005. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Defra 100018880 2005. Copyright resides with the data suppliers and the map must not be produced without their permission. Some information in MAGIC is a snapshot of the information that is being maintained or continually updated by the originating organisation.

(Source: MAGIC)

Water Quality and Flooding

The watercourses within the District are an important feature as they can provide much needed habitats for masses of different plants and animals as well as water for human consumption or other uses. However this vital resource can also be a flood hazard to those who live and work along their routes. The map below shows the potential areas within the District which are under the threat of flooding. In accordance with PPS25 Development and Flood Risk, a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is currently being carried out. Due to the cross boundary issues in particular with Redditch, it has been decided that a joint SFRA is the most appropriate way forward. The Assessment will examine different sources and levels of existing and future levels of flood risk, paying particular attention for example to the impact of climate change; provide guidance on areas where development is likely to occur; identification of methods to reduce flood risk and recommendations to mitigate against identified local sources of flooding.



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The flood risk in the District is concentrated in a few places but the risk of major flooding is minimal. No major rivers flow through the District. However it does contain a number of small watercourses that can, in adverse weather conditions, cause a small amount of localised flooding. The majority of flooding incidences in the District, especially in urban areas is caused by water run off rather than overflowing watercourses. Information on the number of properties built in the floodplain is currently unavailable.





For these watercourses to be an effective asset to the district it is important they are in a usable state not only for wildlife but also for amenity purposes. Bromsgrove falls within the river Severn catchment area, which is classed as having generally good water quality with some pollution in its lower tributaries, although this pollution is improving (Environment Agency 2002). This would suggest that some of watercourses in and around Bromsgrove may be polluted. Summary data on the quality of rivers in Bromsgrove is not currently available, although in 2002, 88% of rivers in Worcestershire were classified as fairly good or better chemical quality under the Environment Agency's General Quality Assessment grading system, and 86% as fairly good or better biological quality (Worcestershire State of the Environment Report).

A potential cause of pollution is surface run off. This is defined as "non point source pollution" affecting aquatic wildlife as pollutants in surface water find their way through storm drains into water courses and by infiltration into groundwater. One measure already implemented to alleviate this problem is the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). Closed waste sites can also affect both groundwater and air quality. The level of abstraction and the consequent adverse affect on biodiversity and long term water resources is of concern. The area is highly sensitive in terms of protection of groundwater. All appropriate measures should therefore be taken to ensure that the underlying aquifers are protected during any regeneration.

A joint Water Cycle study with Redditch is also currently being carried out, which will examine existing supply issues and the impact of future development on the supply of water.

Waste

Over 38,475 tonnes of waste were collected from households in 2006/07, which is a slight decrease when compared to 2005/2006 figures of nearly 42,024. Of this 38,475 tonnes over 41% was recycled; this is the highest level of recycling in the county. This is due to a dry recycling collection and a garden recycling collection operating on alternate weeks to the residual waste collection. The introduction of wheeled bins has ensured households are recycling their waste and has also ensured households cannot present unlimited quantities of waste for collection.

The introduction of a kerbside recycling scheme in 2004 has resulted in approximately 90% of households in the District having recyclable material collections which is now comparable with other local authorities. The new scheme offers the collection of Glass, Paper, Plastic Bottles, Cans, and Green waste.

The County Council looks after two closed landfill sites in Bromsgrove. The sites are monitored regularly for landfill gas and leachate, and surface and groundwaters are also sampled to ensure no contamination is present.

Landfill gas.

- ➔ This is a by-product of the decomposition of biodegradable wastes that are placed into landfill. It is made up of predominantly methane and carbon dioxide, and has to be monitored as under certain conditions it can be an explosive risk or cause asphyxiation.

Leachate.

- ➔ This is a liquid that is formed when the waste decays. Rainfall percolating through the waste will dissolve soluble components of the waste, but leachate will also contain insolubles such as oils and small particles. It has to be monitored as it can be toxic and cause damage to the surrounding environment if it is not treated correctly.

An Integrated Waste Management System covers the County and District. This provides the long term strategy for the management of household waste. It includes the provision of a landfill site, transfer stations, household waste sites, and a range of treatment disposal methods including central composting, Energy from Waste, and the collection of source separated recyclables. In December 1998 Herefordshire Council and Worcestershire County Council signed a 25 year contract to provide these facilities which are operated by Severn Waste Services.

The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Herefordshire & Worcestershire (JMWMS) outlines the Best Practical Environmental Option for a waste treatment facility for Worcestershire & Herefordshire. Planning is currently being sought for the necessary facilities which will allow Bromsgrove District Council to further improve refuse & recycling collections within the District.





In 2007 the Government published Waste Strategy 2007 setting out national targets at much higher rates than those set in 2000:

Recycling & Composting	40% by 2010
	45% by 2015
	50% by 2020
Recovery of Municipal Waste	53% by 2010
	67% by 2015
	75% by 2020

The District contains one household waste site where members of the public can recycle and dispose of waste from their own domestic property. This site is situated near Romsley in a rural area of the District. The site is in need of refurbishment and improvement to provide split level facilities. The improvement of the facility could have implications on the character of the landscape in that area.

Climate Change

Climate refers to the average weather experienced over a long period. This includes temperature, wind and rainfall patterns. The climate of the Earth is not static, and has changed many times in response to a variety of natural causes. The recent Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) leaves us in no doubt that human activity is the primary driver of the observed changes in climate.

The main human influence on global climate is emissions of the key greenhouse gases - carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and nitrous oxide. The accumulation of these gases in the atmosphere strengthens the greenhouse effect. At present, just over 7 billion tonnes of CO₂ is emitted globally each year through fossil fuel use, and an additional 1.6 billion tonnes are emitted by land use change, largely by deforestation. In just 200 years, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere – the major gas that causes climate change – has increased by 30 per cent. Concentrations of greenhouse gases are now higher than at any point in the past 800,000 years.

The Earth has warmed by 0.74°C over the last hundred years. Around 0.4°C of this warming has occurred since the 1970s.

According to AR4, mean global temperatures are likely to rise between 1.1 and 6.4°C (with a best estimate of 1.8 to 4°C) above 1990 levels by the end of this century, depending on our emissions. This will result in a further rise in global sea levels of between 20 and 60cm by the end of this century, continued melting of ice caps, glaciers and sea ice, changes in rainfall patterns and intensification of tropical cyclones.

The evidence for climate change in the UK comes from weather records extending back over 350 years. From these, it's clear that the 1990s were the warmest decade in central England since records began in the 1660s. Coastal waters have also warmed, changing the distribution of important commercial fish species and other marine animals.

A variety of other changes to the UK climate include:

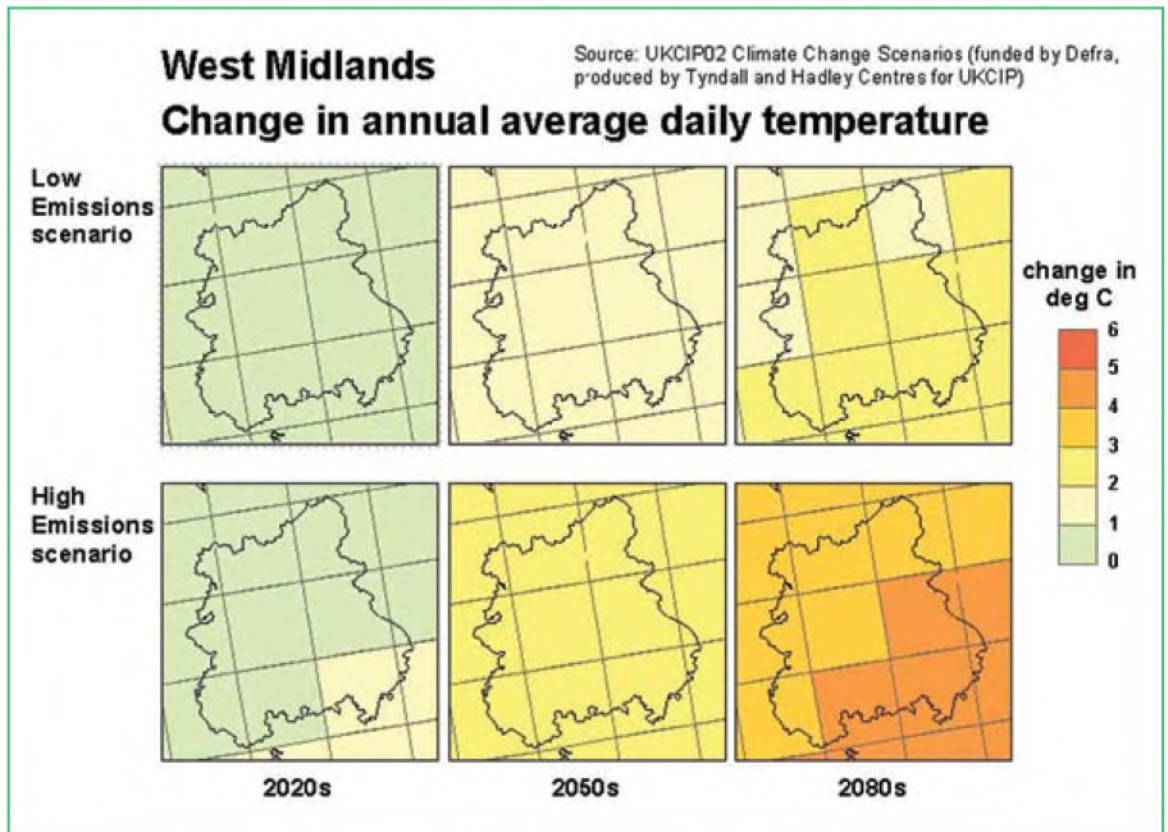
- ➔ The growing season for plants in central England is now a month longer than it was in 1900.
- ➔ Summer heatwaves are occurring more frequently, and in winter there are fewer frosts.
- ➔ Compared with 50 years ago, we now get more rain and snow, and on fewer days – so they are even heavier.
- ➔ Average sea level around the UK is now about 10cm higher than it was in 1900.

The ten warmest years on record have all been since 1990. Six of the ten warmest years on record in the UK were between 1995 and 2004.

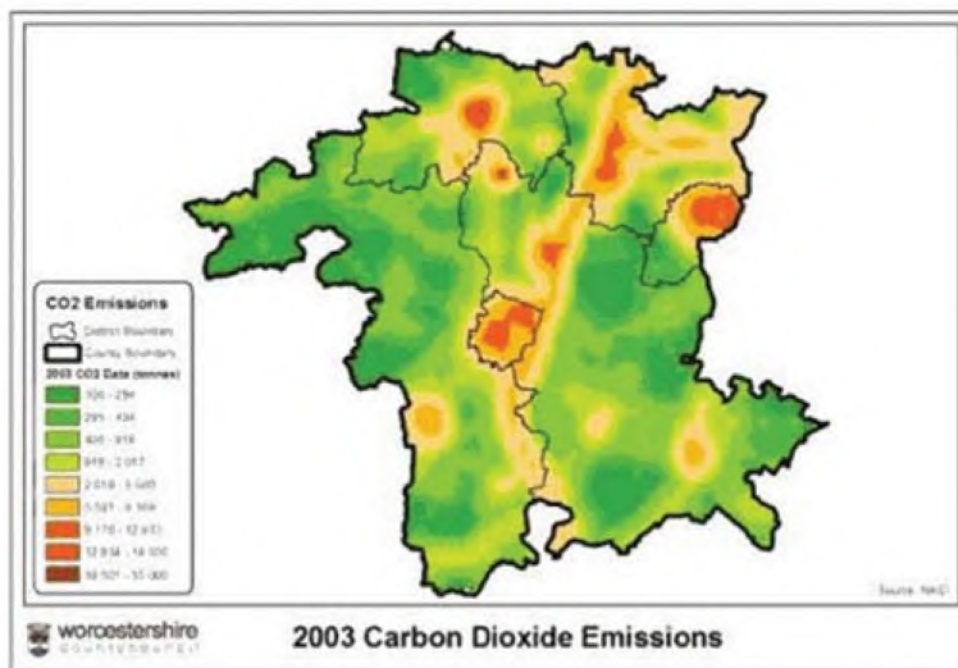
In Europe, the August 2003 heatwave was probably the hottest for at least 500 years.

The autumn and winter floods in 2000 in the UK were the worst for 270 years in some areas. Flooding on farmland cost the farming industry nearly £500 million.





Every household in the UK creates around six tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. By introducing energy efficiency measures, the average household could reduce this by one-third (HM Government 2005). However, it is not only about households, industry and transport and other key areas need to see fundamental changes to reverse the consequences of climate change. In 2003, it was estimated that approximately 4.7million tonnes of carbon dioxide were emitted in Worcestershire, 36% is from road transport, 33% domestic, 28% industry and commercial and 3% land use change (Worcestershire State of the Environment Report). In Bromsgrove, the highest emissions correlate to the M5 and M42 motorway corridors (see the CO2 emission map below), whilst in other, predominantly rural areas, emissions are low (National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory).





Health

Bromsgrove falls within the boundaries of the Worcestershire Primary Care Trust. The key responsibilities are: maintaining and improving the health of the local population, commissioning primary, secondary and tertiary services, developing primary care, providing community and other health services.

A Health Act was published in 2006. It provides for a number of administrative changes in the **National Health Service**. More significantly, the Act also introduced provisions for the creation of a **ban on smoking** in enclosed public places. The Health Act also granted the **Secretary of State** to increase the age for purchasing tobacco from 16 to 18.

The 2001 Census asked people in Bromsgrove to describe their health, over the preceding 12 months as “good”, “fairly good” or “not good”.

RESIDENT POPULATION (PERCENTAGE)

	Bromsgrove	England and Wales
Good	71.1 %	68.6%
Fairly Good	21.2%	22.2%
Not Good	7.7%	9.2%

(Source: 2001 Census, ONS)

It also asked questions about any limiting long-term illness, health problem or disability which limited people’s daily activities or the work they could do.

RESIDENT POPULATION (PERCENTAGE)

	Bromsgrove	England and Wales
Had a long-term illness	16.7 %	18.2%

(Source: 2001 Census, ONS)

In the West Midlands 67% considered themselves in good health and in Worcestershire 69% considered themselves in good health. As shown above the District is slightly above average in respect of the population who consider themselves in good health compared to national and regional figures. However these figures only take account of illness not on how fit the population is.

(Source: 2001 Census, ONS)

The Historic Environment

Before looking at the evidence and remnants of the Districts historic past it is important to outline the development of the District.

Bromsgrove Town is a market town whose origins can be traced to pre-Roman times. In the medieval period Bromsgrove was a prosperous centre for the wool trade and far more important than the obscure village of Birmingham to the north. The decline of the woollen industry was offset by the arrival in the 17th century of French Huguenots who brought with them a new craft— nailmaking. Bromsgrove became the world centre for the manufacture of nails and outlying villages specialised in other metal products e.g. Belbroughton Sythes. Nail making declined at the end of the last century as increased mechanisation rendered the outworking system obsolete. Unfortunately and considering the role that Bromsgrove played in the nail making industry, only traces of the nailmaking industry remain.





New activities sprang up related to the motor industry and local people began to look to Birmingham and the Black Country for employment. Garringtons, once reputedly Europe's largest forging works grew as a shadow factory of the Austin Works to supply the car industry. In recent times Bromsgrove has experienced a considerable increase in population and has become a major commuting centre for the West Midlands Conurbation and further afield, the implications of which have been outlined above.

The District has over 470 Listed Buildings and 10 Conservation Areas designated as being areas of special architectural or historic interest. Unlike well known neighbours Worcester and Stratford, which are nationally recognised historical centres, Bromsgrove is not known for its historical connections or rich variety of historical buildings. However, a rich largely 'hidden' history does exist that needs to be protected and recognised as the District changes and develops over time.

A buildings at risk survey has been undertaken for the District although the results have not yet been published. These will be incorporated into future stages of the SA as appropriate. General indications show that the condition of the majority of buildings are in good condition with only a small percentage being classified as being in poor condition.

The English landscape is the product of its past. Its present form has been shaped by a succession of natural processes and human interventions. There are 839 known sites of archaeology interest in the District. Sites can vary from upstanding monuments to sites inferred from historical documents, from buried remains to listed buildings, and from earthworks to artefacts. Of these known sites, 10 are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The diversity of designated and non-designated heritage and archaeological sites form a key component of the historic landscape of the district. A Historic Landscape Characterisation is currently underway and will be incorporated into the SA once it is available.

Large portions of evidence in the form of archaeological deposits and structures above and below ground level have already been destroyed during previous development, especially that of the 1960's. The continuing and essential process of growth and regeneration within the District will bring about further erosion of this archaeological evidence of which only a limited and finite amount now remains.

The District contains two parks of national historic interest, these are Hagley Park and Hewell Park. The District also contains a number of other historic parks of regional importance which are detailed in Appendix 7A of the Bromsgrove Local Plan.

The district has many locally important buildings that do not qualify for statutory listing but nevertheless are important to the distinctive character of the Bromsgrove area. A local list survey will commence in June 2005 to ascertain the number, type and location of locally important buildings.

Economic Characteristics of the District

Economy

The Traditional manufacturing industries associated with the West Midlands have been in decline for a number of years. This is reflected in the spread of industries Bromsgrove residents are currently employed in. Manufacturing is still the most common form of employment with 21% still employed in this sector, although real estate, education, and health and social care now cater for 15%, 11%, and 15% of the workforce respectively.

Unemployment in the District is low with only 2.1% of the population currently unemployed in 2005 which compares favourably to the national average of 3.3%. Although levels of unemployment are low within the District, levels of income are also relatively low for those who work in Bromsgrove.

Across Worcestershire Bromsgrove has the highest average household income (35,690). Only Wyre Forest has a mean household income which is below the corresponding figure for Great Britain.

In Bromsgrove the difference between male and female earnings is only 12.2% compared to 45% in Wychavon.

(Source: Worcestershire County Economic Assessment 2006-2007)





Bromsgrove lies within a High Technology Corridor known as the Central Technology Belt. This corridor runs from Birmingham in the north to Malvern in the south. Locations between these two points will be looked at for the development of high technology business. One such site is the Bromsgrove science park currently undeveloped, which occupies part of the former Garringtons/UEF site, previously a heavy industry works. While it will provide a valuable economic boost for the district, there could be a mismatch in the type of jobs from such a development and the type of workforce that could be provided locally.

Bromsgrove town centre is the focus of retail activity within the District, although bordering areas can often provide a much wider range of goods which means trade is lost to these regions. Bromsgrove can offer its own retail experience as it is different from the majority of the surrounding centres. The town centre currently has approximately 370 different businesses operating in a variety of different sectors.

Material Assets

The Council have a number of material assets including buildings, vehicles, allotments and playing fields. The Council has an important role to play in ensuring that these assets are used and developed in a sustainable way. This can include limiting impact on climate change by ensuring better insulation of buildings and reductions in use of vehicles.

For example and linked in with the falling water table identified in the biodiversity section, water usage in Council owned premises through retro fitting of low water use appliances can reduce water need.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Securing the Future – The UK Sustainable Development Strategy.	<p>Place sustainable development at the heart of the planning system.</p> <p>Help people make better choices.</p> <p>“One Planet” economy: Sustainable consumption and production.</p> <p>Confronting the greatest threat: Climate change and energy.</p> <p>A future without regrets: protecting our natural resources and enhancing the environment.</p> <p>From local to global: creating sustainable communities and a fairer world.</p>	<p>Drive to improve resource efficiency and reduce waste and harmful emissions across business sectors.</p> <p>Influence consumption patterns.</p> <p>Take account of natural systems as a whole.</p> <p>Encourage farmers to deliver environmental benefits.</p> <p>Address problems of degraded resources and environmental inequalities.</p> <p>Reduce the rate of biodiversity loss.</p>	Provides basis along with associated documents for spatial policies in Core Strategy.	Ensure local Sustainability Appraisal objectives acknowledge national objectives.	Challenges for rural industry initiative to deliver environmental benefits.
Sustainable Communities Plan.	<p>Long-term programme of action for delivering sustainable communities.</p> <p>Effective protection of the environment.</p>	<p>Adequate affordable housing provision to meet needs.</p> <p>Reduction in use of natural resources.</p> <p>High and stable levels of economic growth and employment.</p>	Provides basis for spatial policies in Core Strategy.	Ensure Sustainability Appraisal objectives reflect the aims of this programme.	Challenge to provide affordable housing given RSS restriction to only provide for local needs and therefore affect the amount of affordable housing able to be delivered. Conflicts with greenbelt given the Local Plan development land allocations are in the greenbelt.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Transport 10 Year Plan (2000).	<p>Boost economic development of regions.</p> <p>Enhance access and opportunity in rural areas.</p> <p>Reduce social exclusion.</p> <p>Lessen impact of transport on environment.</p>	<p>To tackle congestion and pollution by improving all types of transport – rail and road, public and private – in ways that increase choice.</p>	<p>Promote development that minimises travel and improved transport options in rural areas.</p>	<p>Reflect appropriate national transport objectives in SA framework.</p>	<p>Challenge given the limited public transport infrastructure.</p> <p>Challenge to provide sustainable transport for rural areas. Also to address the commuter pattern to Birmingham. Existing traffic congestion problems and associated air quality problems should not be worsened by development proposals.</p>
Urban White Paper (2000).	<p>Vision of towns, cities and suburbs which offer a high quality of life and opportunity for all, not just the few.</p>	<p>Increased involvement of local communities.</p> <p>Attractive well designed and safe local environments.</p> <p>Better local services.</p>	<p>Core Strategy policies must take account of broad objectives.</p>	<p>Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.</p>	<p>Bromsgrove currently has high quality of life this needs to be maintained.</p>
Rural White Paper.	<p>Deliver an improved quality of life for everyone in the countryside.</p> <p>Protection of the countryside.</p>	<p>Thriving rural communities.</p> <p>Access to public services in rural areas.</p> <p>Diverse rural economy.</p>	<p>Core Strategy to achieve objectives.</p>	<p>Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.</p>	<p>Access to public services in rural areas a challenge given the limited public transport infrastructure.</p>
UK Climate Change Programme.	<p>Details of how the UK plans to deliver its Kyoto targets by reducing Greenhouse emissions.</p>	<p>Improve business and residential use of energy including better efficiency.</p> <p>Encourage renewable power generation.</p> <p>Cut emissions from the transport sector.</p>	<p>Plan objectives to contribute to achieving objectives.</p>	<p>Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.</p>	<p>Reliance on private motor vehicles for rural areas conflict emissions targets.</p>



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Energy White Paper-Our Energy Future-creating a low carbon economy.	Provides Governments energy policies.	Reduction in CO2 emissions. Affordable and reliable energy.	Plan objectives to contribute to achieving objectives.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	
The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.	Greater protection to SSSIs. Stronger wildlife protection. Public right of access to mountain, moor, heath, down and registered common land. Encourages the creation of new rights of way. Provides a statutory basis for biodiversity protection. Public bodies have a duty to further and enhance the conservation of SSSIs.	(See aims).	Plan objectives to contribute to achieving general aims of Act.	Ensure general aims are reflected in SA Framework.	



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Wildlife and Countryside Act.	<p>Provides protection for wildlife including certain categories of wild birds, wild animals and wild plants.</p> <p>Provides for the notification of SSSI's by reason of their flora, fauna, or geological or physiological features.</p> <p>Prohibits undertaking of agricultural or forestry operations on land within National parks.</p> <p>Requires surveying authorities to maintain up to date definitive maps and statements to clarify public rights of way.</p> <p>Provisions for traffic generation, ploughing, appointing wardens, signposting and prohibiting the keeping of bulls on land crossed by public rights of way.</p>	(See aims).	Plan objectives to contribute to achieving general aims of Act.	Ensure general aims are reflected in SA Framework.	
A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.	To provide guidance on how to comply with the European Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of certain plans and programmes on the environment.	To provide a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.	Sustainability is key aim of the LDF.	Practical guidance on this process.	



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Sustainability of the Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Frameworks.	To promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of revisions to RSS's and, DPD's and SPD's. Guidance intended to assist RPB's and LPA's to carry out Sustainability Appraisals of relevant documents.	Provides information to assist users to comply with SEA Directive. Advises on issues such as which documents require an SA, the level of detail required, consultation and methodology.	Sustainability is central aim of the LDF.	Social, economic and environmental implications recognised from minerals extraction.	Potential conflict between exploitation of resources and environmental aims.
Minerals Policy Statement 2; Controlling and Mitigating the effects of mineral Extraction in England.	Sets out how MPA's should minimise any significant environmental effects that may arise from minerals extraction. Conserve minerals whilst ensuring adequate supply to meet the needs of society. Ensure that the environmental impact caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are kept to a minimum. Minimise production of waste and to encourage efficient use of materials, including appropriate use of high quality materials and recycling of waste.	Provides policy advice on the planning considerations for the formulation of Development Plans and decisions on individual planning applications and formulating planning conditions.	LDF to take account of this issue. Exploitation of the UK's mineral resources contributes to the nations prosperity and quality of life. The supply of essential material for the construction industry, energy supply, manufacturing and other industries enables social and economic progress. It can be beneficial by providing employment, clearing areas of dereliction, dealing with instability and providing materials which allow redevelopment and the creation of sustainable communities and infrastructure.	Minerals may be found in environmentally sensitive or designated landscape areas and/or in close proximity to communities.	



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
PPS 1: Delivering Sustainable Development.	Creation of Sustainable Communities through the planning system.	<p>Promote urban and rural regeneration.</p> <p>Promote regional, sub-regional and local economies.</p> <p>Promote communities which are inclusive, healthy, safe and crime free.</p> <p>Bring forward sufficient land of a suitable quality in the right locations.</p> <p>Give high priority to ensuring access for all to jobs, health, education, shops, leisure and community facilities.</p> <p>Focus development that attracts a large number of people in existing centres.</p> <p>Protect and enhance the historic environment and the quality and character of the countryside.</p> <p>Promote design which is appropriate to its context.</p> <p>Reinforce local distinctiveness.</p> <p>Recognise the need to enhance as well as protect biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote the more efficient use of land.</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel.</p>	Objectives of PPS 1 will be the driving force for the Bromsgrove LDF.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	<p>Promotion of more efficient use of land conflicts with the availability of brownfield land for development in Bromsgrove.</p> <p>Bring forward sufficient land of a suitable quality in the right locations may conflict with the RSS restriction to provide growth for local needs.</p>



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Draft PPS1 Planning and Climate Change.	<p>Over time development is expected to become more carbon friendly.</p> <p>DPD's will set policies on the provision of low carbon and renewable energy sources. Planning authorities should require a standard 10%. If there are local opportunities for requiring higher levels of building performance these should be set out in a DPD. Clarify the framework for achieving zero carbon development.</p> <p>Deliver growth that secures fullest use of sustainable transport and reduce need to travel by car.</p> <p>Secure new development that is resilient to climate change.</p> <p>Sustain biodiversity.</p> <p>Reflect the needs of the community and the contribution they can make to tackling climate change.</p> <p>Respond to concerns of business and technological innovation.</p>	See aims	<p>Due consideration needs to be given to the needs for core strategy policies for on site renewable energy generation and solar gain in development.</p> <p>Consider need for policy aiming to reduce the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Promote zero carbon development.</p> <p>Promote sustainable transport methods and reduce the need to travel by car.</p> <p>Deliver patterns of urban growth which secure fullest possible use of sustainable transport.</p> <p>Aim to sustain biodiversity.</p> <p>Promote use of decentralised energy supply.</p> <p>Allocations of housing and employment must aim to reduce the need to travel.</p> <p>Developments in locations that can be accessed sustainably.</p>	<p>Need to promote resource efficiency.</p> <p>Need to reduce climate change.</p> <p>Need to reduce need to travel.</p> <p>Need to protect biodiversity.</p>	<p>There is still a dichotomy of views in society as to whether climate change is happening which may hinder implementation of appropriate policies.</p> <p>May be reticence by building industry to change current practises.</p> <p>Conflicts sometimes arise between biodiversity and renewable energy methods such as wind turbines.</p> <p>Lack of attractive/ efficient alternative means of transport to private car.</p>



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
PPG 2: Green Belt.	Protection of the Green Belt.	<p>Provision of opportunities for access to the countryside for the urban population.</p> <p>Opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation.</p> <p>Retain land in agricultural uses.</p> <p>To secure nature conservation interest.</p>	Green Belt Policy in Local Plan will be saved post 2007.	Ensure sustainability objectives reflect importance of Green Belt.	<p>Bromsgrove is 90% greenbelt.</p> <p>Conflicts with providing land for development.</p> <p>Need to ensure environmental improvements in these areas. (Local Plan land allocations are in greenbelt, development, should include mitigation of environmental impacts).</p>



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
PPS 3: Housing.	<p>Prioritise re-use of brownfield land.</p> <p>Make more efficient use of land.</p> <p>Provide a choice and better mix of housing.</p> <p>Meet the housing requirements of the whole community.</p> <p>Ensure housing is built in a way which is appropriate for its locality.</p> <p>A decent home for everyone, choice, social distinctions should not be reinforced by housing. Define and communicate a spatial vision for the area, determining a strategy for delivering the vision and joining up planning, housing and wider strategies including economic and community strategies. Take into account market information when developing housing policies. Have regard to housing market areas in developing spatial plans. Develop a shared vision with local communities regarding type of residential environments they wish to see and develop design policies that set out the quality of development expected for the local area. Respect local character.</p>	<p>At least 60% of new housing on brownfield sites.</p> <p>Density of new housing proposals to be not less than 30 per hectare.</p> <p>Take account of surrounding densities and character of an area.</p> <p>Reuse of previously developed land before Greenfield sites are allocated.</p> <p>Based on findings of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and other local evidence, establish in the LDD the likely overall proportions of households that require market or affordable housing, the likely profile of household types requiring market housing and the size/type of affordable housing required.</p>	<p>Plan objectives to contribute to achieving objectives. Ensure key targets are met.</p>	<p>Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.</p>	<p>New housing on brownfield sites – challenge for Bromsgrove as there is limited brownfield land and the locations of these sites means they conflict with other policies and may not be sustainable.</p> <p>Promotion of development on previously developed land could result in the loss of retail and employment land.</p> <p>Housing requirements to Bromsgrove until 2011 have been met.</p> <p>Conflict between local needs and migration requirements.</p>



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
PPG 4: Industrial, commercial development and small firms.	Continued economic development that is compatible with environmental objectives.	Encourage economic development in sustainable locations that minimises the use of private motor vehicle transport.	LDF to reflect economic needs of District.	Check that national planning policy requirements are reflected in SA framework.	<p>Conflict for the use of greenbelt for new large-scale employment development.</p> <p>Bromsgrove has good strategic links that will attract businesses. Pressure to meet increased demand for leisure, health, education, housing and other personal and social requirements.</p> <p>The need for an improved highway network and better local transport facilities are inextricably linked to these developments.</p>
PPS4 Draft Planning for Sustainable Economic Development.	<p>5 key policy outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Raise productivity of the UK economy. 2) Maximise job opportunities for all. 3) Improve the economic performance of all English regions and reduce the gap in economic growth rates between regions. 4) Deliver sustainable development. 5) Build prosperous communities by improving economic performance of cities, sub-regions and local areas, promoting regeneration and tackling deprivation. 	<p>Need flexible planning policies.</p> <p>Planning strategies at every level must be underpinned by a robust evidence base.</p> <p>Flexible approach to supply and use of land to ensure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) increased competition and enterprise. 2) enhanced skills and innovation. 3) increased job opportunities. 4) greater investment in UK economy. 	Need to plan to encourage economic growth.	Deliver economic development in a sensitive manner with regards to climate change.	Challenge for business to respond rapidly to environmental issues by adopting new technologies such as low carbon innovation.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
PPS 6: Planning for Town Centres.	<p>Emphasis on Plan-lead approach.</p> <p>Plan for growth of town centres.</p> <p>Tackle social exclusion through access to services for all.</p> <p>More sustainable development and lower car dependence.</p>	<p>Tackle social exclusion through access to services for all.</p> <p>More sustainable development and lower car dependence.</p>	LDF to reflect national policies via Core Strategy and Town Centre Action Plan.	Check that national planning policy requirements are reflected in SA framework.	<p>Conflict for social exclusion due to rural access to services and facilities.</p> <p>Bromsgrove Town is not listed in the RSS as a strategic town or city centre. Potential conflict between planning for growth in the region and Bromsgrove's role.</p>
PPS 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas.	<p>To raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas.</p> <p>Ensure sustainable economic growth and diversification.</p> <p>Protection of important landscapes.</p> <p>Committed to good design that makes an important contribution to local identity and regional diversity.</p> <p>Supports reuse of existing buildings in the countryside where this meets sustainable objectives.</p> <p>Recognises need to preserve buildings of historic or architectural importance.</p> <p>Identifies that the historic environment has a role in the economics of the area through tourism and leisure.</p>	<p>Sustainable economic growth in rural areas.</p> <p>Reduce loss of important landscape areas.</p>	Development of LDF policies to reflect needs of rural populations.	Check that national planning policy requirements are reflected in SA framework.	<p>Conflicts between allowing rural diversification and changes in landscape.</p> <p>Also development in rural areas is not supported by sustainable transport infrastructure and could therefore have adverse effects on the environment due to traffic generation.</p>



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
PPG 8: Telecommunications.	Facilitate the growth of new communications systems in order to provide a wider choice, while protecting human health and keeping environmental impact to a minimum.	Effective negotiation and discussion with communication operators over location of new facilities.	Ensure LDF balances the need for new facilities against effects on the environments.	Ensure objectives and are reflected in SA Framework.	Conflict over the protection of landscape and provision of telecommunications facilities. Public concerns common regarding health issues
PPS 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation.	Ensure that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of sustainable development. Protection of the natural environment.	Increase the biodiversity of the district. Enhance and/or minimise the adverse effects on wildlife where conflict is unavoidable. Meet international responsibilities.	Promote strategic policies that provide a framework for the protection of the natural environment.	Use guidance to set SA objectives in relation to protection and enhancement of the districts biodiversity/geodiversity.	Existing development land allocations in the greenbelt will impact on biodiversity.
PPS 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management.	Protect human health and the environment by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible. Drive waste management up the waste hierarchy, address waste as a resource and look to disposal as the last option. Encourage sustainable waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy.	Promotion of waste hierarchy. Ensure new developments incorporate recycling facilities. Ensure protection of environment when waste is disposed of. BDC is not a waste planning authority and therefore target setting is inappropriate.	A Waste Core Strategy has been produced by Worcestershire County Council. Ensure that LDF policies do not conflict with policies in the Waste Core Strategy.	Use guidance to set SA objectives in relation to reducing waste and recycling.	Challenge to provide for waste recycling in rural areas.
PPS 12: Local Development Frameworks.	Provides guidance on producing a LDF.	The LDF should contain documents and policies that are based on a clear understanding of the economic, social and environmental needs of the area.	Advice and guidance should be followed throughout LDF process.	Requires that SA and SEA be integral to the LDF.	Challenge when there is a gap in knowledge base. (Refer to baseline).



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
PPG 13: Transport.	Promotes more sustainable transport choices and accessibility.	<p>Locate development in places which can be served by public transport.</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel especially by car.</p> <p>Promote accessibility to jobs, shopping and leisure facilities.</p>	Ensure policies are consistent with the Local Transport Plan and promote sustainable transport options.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	Challenges for rural areas and development to provide public transport to access services and facilities.
PPG 15: Planning and the Historic environment.	Protection and enhancement of historic environments.	<p>Protect and enhance the historic environment including, listed buildings and conservation areas.</p> <p>Set out how applications for development effecting the historic environment will be dealt with.</p>	LDF policies need to protect and enhance the historic nature of the district.	Use guidance to ensure conservation objectives are reflected in the SA Framework.	Potential conflict with development in urban and rural areas and the protection the historic environment.
PPG 16: Archaeology and Planning.	Preservation, protection and enhancement of sites of archaeological interest.	Protect new and existing sites of archaeological interest.	Ensure policies are inline with national advice and guidance.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	Large area of archaeological potential in Bromsgrove.
PPG 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.	<p>Supporting urban renaissance and rural renewal.</p> <p>Promotion of community cohesion and health and well being.</p> <p>Promote Sustainable development.</p>	<p>Promotion of urban and rural regeneration.</p> <p>Increase levels of community involvement.</p> <p>Reduce numbers of people in poor health.</p>	LDF policies to address the amount and quality of open space within the district.	Use guidance to set SA objectives in relation to providing open space.	<p>The RSS has restricted development for local needs. This may limit the opportunity for developer contribution or acquisition of open space through planning application proceeds.</p> <p>Development of sports and recreation facilities may conflict with greenbelt where there are inadequate site allocations.</p> <p>Need to provide sustainable transport to sports and recreation facilities and ensure equity in access.</p>



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
PPG19 Outdoor Advertisement Control.	To assist in delivery of an attractive, safe, well designed and well maintained environment.	Promotion of policies which deliver a well designed environment.	Promote strategic policies that provide a framework for the promotion of a well designed environment.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	Many adverts benefit from deemed consent and therefore there is no control over such development. Planning control is concerned to control poor design including illuminated signs in conservation areas, unauthorised signs and hoardings.
Good Practice on Planning for Tourism.	Identify optimal locations for tourism led development and promote opportunities for access by public transport. Planning should seek to balance development with available labour supply.		Policies need to balance economic growth and protection of assets.		Potential conflict between visitors and rural tranquillity/ agriculture.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
PPS 22: Renewable Energy.	Provides government policy on renewable energy as stated in the Energy white paper.	Reduction in CO2 emissions. Increase in renewable energy production.	Policies should aim to contribute to meeting national targets.	Ensure sustainability objectives reflect importance of renewable energy.	<p>Conflicts with car dependence in rural areas and ability to provide sustainable transport to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Potential conflict with sites of international importance for nature or heritage conservation (Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, RAMSAR sites and World Heritage Sites).</p> <p>Potential conflict with sites of national importance (SSSI's, Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Registered Historic Battlefields and Registered Parks and Gardens).</p> <p>Promotion of industry and development will increase energy usage challenge to require renewable energy.</p> <p>Promotion of renewable energy industry can result in changes in the landscape and affect greenbelt.</p>



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
PPS 23: Planning and Pollution Control.	Integrate land use planning with the control, mitigation, and removal of pollution.	<p>Increased use of Previously developed land as opposed to Greenfield.</p> <p>Necessary polluting activities should be planned to minimise adverse effects and contained within acceptable limits.</p> <p>Encourage the remediation of contaminated land.</p> <p>EIA carried out where development could have a negative effect on the environment.</p>	Plan polices should be consistent with national guidance on pollution control.	Check that national planning policy requirements are reflected in SA framework.	<p>Bromsgrove has limited previously developed land, including contaminated sites for development.</p> <p>Limitation of public transportation infrastructure especially in rural areas and associated emission from private motor vehicles.</p>
PPG24: Planning and Noise.	Protection of noise sensitive locations.	<p>New developments should take account of acceptable and unacceptable levels of noise.</p> <p>New development containing noisy activities should be located away from noise sensitive land uses.</p>	LDF polices should ensure new developments are inline with guidance.	Requirements of national policy should be reflected in SA framework.	Limitation of public transport infrastructure, therefore reliance on private motor vehicles and associated noise pollution.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
PPS 25: Development and Flood Risk.	Reduction in the risks to people from natural flooding. Control of development on flood plains.	Flood risk is a material planning consideration. Recognise the uncertainties of flooding and the expected increase due to climate change. Apply the precautionary principle to avoid flood risk where possible. Recognise the importance of functional flood plains, and avoid inappropriate development on them. Developers should fund flood defences needed because of new development.	Policies should aim to reduce flood risk where possible and protect floodplains inline with national guidance.	Data on whole catchment areas may be more relevant than data restricted to district boundaries.	Challenge to accommodate additional risk to flooding from climate change.
The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future.	Provide leadership for the management of the historic resource. Improve educational potential. Include and involve people. Protect and sustain the historic resource. Optimise economic potential of the historic environment.	Improve management and protection of historic resources. Provide improved educational opportunities and public exposure to heritage through tourism.	Policies to protect and enhance historic resource and increase public exposure.	SA objectives and indicators for heritage protection and public exposure.	Challenge to concentrate development around existing town centre and the historic environment.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Working with the Grain of Nature- A Biodiversity Strategy for England (Defra 2002).	Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity by embedding it in to all types of public policy. Sets out different actions to be taken in different areas, including urban areas, agriculture, water and woodland.	Indicators include: The population of wild birds. The condition of SSSI's. Progress with BAP's. Area of land under agri-environment agreement. Biological quality of rivers. Fish stocks. Progress with local BAP's. Public attitudes to biodiversity.	LDF policies should ensure biodiversity is embedded in policy.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	Pressures for new development may potentially conflict with protection of the natural environment.
UK Biodiversity Action Plan.	Describes the UK's biological resources. Commits a detailed plan for the protection of these resources. Has 391 Species Action Plans, 45 Habitat Action Plans and 162 Local Biodiversity Action Plans with targeted actions.	Recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2020.	Plan objectives to contribute to achieving objectives.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	Plan is UK Governments response to the Convention on Biological Diversity and has lead to the production of County and Local BAP's.
UK Waste Strategy (Defra 2000).	Reducing waste is essential to securing sustainable development. Sets targets to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.	Reduce or compost at least 30% of household waste by 2010.	Sustainable waste management in accordance with the waste hierarchy is a strategic issue.	Management of waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy is an SA issue.	



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
The Eddington Transport Study (2006).	<p>Sets out the importance of a good transport system to maintaining a strong economy and the importance of reducing congestion in urban areas.</p> <p>Transport contributes around a quarter of CO2 emissions and is the fastest growing source.</p> <p>There is a need to reduce the emissions from the transport sector in order to tackle global warming.</p>	Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.	Encouragement of use of public transport. Measures to reduce green house gas emissions. Making better use of existing networks.	SA objectives to encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport and seek to reduce the need to travel.	Potential conflict between economic growth and limiting choice in transport modes.
Barker Review of Land Use Planning (DCLG 2006).	<p>Increase flexibility and responsiveness of the planning system through the quicker delivery of DPD's and a more positive attitude to development.</p> <p>Improve the efficiency of the planning process for major infrastructure projects and the streamlining of policies and processes including national planning guidance and policy.</p> <p>Promote more efficient use of land through fiscal incentives to encourage business property to be kept in use and to develop vacant brownfield sites and review green belt policies to ensure that they are still appropriate.</p>	Not a statutory document but recommendations may affect future policy.	May have future implications for planning functions.	No implications for SA.	Potential conflict between economic growth and environmental issues.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Strong and Prosperous Communities- Local Government White Paper.	<p>Overall vision of revitalised local authorities working with their partners.</p> <p>Simplify procedures to enable the coordination of consultation on sustainable community strategies, LAA's and LDF's.</p>	Requires preparation of Local Area Agreements.	Links between Local Strategic Partnership, the Core Strategy and the Sustainable Community Strategy.		
Directing the Flow Priorities for Future Water Policy Defra (2002).	<p>Prudent use of water keeping within the limits of replenishment Reducing diffuse pollution.</p> <p>Water policies such as water quality, water resources and flood management and with other policy areas such as health, agriculture, biodiversity, leisure, tourism and planning.</p> <p>A safe and adequate supply of water is a human right.</p> <p>Reversing water pollution is often a long term endeavour requiring long term investment and consistent policy.</p>	Some of the major issues for water management are beyond the scope of planning control, such as agricultural use of water and diffuse pollution caused by agriculture.	Need to aim to minimise water consumption and manage sewage and storm water in the most sustainable way.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	Ability to manage water will be a significant infrastructure constraint on policy options.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change.	The planning systems chief role will be encouraging buildings and infrastructure to take account of climate change particularly by limiting development in floodplains. Planning system will be a key tool for encouraging both private and public investment in locations that are less vulnerable to the risks associated with climate change.		Climate change an issue for the LDF which impinges on many policy areas including renewable energy, recycling, sustainable development, flooding and biodiversity.	Climate change is an issue for sustainability. Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	
Diversity and Equality in Planning.	Early and Effective engagement between Local Planning Authorities and the communities they serve. Appreciation required of the mix of people within a district and how this may be changing. Effective data analysis combined with local knowledge can help to identify planning needs and monitor progress over time.	Limited implications refer to SCL.	Need to ensure consultation reaches all sections of the community.	Limited implications.	
Code for Sustainable Homes a step change in sustainable home building practice.	To enable a step change in sustainable building practice for new homes.	Sustainability of a new home measured against design categories using a rating system.	Ensure objectives reflected in LDF.	Implications for SA objectives of more efficient sustainable use of energy and use of recycled materials.	
Environment act part IV local air quality management.	Guidance on adopting a structured and regular approach to the preparation of air quality progress reports.	Provides ready sources of information on air quality. Provides timely indication of the need for further measures to improve air quality.	Provides information to assist in policy areas such as transport and planning.	Monitoring air quality important for SA issues.	



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Blueprint for Water-2008 a year of opportunity.	Sets out 10 steps for sustainable water and details progress made so far since original document produced in 2006.	10 steps: 1. Waste less water. 2. Keep rivers flowing and wetlands wet. 3. Price water fairly. 4. Make polluters pay. 5. Stop pollutants contaminating our water. 6. Keep sewage out of homes and rivers and off beaches. 7. Support water-friendly farming. 8. Clean up drainage from roads and buildings. 9. Restore rivers from source to sea. 10. Retain water on floodplains and wetlands.	Plan objectives to contribute to achieving objectives.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	Issues of climate change and flooding create challenges and the ability to manage water will be a significant infrastructure constraint on policy options.
Our countryside the future a fair deal for rural England (DEFRA 2000).	The vision is of a countryside where opportunities to build sustainable rural communities in an improved countryside environment are taken. Vision of rural areas evolving in ways which enhance landscape and biodiversity; a forward looking and competitive farming industry, delivering good stewardship of the environment as well as producing our food; a rural economy based on Information Technology as well as traditional skills and a countryside which can shape its own future.		Issues of sustainability landscape and character.	Maintenance and enhancement of social, economic and environmental values.	



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Planning for gypsy and traveller caravan sites circular 01/2006 ODPM.	<p>Creating and sustaining strong communities for the benefit of all members of society. Everyone should have the opportunity to live in a decent home.</p> <p>Gypsy and Traveller communities should have the same rights and responsibilities as every other citizen.</p> <p>To increase the supply of authorised sites for Gypsies and Travellers and protect and facilitate the traditional travelling way of life.</p>		Policies should strive for sustainable and inclusive communities.	Social, economic and environmental implications.	Potential social tensions
Sustainable communities a shared agenda a share of action a guide for local authorities (DEFRA 2006).	A framework document to assist the creation of sustainable communities.		Sustainable development central to all government planning policy the RSS and Core Strategy. Therefore Core Strategy policies will be compatible with this strategy.		



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
A Strategy for England's Trees (Defra 2007).	<p>Long term sustainable management of trees, woods and forests. Effective use of public investment. Provide trees, woods and forests where they can contribute most in terms of environmental, economic and social benefits now and for future generations.</p>	<p>Ensure existing and newly planted trees, woods and forests are resilient to the impacts of climate change and contribute to the way in which biodiversity and natural resources adjust to a changing climate.</p> <p>Improve the competitiveness of woodland business and promote development of new or improved markets for sustainable woodland products and ecosystem services where this will deliver identifiable public benefits including a reduction in carbon emissions.</p>		<p>Issues of biodiversity and climate change. Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.</p>	
Safer Places The Planning System and crime prevention.	<p>Encourage greater attention to the principles of crime prevention and attributes of safer places.</p> <p>Prevent crime and enhancement of community safety.</p> <p>Contribute to well designed sustainable places that do not fail people and stand the test of time.</p>	<p>Consider need for policy.</p> <p>Promote 7 attributes of access/movement, structure, surveillance, ownership, physical protection, activity and management/maintenance.</p>	<p>Core Strategy policies must take account of broad objectives.</p>	<p>Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.</p>	<p>Ensuring that principles are incorporated early in the design process and issues of existing poor environments.</p>



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
By Design – Urban Design in the Planning system- towards better practice.	Promote character in townscape and landscape by responding to reinforcing locally distinctive patterns of development, landscape and culture, promote continuity, legibility, permeability, accessibility, adaptability, diversity and vibrancy.		Consider the need for policy promoting aspects of “By Design” in new developments.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	Ensure balanced development is promoted incorporating environmental, social and economic considerations
Heritage Protection for the 21st Century White paper.	3 core principles: 1) To develop a unified approach to the historic environment. 2) to maximise opportunities for inclusion and involvement. 3) supporting sustainable communities by putting the historic environment at the heart of the planning system.	Streamlines consent procedures. Creates more consultative and collaborative protection system. Will be open, accountable and transparent. Clearer record of what is protected and why.	Core Strategy policies to take account of historic issues.	SA objectives and indicators for heritage protection.	Resources to implement the new system at national and Regional level.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

NATIONAL PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Heritage Protection Bill.	Create more open, accountable and transparent heritage protection system Safeguard the cultural property of the UK.	Sets out the ways in which the government will translate its white paper into legislation. Consultation ends 27 June 2008.	Core Strategy policies to take account of historic issues.	SA objectives and indicators for heritage protection.	Resources to implement the new system at national and Regional level.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act.	Legislation for the protection of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.	Listed Building consent is required to demolish, alter or extend a Listed Building and Conservation Area. Consent is required to demolish a building in a Conservation Area. LPA's to determine which parts of their areas are of special architectural or historic interest, which it would be desirable to preserve or enhance.	Core Strategy policies to take account of historic issues.	SA objectives and indicators for heritage protection.	
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act.	Legislation concerned with the protection of architectural sites/ ancient monuments in England.	Supports a formal system of Scheduled Monument consent for any work to a designated monument.	Core Strategy policies to take account of historic issues.	SA objectives and indicators for heritage protection.	





Regional Plans and Strategies

The Regional Spatial Strategy

The West Midlands Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision-draft sets the Spatial Planning Context for the Bromsgrove Local Development Framework. The Spatial Strategy identifies four major challenges which are detailed below together with their implications.

Urban Renaissance

Challenge developing the Major Urban Areas (MUA's) in such a way that they can increasingly meet more of their own economic and social needs in order to counter the unsustainable outward movement of people and jobs facilitated by previous strategies.

Implications outside of the MUA's provision for housing will generally be concentrated in Settlements of Significant Development (SSD) such as Worcester and Redditch. Redditch is unlikely to be able to contain the growth required within its own boundaries which may have implications for the adjoining districts of Stratford upon Avon and/or Bromsgrove. Some peripheral development of other settlements may need to be considered in LDD's as part of an overall approach to the development of sustainable communities, provided this does not undermine the renaissance of the MUAs.

Rural Renaissance

Challenge supporting rural communities to achieve their economic and social potential whilst embracing the challenges of access and climate change.

Implications rural renaissance across all rural areas in the Region with a key role for market towns and larger villages, recognising the purpose of the Rural regeneration zone in the West

Diversifying and modernising the Region's economy

Challenge ensuring the opportunities for growth are linked to meeting needs and that they help reduce social exclusion

Implications a balanced network of vital and vibrant town and city centres as the strategic focus for major retail, leisure and office developments, acting as service centres for their rural hinterlands

Modernising the transport infrastructure of the West Midlands

Challenge supporting the sustainable development of the Region.

Implications transport networks improved to resolve existing transport infrastructure problems, assist the economic objectives of the strategy, reduce social exclusion and improve access to services and opportunities by serving movements between and within towns and cities, towns and their rural hinterlands, and within rural areas.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

OTHER RELEVANT REGIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Regional Planning Guidance (RPG 11) - Regional Spatial Strategy for development in the West Midlands.	Urban Renaissance. Rural Renaissance. Diversifying and modernising the Region's economy. Modernising the transport infrastructure of the West Midlands.		Develop strategic themes and the core strategy needs to reflect these objectives.	SA Framework to reflect these objectives.	Conflict between Regional Planning Guidance and Regional Spatial Strategy (provision for migration from urban areas verses local needs).
West Midlands RSS Revision Phase II- spatial options.	Partial review covering housing, employment land, centres, transport and waste. Housing figures run from 2001-2026 as it is a partial revision of the RSS.	15 year supply of housing in line with PPS 3. 5 year reservoir of employment land Housing figures proposed include 2100 for Bromsgrove's needs and 3300 for Redditch's needs to be accommodated adjoining Redditch's boundary in Bromsgrove and/or Stratford Upon Avon.	Core Strategy needs to be flexible enough to cater for uncertain final outcome of RSS review.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	Land adjoining Redditch's boundary is classified as green belt. A relatively small housing allocation for Bromsgrove's needs has implications for delivery of affordable housing.
West Midlands Regional Cultural Strategy 2001-2006.	Preservation, renewal and promotion of cultural activities across the region. Promotion of cultural education. Ensuring the economic potential of cultural activities. Providing a range of cultural activities.	Excellence and innovation. Diversity, access and equity. Investment, sustainability and effectiveness. Consultation and joined up working.		Need to protect and enhance cultural heritage.	



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

OTHER RELEVANT REGIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
West Midlands Regional Visitor Economy Strategy 2004-2010.	Create successful, sustainable destinations. Role of leisure sector in achieving wider regeneration aims.	<p>To develop a diverse and dynamic base.</p> <p>To promote a learning and skilful region.</p> <p>To create the conditions for growth.</p> <p>To regenerate communities.</p> <p>To provide a powerful voice for the region.</p>	Good quality built environment and sustainable use of natural resources are key aims of strategy.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	
West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework.	The vision for woodland and forestry in the West Midlands is to create a viable and inclusive woodland and forestry sector that maximises sustainable development through delivery of economic, environmental, cultural and social benefits to the people of the region.	<p>Inform and encourage development of woodlands using landscape character assessment tools at landscape and site scales to enhance diversity and local distinctiveness.</p> <p>To protect manage and enhance existing trees and woodlands.</p> <p>To create new woodlands(urban and rural) and develop associated targeting.</p> <p>To use trees and woodlands to enhance local distinctiveness and sense of place.</p>			



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

OTHER RELEVANT REGIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
West Midlands Regional Water Resources Strategy.	Prudent and sustainable use of natural resources. Seek the efficient use of water while bringing forward timely proposals for resource development.	Combine further water resource developments and improvements with management of demands through efficient use. Reduce mains leakage. Over next 25 years household water metering to increase as a greater incentive for sensible use of water in the home. Promotion of efficient use by agriculture and industry/commerce.	Objectives to be reflected in LDF.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	
Restoring the Regions Wildlife- The Regional Biodiversity Strategy.	Maintain and improve the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems Develop an area based approach to restoring wildlife. Reconnect and integrate action for biodiversity with other environmental, social and economic activity Cope with the impact of climate change.	Monitor the condition of habitats species and ecosystems.	Core strategy policy options need to comply with Worcestershire BAP.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

OTHER RELEVANT REGIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy.	To make the west Midlands the most energy efficient region in the UK. To make an important contribution to meeting the goals of national energy policy.	Improve energy efficiency. Increase the use of renewable energy resources. Maximise uptake of business opportunities. Ensure focused and integrated delivery and implementation. Develop a Regional Design Framework to improve energy efficiency in buildings. Local authorities to encourage proposals for the use of renewable energy resources through their Development Plans.	Develop strategic themes and the core strategy need to reflect these objectives.	SA Framework to reflect these objectives.	May be issues of practicality or cost effectiveness associated with the use of renewable energy in certain circumstances.
Ecological budget West Midlands County Consumption 2006.	Aims to promote sustainability. Emphasis on need for sound data and then presents data based on the incomplete information as facts that should be used to guide policy making.		Sound evidence base essential for LDF.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	
West Midlands Declaration on Climate Change.	Commits The West Midlands Regional Assembly to working to reduce the causes of climate change.		The core strategy need to reflect these objectives.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	
Severn Trent Water Resources Plan 2005-2010.	Demand for water is projected to stay the same. Abstraction reductions may be required to achieve environmental objectives such as reducing nitrate levels.	Monitoring of nitrate levels.	Over the 25 year planning period there is a potential need for significant new strategic water resource developments to counter the impacts of climate change.	SA Framework to reflect these objectives.	There are many assumptions and uncertainties in the calculations of available water supply and demand.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

OTHER RELEVANT REGIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
West Midlands Regional Health and Well Being Strategy.	Maintain enhance improve and protect the health and well being of people in the Region and to reduce health inequalities by 2020 with environmental limits so not to compromise healthy life for future generations.	Likely to influence other plans policies and programmes and the priorities and targets contained in Local Area Agreements.		The core strategy needs to reflect these objectives.	
Regional Economic Strategy for the West Midlands.	Support modernisation of and diversification of West Midlands to ensure economic growth.	Developing diverse and dynamic business base. Promote learning and increased skills. Better transport and use of ICT. The regeneration of communities.	Develop strategic policies to reflect these objectives.	SA Framework to reflect these objectives.	Challenge to define Bromsgrove economic development in the Region in the context of with Birmingham and the Technology Belt on the A38. Need to review land availability for economic development and employment within Bromsgrove and the Regions.
West Midlands Economic Strategy Review 2006-2007.	Provides a clear framework for achieving future economic prosperity in the West Midlands. Six themes including, enterprise, innovation, skills, economic activity, quality of life and infrastructure.	Objectives under broad headings of business, place and people. Includes targeting growth, capitalising on low carbon opportunities, investment in skills, developing sustainable communities, regenerating deprived communities, maximising cultural assets and improving transport and accessibility.	Strategic policies to reflect these objectives.	SA Framework to reflect these objectives.	



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

OTHER RELEVANT REGIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Regional Transport Strategy for the West Midlands.	Improve accessibility across the region.	<p>Reducing the need to travel.</p> <p>Expanding travel choice.</p> <p>Tackling congestion.</p> <p>Improving safety.</p> <p>Protection of the environment.</p>	As part of the RSS all policies should be in conformity with these aims and objectives.	SA Framework to reflect these objectives.	Challenges for provision of sustainable travel modes for rural areas. Existing problems of congestion need to ensure that LDF does not worsen this and addresses reliance on car on commuter patterns.
West Midlands Cultural Strategy 2001–2006.	Preservation, renewal and promotion of cultural activities across the region.	<p>Promotion of cultural education.</p> <p>Ensuring the economic potential of cultural activities.</p> <p>Providing range of Cultural Activities.</p>	Polices should reflect the cultural diversity of the region.	SA framework should identify the importance of the regions culture.	Challenge to provide accessible cultural activities in the Local area verse that provided in the region.
West Midlands Housing Strategy.	To develop a pattern of housing investment that meets the needs and aspirations of the people of the West Midlands.	<p>Urban renaissance – reduce out migration from urban areas.</p> <p>Rural Renaissance.</p> <p>Encourage Housing Choice and affordability.</p>	Housing SPDs should be addressed at meeting these objectives.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	Challenge to determine long-term local needs and maintain affordable housing.
West Midlands Sustainable Development Framework Version 2 2006.	<p>Develop thriving sustainable communities.</p> <p>Enhance and protect the environment.</p> <p>Ensure prudent and efficient use of natural resources.</p> <p>Developing a flourishing, diverse and stable regional economy.</p>	<p>33 regional sustainable development objectives including:</p> <p>Reduce car dependence.</p> <p>Encourage urban living.</p> <p>Housing to be developed on PDL.</p> <p>Encourage rural diversification.</p> <p>Environmental protection.</p>	Core strategy polices should address these wider strategic themes.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	Challenge to address car dependence especially for rural areas. Conflicts with rural diversification, environmental protection urban development on greenfield land allocations.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

OTHER RELEVANT REGIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Sustainable Communities in the West Midlands: Building Action for the Future.	To provide a framework to ensure the region has sustainable communities.	Urban Renaissance. Rural Renaissance. Diversifying and modernising the regions economy. Modernising the Transport infrastructure of the region.	Identifies similar issues to those which have been addressed in the RSS.	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	Challenges as Bromsgrove has limited public transport infrastructure. Challenge to define Bromsgrove economic development in the Region in the context of Birmingham and the Technology Belt on the A38.
Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands.	Maintain and improving the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems. Develop an area based approach to restoring wildlife. Monitor the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems. Re-connect and integrate action for biodiversity with other environmental, social and economic activity. Cope with the impacts of climate change.	Protect and enhance water quality and maintain sustainable water resource. Promote biodiversity enhancement. Protect the natural environment. Reduce number of properties at risk of flooding.	Policies to protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural environment.	Aims of strategy to be included in SA Framework.	Potential conflict with development of greenbelt land allocated for development and biodiversity enhancement. Challenge for the LDF to look at options for enhancement.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

COUNTY PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Worcestershire Local Area Agreement.	A County with safe cohesive healthy and inclusive communities, a strong and diverse economy and a valued and cherished environment.	36 outcomes identified under 6 thematic blocks: 1 Communities that are safe and feel safe. 2 A better environment for today and tomorrow. 3 Economic success that is shared by all. 4 Improving health and well being. 5 Meeting the needs of children and young people. 6 Stronger communities.	Policies will need to conform with objectives in chain of conformity.	Aims will be reflected in SA Framework.	
Partnership Towards Excellence: A Community Strategy for Worcestershire.	Communities that are healthy and support vulnerable people. A safer place to live, work, learn, travel and do business. Worcestershire as a prosperous County which continues to build on strengths and by diversifying and modernising to meet the needs of a changing economy. Worcestershire's environment and everything it contains to be protected, conserved and enhanced to ensure that we keep the best of our inheritance for future generations. Worcestershire to be vibrant, socially inclusive and celebrate diversity. Seek to reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti social behaviour. Prudent use of natural resources. Reduce energy use at all stages of the development process.	Provide for the needs of all groups in society and treat people with equality and value diversity. Build strong, cohesive communities and promote good community relations. Take account of the needs of future generations. Actively seek ways to improve people's health and well-being. Involve and listen to local people and local communities whether geographical communities or communities of interest.	That the Plan reflects not just the needs of the local community but also where appropriate the needs of all those living in Worcestershire.	Ensure objectives and are reflected in SA Framework.	Compatible with Bromsgrove Community Plan.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

COUNTY PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Partnership Towards Excellence: A Community Strategy for Worcestershire (Continued).	<p>Any detrimental impact on the County's environmental assets or landscape character should be avoided.</p> <p>Encourage development on previously developed land.</p> <p>Deliver sustainable patterns of development.</p> <p>A key element of sustainability is to ensure that town centres within the County are not undermined by development proposals elsewhere.</p> <p>Development will be expected to incorporate measures to prevent the pollution of watercourses and aquifers.</p> <p>Support for proposals that incorporate renewable energy/ energy efficiency measures.</p>				
Worcestershire Economic Strategy 2004-2014.	Enable the delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy in Worcestershire.	<p>Develop a knowledge-driven economy.</p> <p>Improve skills base.</p> <p>Develop infrastructure.</p> <p>Ensure access to economic benefits.</p> <p>Exploit potential of key regeneration sites.</p>			



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

COUNTY PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
<p>Worcestershire County Structure Plan (saved policies as of 28th September 2007).</p>	<p>Encourage and promote land use activities which will lead to an improvement in the quality of air, water and land.</p> <p>Seek a reduction in the consumption of energy and finite resources through the more efficient use of resources, recycling, the use of renewable sources and the reduction in the amount of waste produced.</p> <p>Protect from damaging development and land use activity and enhance biodiversity and diverse and important environmental, landscape, townscape and historic features and characteristics.</p> <p>Ensure the integration of development within the landscape in order to protect and enhance essential landscape characteristics and features.</p> <p>Protect and expand amenity areas and open spaces and access to them, in both town and country.</p> <p>Meet the housing requirements of the population of the new county through the provision of an adequate range of housing including general market, affordable and social housing in a way which protects the environment and makes the most effective use of the existing settlement pattern.</p>		<p>The core strategy needs to reflect these objectives.</p>	<p>SA Framework to reflect these objectives.</p>	



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

COUNTY PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
<p>Worcestershire County Structure Plan (saved policies as of 28th September 2007) <i>(continued)</i>.</p>	<p>Work towards a better balance between housing, employment, social and community facilities within settlements. Enhance the role of settlements as centres for service provision. Encourage development which will help retain and enhance the identity, character and vitality of settlements. Promote energy efficient construction, design and development patterns. Seek the location of development in areas which will minimise the need to travel and reduce the distances required to be travelled (energy efficient locations). Guide new development to locations which can be served by a choice of transport modes for both the movement of people and freight. Support and facilitate the development of alternative modes of travel to the car. Facilitate the strengthening and diversification of the economic base of the region and of Worcestershire by the provision of a mixed portfolio of development locations and sites and by the enhancement and management of an attractive County environment.</p>				



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

COUNTY PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Worcestershire County Structure Plan (saved policies as of 28th September 2007) <i>(continued)</i> .	Encourage urban and rural regeneration Support the enhancement, development and integration of and access to a range of recreation facilities both within and around settlements. Seek to reduce crime the fear of crime and anti social behaviour by introducing crime prevention as a material consideration into the land use and development planning process.				
Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011.	Deliver a transport system in Worcestershire that is safe to use and which allows people to easily access the facilities that they need for their day to day life in a sustainable and healthy way. Support the unique diversity and character of Worcestershire by delivering an efficient safe and fair transport system that meets the needs of all travellers and allows the easy movement of goods. Consider all appropriate solutions to transport problems catering for all modes of transport.	Improvements to town centre i.e High Street and bus station. Increased rail passenger capacity. Improve strategic accessibility to Longbridge area. Traffic management at M42 J1 to relieve congestion.	Reducing the need to travel by car and encouraging other forms of travel/ movement are key components of Sustainable development.	SA Framework to reflect such objectives.	



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

COUNTY PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy submission document Jan 2007 (Withdrawn).	Be responsible for the waste we produce. Make waste management an integral part of all that we do. Manage waste sustainably without harm to the environment or human health. Encourage the prevention or reduction of waste production. Encourage recycling reuse and reclamation. Use waste as a source of energy.	See aims	Core strategy policies should consider these wider strategic themes	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework.	
Worcestershire BAP	Consists of a series of Species and Habitat Action Plans setting out current status, targets for protection and enhancement and actions to be taken by partner organisations	Action plans under review as at March 2008. Targets vary with each species/habitat.	Ensure objectives reflected in LDF	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework	
Worcestershire County Council Sustainability Policy and Worcestershire Sustainability Action Plan	Facilitate the integration of sustainable development into all the Council's policies, services and activities. Ensuring a better quality of life for current and future generations by adopting an integrated approach to economic, social and environmental issues.	6 key priorities: 1) Climate change and energy 2) Sustainable procurement 3) Biodiversity 4) Waste 5) Transport 6) Community engagement	Ensure objectives reflected in LDF	Ensure objectives are reflected in SA Framework	



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

COUNTY PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Worcestershire Supporting People Strategy.	Key objectives: Making our neighbourhoods safer. Addressing homelessness. Tackling substance misuse. Producing support to people who are vulnerable through age, disability or life experience to maintain independence.	5 year strategy. Live document to be reviewed. Working to deliver services across LA boundaries where appropriate. Support to enable people to access good quality affordable housing. Comprehensive and integrated needs analysis for travellers.	Objectives of social exclusion and cross boundary issues to be addressed in LDF.	Social issues of relevance to SA.	
Worcestershire Countryside Access and Recreation Strategy.	Provides Strategic Management Framework for issues relating to countryside access and recreation within Worcestershire. Ensure opportunity is available to all sections of the community to enjoy the countryside. Secure and promote opportunities for countryside access. Encourage and enable local communities to become involved in and take action to share and increase the local benefits of countryside recreation opportunities. Manage and promote responsible land use activities so as to reduce the potential for conflict between all types of land users, communities and rural enterprises. Making use of recreational opportunities whilst protecting and enhancing the environmental qualities of the countryside.				



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

COUNTY PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Worcestershire Countryside Access and Recreation Strategy <i>(continued)</i> .	<p>Provide a range of facilities of high standard to ensure that the defining demands and aspirations of users are catered for to help people enjoy and appreciate their recreational experiences. Contributing to and promoting the associated health and well being qualities associated with countryside recreation activities.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the opportunities and benefit of countryside recreation to the diversification of the rural economy in particular in its support for local tourism.</p> <p>Encourage and promote the use of a greener variety of transport modes to access the countryside and in particular alternatives to the car.</p>				



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

COUNTY PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Worcestershire County Council Tourism Strategy	<p>Help provide a high quality experience for all visitors and bring economic social and environmental benefit through a growing and sustainable visitor economy.</p> <p>Take opportunities to link with regional and county initiatives on the economy transport and cultural development where they impact on tourism and tourism can make a contribution.</p> <p>Encourage walking cycling the development of 'quiet lanes' public transport interchange points and coach parties and other initiatives that strengthen appeal to visitors.</p>	<p>Enable an increase in tourism.</p> <p>Increase the range and number of places and activities which attract visitors.</p> <p>Build partnership working.</p> <p>Strengthen links and co-ordination between tourism support and other strategies.</p>	<p>Ensure that the LDF supports the general aims and objectives of the Tourism Strategy.</p>	<p>Ensure where appropriate the objectives are reflected in the SA Framework.</p>	<p>Need to consider Bromsgrove's opportunities for tourism, regional context.</p>



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

COUNTY PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
A Cultural Strategy for Worcestershire.	Cultural activities are an important part of the local economy and one of the major reasons for visits to Worcestershire. Cultural activities contribute to quality of life and boost the well being of communities. Links to education, citizenship, community development and healthy lifestyles.	<p>Promoting proposals that celebrate the distinctive lives of Worcestershire's diverse communities.</p> <p>Celebrating our cultural heritage, our landscape, towns and villages and waterways, both for residents and visitors.</p> <p>Linking culture with other initiatives aimed at improving the social, economic and environmental well being of Worcestershire's communities.</p> <p>Develop creative and cultural industries.</p> <p>Develop lifelong learning opportunities.</p> <p>Encourage exciting and innovative approaches to design of our buildings and public spaces.</p> <p>Ensure that new cultural facilities are built where they are most needed and will be most successful.</p> <p>Ensure that cultural activities are within reach of all communities and sectors and especially the deprived and excluded.</p> <p>Ensure active cultural provision in all local communities.</p>	Ensure that the LDF supports the general aims and objectives of the Cultural Strategy.	Ensure where appropriate the objectives are reflected in the SA Framework.	Challenge to raise awareness of cultural heritage through development.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

COUNTY PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy.	<p>Manage and mitigate the direct causes of the effects of climate change</p> <p>Reduce use of fossil fuels</p> <p>Raise awareness of the issue of climate change and its impacts.</p> <p>Help and advise the practical actions people can make.</p> <p>Ensure the most up to date information on climate change is used.</p> <p>Reduce climate change causing gas emissions across the county by a minimum of 10% from 2001 levels by 2011 and 20% by 2020.</p> <p>Reduce energy use through improving energy efficiency in homes business and public services and reducing use of private car and freight transport.</p> <p>Minimise waste.</p> <p>Use more renewable low or zero carbon dioxide.</p> <p>Adapt to and plan for the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Strict control over flood plain development.</p> <p>Promote the use of climate change risk assessment.</p> <p>Encourage renewable energy requirements for new properties and include renewable energy in planning documents.</p> <p>Minimise waste by reducing recycling and reusing.</p> <p>Increase production of renewable energy from 5% to 12.5% of regional targets by 2010.</p>				



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

COUNTY PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
New Look at the Landscapes of Worcestershire.	Aims to indicate and describe the range of different landscapes to be found in Worcestershire together with an insight as to how these differences have arisen. Landscape character is defined by 6 elements; land use, geology, topography, soils, tree cover and settlement.	Appreciation of the differences between landscapes is desirable so that proposed development and land use changes are informed by, and sympathetic, to their locality.	Important in building up a locally distinctive and robust evidence base.	Baseline information regarding the landscape of the county and the cultural evolution of the landscape.	Protection of the character of the landscape whilst balancing development pressures.



Local Plans and Strategies

The Bromsgrove Sustainable Community Strategy

District Councils are required to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) in partnership with public sector providers, private sector, and voluntary and community sector. To ensure that the SCS is delivered, District Councils are expected to convene a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) bringing together local partners in order to develop a shared understanding of the particular needs and priorities of their area. The LSP in Bromsgrove is known as the Bromsgrove Partnership.

The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) sets out a vision for the District and is concerned with addressing issues important to residents, the business community and visitors to Bromsgrove District. It is based on understanding and available evidence. It focuses on the way in which services are delivered and how they can be improved for everyone's benefit. The strategy is a developmental, rolling document and the priorities identified may change over time as improvements are realised and new issues emerge. The Strategy will be updated every three years.

Priorities include:

- ➡ Fear of Crime
- ➡ Environment
- ➡ Town Centre redevelopment (including transport, railway station redevelopment and associated issues and community transport)
- ➡ Longbridge regeneration
- ➡ Health and well being
- ➡ Children and young people
- ➡ Older people
- ➡ Housing



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

OTHER RELEVANT LOCAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Bromsgrove Corporate Plan	The Corporate Plan sets out how the Council will play a leading role in the future of Bromsgrove District.	<p>To make a major contribution towards achieving a healthy caring and socially aware community.</p> <p>To provide a clean, safe and attractive environment</p> <p>To protect and improve our environment and promote sustainable communities</p> <p>To foster and sustain a strong and expanding economy.</p> <p>To provide sustainable culture and leisure opportunities.</p> <p>To be an efficient and effective Council.</p>	The Plan reflects the aims and objectives of the Council as such the LDF will need to take account and where appropriate implement the Council's objectives.	Ensure objectives and are reflected in SA Framework.	Potential conflicts in balancing the protection and improvement of the environment with fostering and sustaining a strong and expanding economy. Both these objectives will be carried forward in the LDF.
Local Air Quality Management Action Plan	Provides a strategy to ensure that air quality improves in the Lickey End area of the District.	<p>Improve uptake of public transport, walking and cycling so as to reduce car use and associated pollution.</p> <p>Ensure that air quality is taken into account during the planning process.</p> <p>Ensure air quality assessments are undertaken of new development proposals.</p> <p>Encourage an uptake in the transportation of freight by rail.</p>	Need to ensure that Strategic Policies as well as those related to the area of low air quality reflect the need to improve air quality.	Need to ensure that the requirements of the SEA are met in respect of air quality.	Existing limited public transport infrastructure. Challenge to provide sustainable transport to rural areas.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

OTHER RELEVANT LOCAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy.	That the local community has access to outdoor recreation opportunities.	A minimum standard of 2.4 hectares (or six acres) of 'outdoor playing space' (defined as pitches, greens, courts, parks, playgrounds, informal play space) per 1,000 population. Bromsgrove has a shortfall of junior sports fields, changing rooms, hockey and cricket pitches.	That the LDF reflects the need to provide recreation facilities in excess of minimum standards.	Ensure objectives and are reflected in SA Framework.	Need to look at regional sports and recreation requirements and those required for Bromsgrove.
Housing Needs Survey.	Provision of affordable housing to meet needs identified in survey.	Increase appropriate provision of affordable housing units to meet new requirements.	Ensure that the LDF reflects the need to ensure more affordable housing is built throughout the District.	Ensure objectives and are reflected in SA Framework.	Housing allocation to 2011 has been met. Need to consider need beyond this period for future LDF. Need to provide adequate services, facilities for future population.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

OTHER RELEVANT LOCAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Countryside & Access Recreation Strategy.	Provision of access to countryside and associated recreational activities.	<p>Ensuring opportunity is available to all sections of the community to enjoy the countryside.</p> <p>Securing and promoting opportunities for countryside access.</p> <p>Promote responsible land use activities so as to reduce the conflict.</p> <p>Making use of recreational opportunities whilst protecting the countryside.</p> <p>Provide a range of facilities of high standard to meet the differing demands of users.</p> <p>Contributing to and promoting the associated health benefits of countryside recreation activities.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the opportunities and benefits of countryside recreation to the diversification of the rural economy, in particular rural tourism.</p> <p>Encourage and promote the use of a greater variety of transport modes to access the countryside and in particular alternatives to the car.</p>	Ensure that the LDF reflects the objectives of the Strategy.	Ensure objectives and are reflected in SA Framework.	Sustainable transport, access and equity need to be addressed.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

OTHER RELEVANT LOCAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Bromsgrove District Biodiversity Action Plan.	Protection of the Districts rich biodiversity.	<p>Protect and enhance species at risk in the District including, Otters, Water Vole, Great Crested Newt, Bats, Slow Worm and White Clawed Crayfish.</p> <p>Assessment of all sites prior to allocation for development.</p> <p>Sustainable water usage.</p> <p>Enhance woodlands within the District.</p> <p>Encourage organic use of land.</p> <p>Identify and co-ordinate wildlife corridors.</p> <p>Retain and manage existing Green Spaces.</p> <p>Designate and manage Local Nature Reserves.</p> <p>Support wildlife-friendly building design.</p> <p>Develop wildlife areas within cemeteries.</p>	Ensure that the LDF reflects the need to at a minimum protect and where possible enhance the District's biodiversity.	Need to ensure that the requirements of the SEA are met in respect of biodiversity.	Conflicts for development within previous greenbelt land. Need to look at enhancement and mitigation options.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

OTHER RELEVANT LOCAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Local Transport Plan (2001-06/2006-11).	To provide a transport system that is safe, efficient, clean and fair. This is to be achieved through integrating the County's transport provision in order to extend choice and maximise accessibility and mobility for all sections of the community within the context of sustainability.	<p>To reduce dependency on the private car.</p> <p>To increase the choice of transport available to all.</p> <p>To improve the efficiency of the existing transport system.</p> <p>To reduce the need for people to travel.</p> <p>To improve the safety of all travellers.</p> <p>To ensure transport facilitates the social inclusion of all the County's residents.</p> <p>To maximise the independent mobility of vulnerable transport users with particular regard to children, the elderly and the mobility impaired.</p> <p>To sustain a thriving local economy whilst minimising the adverse impact of transport on the environment.</p> <p>To gain public recognition and support for the aims of the LTP.</p> <p>To utilise local knowledge in order to ensure that the plan meets local needs.</p> <p>To improve the quality of life for the residents of Worcestershire.</p>	Ensure that the LDF reflects the need to promote sustainable transport options.	Ensure objectives and are reflected in SA Framework.	Challenges to address sustainable transport for rural areas.



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

OTHER RELEVANT LOCAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Community Safety Strategy (2002-05)	To reduce crime, disorder and their social implications & economic costs in the District, & improve the quality of life of all people living and working there. In particular, those in its most vulnerable and disadvantaged areas	<p>Reduce the number of offences of burglary and vehicle crime in the District.</p> <p>To prevent, reduce and address offences of crime and antisocial behaviour by and against young people in the District.</p> <p>To prevent, reduce and address crimes against minorities and acts of antisocial behaviour.</p> <p>To improve local road safety and reduce road traffic and personal injury accidents.</p> <p>To reduce demand for, the supply of and the adverse effects of, illegal drugs.</p>	Ensure that the objectives and targets are recognised by the LDF.	Ensure where appropriate the objectives are reflected in the SA Framework	



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

OTHER RELEVANT LOCAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Contaminated Land Strategy.	To identify and remove unacceptable risk to human health and the environments and bring damaged land back into beneficial use.	<p>Remove unacceptable risk to human health and the environment that may originate from contaminated land in the District.</p> <p>Seek to bring contaminated land in the District back into beneficial use.</p> <p>Seek to ensure that the cost burdens faced by individuals, companies and society are proportionate, manageable and economically sustainable.</p> <p>Ensure that all local issues are considered.</p> <p>Ensure all remediation work is performed correctly.</p> <p>Require that land is for a 'suitable use'.</p> <p>Provide continued protection to local communities.</p>	Ensure that the objectives of the strategy and requirements of associated legislation are recognised by the LDF.	Ensure that the SA reflects the requirements of the Strategy and associated legislation.	<p>Limited scope to promote remediation of contaminated land through development proposals.</p> <p>Conflict for restriction on new site allocations and contaminated sites may not come forward for development.</p>



Appendix 2 Relevant Plans and Strategies

OTHER RELEVANT LOCAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES *continued*

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to LDF and SA	Implications for LDF	Implications for SA	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Redditch and Bromsgrove PCT Local Delivery Plan 2005-2008.	Promotion of a healthy population and access to healthcare for all.	<p>Improved access for emergency and planned care.</p> <p>Improved access to services for disadvantaged groups and areas.</p> <p>Contribution to regeneration and neighbourhood renewal.</p> <p>Improve physical activity.</p> <p>Address the needs of disabled individuals and groups.</p> <p>Support rural economic development and inward investment for health.</p> <p>Support a combined health and transport strategy.</p> <p>Promote healthy prisons.</p>	Ensure that the LDF supports the general aims and objectives of the PCT Delivery Plan.	Ensure where appropriate the objectives are reflected in the SA Framework.	Maintaining Bromsgrove standard of living.



Appendix 3 Local Development Framework Objectives



The tables below identify the source of each objective by identifying its relationship to objectives of other plans and strategies, the baseline study and indicators that could be used to measure success. In some circumstances, the objectives of other plans and strategies stated below will be relevant to a number of LDF Objectives. However to avoid repetition they are only stated once under the comparable LDF Objective.

SOCIAL OBJECTIVES

Objective	Primary Baseline Study Issues	Relevant Objectives from other Plans and Strategies	Possible Indicators
Create communities where people want to live, work and socialise.	Population. Housing. Culture and Leisure. Air quality. Noise. Economy.	Increased involvement of local communities (Urban White Paper). Attractive well designed and safe local environments (Urban White Paper). Promote Urban and Rural Regeneration (PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development, PPG17 Planning for open space). Give high priority to ensuring access for all to jobs, health, education, shops, leisure and community facilities (PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development).	Housing completions. Average property price.
Meet the housing requirements of all members of the community.	Population. Housing.	Adequate affordable housing provision to meet needs (Sustainable Communities Plan PPS3 Housing).	Housing completions. Provision of affordable housing against required rates identified in housing needs study.
Ensure the community has accessible healthcare.	Population. Health. Transport.	Increase access to healthcare (Sustainable Community Strategy- SCS PCT Local Delivery Plan).	Percentage of the population in good health.
Provision of leisure and educational facilities to meet the needs of all the community.	Population. Culture and leisure. Education.	Opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation (PPG2 Green Belts). Increase levels of community involvement (PPG17 planning for open space, sport, and recreation). Requirement for developers to meet planning obligations under the SPG for Section 106 Contributions for Provision of Education.	Percentage of population access to leisure facilities.



Appendix 3 Local Development Framework Objectives

SOCIAL OBJECTIVES *continued*

Objective	Primary Baseline Study Issues	Relevant Objectives from other Plans and Strategies	Possible Indicators
Better quality of life through a safer and better designed urban and rural environment.	Community safety.	<p>Promote communities which are inclusive, healthy, safe and crime free. (PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development).</p> <p>Density of new housing proposals to be not less than 30 per hectare (PPS3 Housing).</p> <p>New developments should take account of acceptable and unacceptable levels of noise (PPG24 Planning and noise).</p> <p>New developments containing noisy activities should take place away from noise sensitive land uses (PPG24 Planning and noise).</p> <p>Enable an improvement in the quality of life through a reduction in crime (Community Plan).</p>	Lower crime rates.
Promote thriving, balanced, inclusive and sustainable rural communities.	<p>Population.</p> <p>Deprivation.</p> <p>Community safety.</p> <p>Housing.</p> <p>Culture and leisure.</p> <p>Transport.</p> <p>Economy.</p>	<p>Thriving Rural communities (Rural White Paper).</p> <p>Access to public services (Rural White Paper).</p> <p>Diverse rural Economy (Rural White Paper).</p> <p>Retain land in agricultural uses (PPG2 Green Belts).</p> <p>Sustainable economic growth in rural areas (PPS7 Sustainable development in rural areas).</p>	<p>Affordable housing provision rates.</p> <p>New business start ups in rural areas.</p>
Ensure all members of the community have a viable choice of transport options.	<p>Population.</p> <p>Transport.</p>	<p>To tackle congestion and pollution by improving all types of transport – rail and road, public and private – in ways that increase choice (Transport 10 year plan).</p> <p>Locate development in places which can be served by public transport (PPG13 Transport).</p> <p>Promote accessibility to jobs, shopping and leisure facilities (PPG13 Transport).</p> <p>Expanding Travel Choices (Regional Transport strategy for the West Midlands).</p>	Achieve targets set out in LTP2.



Appendix 3 Local Development Framework Objectives

SOCIAL OBJECTIVES *continued*

Objective	Primary Baseline Study Issues	Relevant Objectives from other Plans and Strategies	Possible Indicators
Seek an improvement in retail opportunities and choices throughout the District.	Population. Economy.	Promote retail growth to meet local needs in existing sustainable retail centres (PPS6 Town Centres and Retail Developments).	Lower shop vacancy rates in local centres. Number of shops in rural settlements.

ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

Objective	Baseline Study	Other Plans and Strategies	Possible Indicators
Protect our existing natural environment.	Biodiversity. Landscape. Soil and land quality. Water quality and flooding.	Greater protection of SSSIs (The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). Stronger Wildlife protection (The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). To secure nature conservation interest (PPG2 Green Belts). Reduce loss of important landscape areas (PPS7 Sustainable developments in rural areas). Minimise the adverse effects on wildlife where conflict is unavoidable (PPS7 Sustainable developments in rural areas PPS9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation). Ensure protection of environment when waste is disposed of (PPS10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management). Increased use of previously developed land as opposed to Greenfield (PPS 23 Planning and pollution control). Necessary polluting activities should be planned to minimise adverse effects and contained within acceptable limits (PPS23 Planning and pollution control). EIA carried out where development could have a negative effect on the environment (PPS23 Planning and Pollution Control).	Amount of Green Belt. Condition of SSSIs. Biodiversity Action Plan targets.



Appendix 3 Local Development Framework Objectives

ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES *continued*

Objective	Baseline Study	Other Plans and Strategies	Possible Indicators
Promote biodiversity enhancement.	Biodiversity. Landscape.	Reduce the rate of biodiversity loss (Securing the Future – The UK Sustainable Development Strategy). Recognise the need to enhance as well as protect biodiversity. (PPS9, PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development). Increase the biodiversity of the district (PPS9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation). Analysis of distinctiveness and nature of the character of the landscape. (Worcestershire County Council's Landscape Character assessment and on-going historic landscape characterisation).	Biodiversity Action Plan targets.
Conserve and enhance the historic environment.	Historic environment.	Take account of surrounding densities and character of an area (PPS3 Housing). Protect the historic environment including listed buildings and conservation areas (PPG15 Planning and the historic environment, PPS1, PPS7, and PPS22).	Percentage of built environment covered by conservation areas. Number of buildings on local list. Number of buildings as risk.
Promote the enhancement of existing areas of conservation.	Landscape. Historic Environment.	Conserve and enhance local heritage, including buildings, ancient monuments, archaeology and promote the enhancement of existing and designation of new Conservation Areas. (SCS, PPG15, PPG16).	Number of Conservation Area enhancement schemes initiated.
Seek to identify and protect further areas of historical and natural importance.	Historic Environment. Landscape. Biodiversity. Soil and land quality. Water quality and flooding.	Protect new and existing sites of Archaeological interest (PPG16 Archaeology and Planning).	Number of new Conservation Areas.



Appendix 3 Local Development Framework Objectives

ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES *continued*

Objective	Baseline Study	Other Plans and Strategies	Possible Indicators
Seek to reduce travel and promote an improvement in sustainable transport options.	Transport.	<p>Cut emissions from the transport sector (UK Climate Change Program).</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel (PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development, Regional Transport Strategy for the West Midlands).</p> <p>Encourage economic development in sustainable locations that minimises the use of private motor vehicle transport (PPG4 industrial, commercial development and small firms).</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel especially by car (PPG13 Transport).</p>	Achieve targets set out in LTP2.
Promote efficient use of the earths resources and promote renewable energy.	<p>Housing.</p> <p>Transport.</p> <p>Economy.</p> <p>Climate change.</p> <p>Material Assets.</p> <p>Waste.</p>	<p>Influence consumption patterns (Securing the Future – The UK Sustainable Development Strategy).</p> <p>Drive to improve resource efficiency and reduce waste and harmful emissions across business sectors (Securing the Future – The UK Sustainable Development Strategy).</p> <p>Reduction in use of natural resources (Sustainable Communities Plan).</p> <p>Improve business and residential use of energy including better efficiency (UK Climate Change Program).</p> <p>Encourage renewable power generation (UK Climate Change Program).</p> <p>Reduction in CO2 emissions (Energy White Paper, PPS22 Renewable energy).</p> <p>Promotion of Waste Hierarchy (PP210 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management).</p> <p>Ensure new developments incorporate recycling facilities (PPS10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management).</p> <p>Increase in renewable energy production (PPS22 Renewable energy).</p> <p>Encourage the remediation of contaminated land (PPS23 Planning and pollution control).</p>	<p>Reduction in emissions.</p> <p>Number of new developments incorporating solar panels.</p> <p>Number of renewable energy generation schemes.</p>



Appendix 3 Local Development Framework Objectives

ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES *continued*

Objective	Baseline Study	Other Plans and Strategies	Possible Indicators
Maintain the principles of Green Belt designation.	Landscape.	Bring forward sufficient land of a suitable quality in the right locations (PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development). Provision of opportunities for access to the countryside for the urban population (PPG2 Green Belts).	Percentage of land in Green Belt.

ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES

Objective	Baseline Study	Other Plans and Strategies	Possible Indicators
Maintain a high and stable level of employment by supporting economic modernisation.	Economy. Population.	High and Stable levels of Economic growth and employment (Sustainable communities plan). Diversifying and modernising the regions economy (Sustainable Communities in the West Midlands).	Unemployment rate. New business start ups.
Improve peoples access to job opportunities in new technologies.	Economy. Population. Education. Transport.	Promote learning and increased skills (Regional Economic Strategy).	Number of further education courses in District and population attendance.
Ensure opportunities for growth are linked to meeting the needs of the community.	Population. Economy.	Developing a diverse and dynamic business base (Regional Economic Strategy).	Population identified as living and working in the District.
Enable schemes that promote sustainable tourism.	Culture and leisure. Transport. Climate change. Economy.	Provide high quality experience for all visitors and bring economic, social and environmental benefits (Worcestershire County Council).	Increase range and number of places and activities which attract visitors by sustainable means.



Appendix 3 Local Development Framework Objectives

ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES *continued*

Objective	Baseline Study	Other Plans and Strategies	Possible Indicators
Ensure sufficient sites are provided to ensure sustainable economic growth.	Economy.	High and Stable levels of Economic growth and employment (Sustainable communities plan).	Employment land supply.
Provide positive support towards rural diversification.	Economy.	Thriving rural communities (rural white paper). Diverse rural economy (Rural white paper).	New business start ups in rural areas. Planning applications for rural diversification.
Encourage cross-border economic linkages.	Economy.	(To be identified).	(To be identified).





The matrix on the following page assess the compatibility of the LDF Objectives against each other.

Key to Local Development Framework Objectives

Social Objectives

- L1 Create communities where people want to live, work and socialise.
- L2 Meet the housing requirements of all members of the community.
- L3 Ensure the community has accessible healthcare.
- L4 Provision of leisure and educational facilities to meet the needs all the community.
- L5 Better quality of life through a safer and better designed urban and rural environment.
- L6 Promote thriving, balanced, inclusive and sustainable rural communities.
- L7 Ensure all members of the community have a viable choice of transport options.
- L8 Seek an improvement in retail opportunities and choices throughout the District.

Environmental Objectives

- L9 Protect our existing special natural environment.
- L10 Promote biodiversity enhancement.
- L11 Conserve and enhance the historic environment.
- L12 Promote the enhancement of existing areas of conservation.
- L13 Seek to identify and protect further areas of historical and natural importance.
- L14 Seek to reduce travel and promote an improvement in sustainable transport options.
- L15 Promote efficient use of the earth's resources and promote renewable energy.
- L16 Maintain the principles of Green Belt designation.

Economic Objectives

- L17 Maintain a high and stable level of employment by supporting economic modernisation.
- L18 Improve peoples access to job opportunities in new technologies.
- L19 Ensure opportunities for growth are linked to meeting the needs of the community.
- L20 Enable schemes that promote sustainable tourism.
- L21 Ensure sufficient sites are provided to ensure sustainable economic growth.
- L22 Provide positive support towards rural diversification.
- L23 Encourage cross-border economic linkages.





Appendix 4 Local Development Framework Objectives Compatibility Matrix

Objectives are compatible = + Possible conflict = / Mutually incompatible = ~ Compatibility unknown = ?
 No impact = (blank)

Objectives																							
L1	L1																						
L2	+	L2																					
L3	+		L3																				
L4	+	?		L4																			
L5	+	?			L5																		
L6	+	+	+	+	+	L6																	
L7	+		+		+	+	L7																
L8	+				?	+	?	L8															
L9	+				?	?	?	/	L9														
L10	?				?	?	?	/	+	L10													
L11	?	?			?	?	?	/	?	?	L11												
L12	?	?			+	?		?	+	+	+	L12											
L13	?							?	+	+	+	+	L13										
L14		?	+	+	+	+	+	/	?	?	?			L14									
L15		/	/			+	+	/	+	+	?	?	+	+	L15								
L16		/			?	?	?	/	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	L16							
L17	?			+		?		?	/	/	/	?	/	?	/	L17							
L18	?			+	?	?	+	?	?	?	?		?	?	?	?	+	L18					
L19	+	+			?	+		?	/	?		?		+	/	?	?	+	L19				
L20				+		+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?			L20			
L21						?			/	/			/	/	/	/	+	+	+	?	L21		
L22	?	?				+			/	/		?	/	/	?	/	?	?	+	+	+	L22	
L23									/				/	?	?	+	+	?		+	?	L23	



Appendix 5 Sustainability Issues



The table below documents key sustainability issues that have arisen out of the baseline characterisation study and assessment of other relevant plans and strategies and opportunities available to the Council.

Key Issues and problems	Source	Opportunities
Rising older population.	Census 2001.	Need to know what the District's older population require. Population demographics need to influence the contents of future documents.
Barriers to housing and services in rural areas.	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).	The District has comparatively little deprivation. Opportunity to reduce incidences of rural deprivation by increasing access to 'fit and affordable' housing and local services.
Large identified greenfield sites for future development needs.	PPG2 Local Plan.	Council have followed national guidance and given certainty to Green Belt boundaries by reserving land for the future development needs of the District. Opportunity to use or protect land for the future.
Housing to meet local needs.	Regional Spatial Strategy.	Opportunity to target housing to the needs of existing local communities.
Reducing fear of crime.	Community Safety Strategy.	Land use can take a lead role in defining places and ensuring that crime is designed out of communities.
Under-provision of affordable housing.	Housing Needs Survey.	Opportunity to target housing to the needs of existing local communities.
Implications of redeveloping brownfield sites.	PPS 3.	Balance between making best use of brownfield land, ensuring existing green corridors are maintained and ensuring people have 'space to live'.
School rebuilding and resiting programme.	Bromsgrove Schools PFI Project.	Opportunity to improve educational facilities and achievement and reuse sites for the benefit of local communities.
High car usage and congestion.	Local Transport Plan and Census 2001.	Denser population and car use results in increased pollution. Denser population also improves viability of public transport. Need to ensure public transport options meet needs of local communities.
Commuting out of District.	Census 2001.	Need to reverse trend in commuting and promote communities where people live and work. Promote sustainable commuting options.
Local facilities to meet the needs of the population.	Bromsgrove SCS.	Target facilities to the needs and requirements of local populations.
Air quality.	Air Quality Management Action Plan.	Opportunity to tackle underlying reasons for poor air quality in parts of the District.
Changing economy.	County Economic Summary (Monthly).	Opportunity to redevelop economy and make Bromsgrove a place business want to come.



Appendix 6 Sustainability Objectives

SOCIAL OBJECTIVES

SEA Directive Topic	Objective	Indicators	Targets	Origin of Issue/ Opportunity
Population.	The provision of housing to meet housing needs.	<p>Number of housing completions.</p> <p>Number of affordable housing completions.</p> <p>Average property price against average earnings.</p>	<p>Meet Regional housing requirements by end of plan period (EPP). 3950 (Worcestershire Structure Plan), 1900 per year for the whole of Worcestershire (RSS).</p> <p>Meet affordable housing requirements by EPP.</p> <p>Decrease gap between house prices and earnings.</p>	The Council monitor housing completions on a biannual basis. Regional Planning policies requires the District to provide housing for local needs. A recent housing needs survey identified a shortfall in affordable housing.
Human Health.	An improvement in the health and well-being of the population.	<p>Percentage of population describing their health as good.</p> <p>Percentage of residents with limiting long term illness.</p> <p>Life expectancy.</p> <p>Access to a GP.</p>	<p>Maintain and increase number of people who describe their health as good above the national average through to EPP.</p> <p>Maintain and reduce number of people with long-term illness below the national average through to the EPP.</p> <p>Increase life expectancy.</p> <p>Ensure everyone has access to GP.</p>	The Census 2001 contains detailed information on the health of the population. The undertaking of the LDF presents an opportunity to seek to improve accessibility to health treatment and access to leisure opportunities that can lead to improved health.
Population.	A reduction in poverty and social exclusion.	<p>Index of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>Number of benefit claimants.</p> <p>General satisfaction with Local Authority and street cleanliness - % very or fairly satisfied.</p>	<p>To maintain position of no SOAs in the top 20% of most deprived areas in England.</p> <p>Reduce the number of people claiming benefits in line with national targets.</p> <p>Increase % very/fairly satisfied with Local Authority and Street cleanliness to 75% by EPP.</p>	The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 contains seven Domains which relate to income deprivation, employment deprivation, health deprivation and disability, education, skills and training deprivation, barriers to housing and services, living environment deprivation and crime. As such it provides a very good summary indicator of the general well being and of areas of the District.



Appendix 6 Sustainability Objectives

SOCIAL OBJECTIVES *continued*

SEA Directive Topic	Objective	Indicators	Targets	Origin of Issue/ Opportunity
Population.	Quality of education opportunities for all.	Percentage of school leavers attending Higher Education.	Maintain and increase numbers of school leavers entering higher education above the national average through to EP.	The new schools provided by the PFI project should be built with all sustainability objectives identified in this report in mind.
		Access to primary and secondary schools.	Ensure everyone of school age in the district has a place in a local school.	
		Performance of districts Schools.	Maintain and improve current levels of performance.	
		Bromsgrove schools PFI Project.	Ensure the project is completed using sustainable building methods.	
Population.	Reduce and prevent crime and fear of crime.	Number of recorded crimes per 1000 population.	To maintain and reduce all levels of recorded crime per 1000 population and antisocial behaviour below the national average through to EPP.	The recently created Community Safety Partnership collects information through the police on crime rates in the District. A better built environment and reduced deprivation can lead to reduced instances of crime.
		Levels of people who fear crime.	Reduce levels of people who fear crime in line with the national average by EPP.	
		Types of crimes recorded.		
		Levels of antisocial behaviour.		
	Vibrant and locally distinctive communities.	Number of parks and areas of recreational space.	To maintain and increase number of existing parks and areas of recreation space by EPP.	Related to health, amenities, environment, crime, deprivation, travel.



Appendix 6 Sustainability Objectives

SOCIAL OBJECTIVES *continued*

SEA Directive Topic	Objective	Indicators	Targets	Origin of Issue/ Opportunity
	Accessible services and opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation for all.	<p>Number of parks and areas of recreational space.</p> <p>Access to a Post Office, Shops and a Primary School in rural areas.</p> <p>Number of visitors to districts tourist attractions.</p> <p>Percentage of jobs in the Tourism sector.</p> <p>Participation in cultural and sporting activities.</p> <p>No of sporting pitches per 1000 population.</p>	<p>To maintain and increase number of existing parks and areas of recreational space by EPP.</p> <p>Ensure where possible everyone has access to Post Office, Shop and Primary School.</p> <p>Increase promotion and development of new tourist attractions.</p> <p>Ensure current open space is retained and appropriate levels of open space is provided on new developments.</p>	The District has both rural and built up urban areas. It is important that all residents have access to services wherever they choice to live. The LDF presents opportunities through the designation of land and the safeguarding of existing leisure facilities to protect access to existing facilities and seek the provision of new facilities.
	Increased travel choice and accessibility through integrated transport facilities.	<p>Bus availability.</p> <p>% of people's usual method of travel to work (walk/cycle/bus/train/car).</p> <p>Number of trips made by public transport.</p> <p>Investment in public transport, walking, and cycling.</p>	<p>Enhance bus services in rural areas above national average by EPP.</p> <p>To achieve targets identified in LTP2 relating to travel choice and accessibility through improved transport facilities.</p>	The LDF will need to provide a framework for the closer integration of transport facilities including the protection of land to enable future growth in travel choice.
	Reduction in ambient noise levels and incidences of noise pollution.	<p>Number of noise related complaints received.</p> <p>Vehicle flows through urban areas.</p>	<p>Reduce number of noise related complaints through to the EPP.</p> <p>All new developments will take into account potential noise from surrounding land uses.</p>	<p>The presence of major motorways crossing the District presents localised environmental problems such as noise. Increasing motor traffic levels have increased this problem.</p> <p>The LDF presents an opportunity to put in place a framework to reduce noise pollution.</p>



Appendix 6 Sustainability Objectives

ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

SEA Directive Topic	Objective	Indicators	Targets	Origin of Issue/ Opportunity
Biodiversity, flora and fauna.	Preserve, enhance and recreate the District's biodiversity and geodiversity.	% of SSSIs in favourable condition.	Ensure all SSSIs in favourable condition by EPP.	The District has a special environment that needs protecting to promote biodiversity.
		Proportion of Biodiversity Action Plan targets achieved.	Meet BAP targets.	
		Total number of Special Wildlife Sites (SWSs).	Maintain and increase total number of existing SWSs through to EPP.	
Biodiversity, flora and fauna.	Protect the countryside, Green Belt and best agricultural land.	Planning permissions affecting AGLVs/ Landscape protection areas and Green Belt locations.	Ensure no harmful development is allowed to take place in these areas, in line with planning policy.	The District has a special environment that needs protecting not just for residents but also those living to nearby urban areas.
		Planning permissions affecting green belt.		
Landscape.	Preserve and enhance the district's high quality landscapes.	% of total land use under landscape designation.	Maintain and increase existing total land use under landscape designation through to EPP.	
Cultural Heritage.	Protect and enhance the qualities of the historic environment.	Total number of Listed Buildings.	Maintain and increase number of Listed Buildings.	The District has a special historic environment that needs protecting and enhancing to give the district a local identity.
		Total number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs).	Maintain and increase number of SAMs.	
		Total number of Conservation Areas.	Maintain and increase number of Conservation Areas.	The District contains over 400 Listed Buildings and has a statutory duty to protect them.
		% of Listed Buildings at risk.	Reduce % of Listed Buildings at risk in line with English Heritage targets by EPP.	
		Number of planning applications received for work in conservation areas/ on listed buildings.	Ensure no harmful development takes place within these designations.	
		Local list of buildings of architectural merit.	Continued monitoring and updating where necessary.	
Number of visitors to heritage sites.	Increase public exposure above exiting levels.			



Appendix 6 Sustainability Objectives

ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES *continued*

SEA Directive Topic	Objective	Indicators	Targets	Origin of Issue/ Opportunity
Waste.	Address the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle).	Percentage of Waste Recycled per year. Household waste collection per year.	To achieve Government Targets for recycling and composting of domestic waste. Recycling and composting: 40% by 2010. 45% by 2015. 50% by 2020. Recovery Of municipal waste: 53% by 2010. 67% by 2015. 75% by 2020.	The Council is rolling out a household recycling scheme. It is important that the momentum generated is continued.
Water.	Protect and enhance water quality and maintain sustainable water resource.	% of rivers with fairly good or better biological and chemical water quality. Number of planning permissions granted on Flood plains or major aquifers. Number of new development incorporating SUDS.	Meet EA targets for % of rivers with good/fair biological and chemical water quality. Continued protection and enhancement. No planning permission should be granted where evidence suggests it would increase the risk of flood. Encourage developers to incorporate SUDS and other water saving/cleaning methods within all new developments.	While no major rivers flow through the District the Worcester to Birmingham Canal passes north/south through the District. Also a number of brooks and streams flow through the District. Many of these streams have been hidden away in culverts. This represents the dominance in parts of the District of the built environment over the natural environment. A balance that needs to be readdressed.
Water.	Reduce number of properties at risk of flooding.	Properties at risk of flooding.	No new developments to be built in the floodplain after 2007 (EA and LGA target).	
Soil.	Guard against land contamination and encourage remediation of contaminated sites.	Area of contaminated land. Planning permissions affecting green belt.	Decrease area of contaminated land in district to below existing levels by EPP.	
Soil.	Optimum use of previously developed land to support regeneration.	Percentage of new development on Previously developed land.	Maintain and increase current high percentage of new development on PDL through to EPP.	Due to the limited supply of previously developed land in the District, it is important that best use is made of what previously developed land does become available.



Appendix 6 Sustainability Objectives

ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES *continued*

SEA Directive Topic	Objective	Indicators	Targets	Origin of Issue/ Opportunity
Climate Change.	Increased energy efficiency and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.	CO2 emissions per sector.	Decrease in CO2 emissions per sector in line with Government targets.	The District has an obligation to put in place a framework that enables a reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases.
		Average electricity consumption per household/year.	Decrease in average electricity consumption per household/year in line with government targets.	
		Number of new developments with energy efficient design.	Encourage developers to included energy efficiency measure in all new schemes.	
Air.	Improved air quality throughout the District.	Number of AQMAs.	Ensure no new AQMAs required to be designated through to EPP.	Improved air quality is linked to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and noise quality. The presence of major motorways crossing the District presents localised environmental problems such as air pollution. Increasing motor traffic levels have increased this problem. The LDF presents an opportunity to put in place a framework to reduce noise pollution.
		Vehicle flows.	Overall reduction in vehicle flows inline with public transport improvements.	
		Achievement of AQS objectives.	Ensure AQS objectives achieved.	



Appendix 6 Sustainability Objectives

ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES

SEA Directive Topic	Objective	Indicators	Targets	Origin of Issue/ Opportunity
Local Economy.	High and stable levels of employment.	Unemployment rate. Change in employment over time.	Reduce unemployment rate below existing level of 2.2% through to EPP.	The District needs a strong local economy so as to prevent outward migration and the associated harmful effects on the environment.
Local Economy.	Sustainable economic growth and a diverse economy.	GVA per capita. Employment land supply. Town Centre Vacancy rates.	Increase GVA per capita above inflationary rate for district through to EPP. Meet regional employment land supply targets. Reduce number of town centre properties vacant.	The District needs a strong local and diverse economy so as to prevent outward migration and the associated harmful effects on the environment.
Local Economy.	Development of a skilled workforce to meet the needs of business.	Proportion of population educated to degree level or higher. Qualifications at age 19. 16 year olds with no qualifications.	Maintain and increase number of school leavers entering higher education above national average through to EPP. Improve the levels of attainment for post 16 students. Reduce the numbers of school leavers with no qualifications.	New jobs require skilled workers. To avoid outward and inward migration the employment needs of the population need to be married to the provision of jobs.
Material Assets.	Sustainable use and development of material assets.	Reduction to energy use of Council owned buildings. Reduction in car mileage by employees. Quality and condition of fabric of materials assets.	Reduce energy use. Reduce use of motor vehicles. Maintain and increase quality and condition of materials assets relative to the existing baseline through to the EPP.	



Appendix 7 Sustainability Objectives Compatibility Matrix



The first table below assesses the compatibility of Sustainability Appraisal Objectives against each other. The second table assesses the compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives against the Local Development Framework Objectives. The Social Objectives are S01 to S06, the Environmental Objectives EV1 to EV9 and the Economic Objectives EC1 to EC4.

Key to Social Sustainability Objectives

- S01 Provide decent affordable housing for all, of the right quality and tenure and for local needs, in clean, safe and pleasant local environment.
- S02 An improvement in the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health.
- S03 Improve the quality of and equitable access to local services and facilities regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, socio economic status or educational attainment.
- S04 Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- S05 Reduce need to travel and move towards more sustainable travel patterns.
- S06 Provision of opportunities for communities to participate and contribute to decisions that affect their neighbourhood and quality of life, encouraging pride and social responsibility in the local community.

Key to Environmental Sustainability Objectives

- EV1 Conserve and enhance the District's biodiversity and geodiversity.
- EV2 Ensure efficient use of land through safeguarding of mineral resources, the best and most versatile agricultural land, land of green belt value, maximising of previously developed land and reuse of vacant buildings where this is not detrimental to open space, biodiversity and historic interest. Protect the countryside, green spaces, green belt and best agricultural land.
- EV3 Safeguard and strengthen landscape character and quality.
- EV4 Conserve and enhance the historic built environment heritage and seek well-designed, high quality built environment in new development proposals.
- EV5 Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy, 1) reduce, 2) reuse, 3) recycling and composting 4) recovery 5) disposal.
- EV6 Ensure inappropriate development does not occur in high risk flood prone areas and does not adversely contribute to fluvial flood risk or contribute to surface water flooding in all the areas.
- EV7 Promote energy efficiency and energy generated from renewable energy and low carbon sources.
- EV8 Protect and enhance the quality of water, soil and air quality.
- EV9 Reduce causes of and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Key to Economic Sustainability Objectives Matrix

- EC1 Develop a knowledge driven economy, the infrastructure and skills base whilst ensuring all share the benefits, urban and rural.
- EC2 Promote and support the development of new technologies of high value and low impact especially resource efficient technologies and environmental technology initiatives.
- EC3 Raise the skills levels and qualifications of workforce.
- EC4 Sustainable use and development of material assets.



Appendix 7 Sustainability Objectives Compatibility Matrix



Objectives are compatible = +
Compatibility unknown = ?

Possible conflict = /
No impact on each other = (left blank)

Mutually incompatible = ~

Objectives																				
SO1	SO1																			
SO2	+	SO2																		
SO3	?	+	SO3																	
SO4	+	?	+	SO4																
SO5	?	+	+	?	SO5															
SO6	?	?	+	+	?	SO6														
EV1	/	?	?	?	/	?	EV1													
EV2	/	?	?	/	+	?	+	EV2												
EV3	/	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	EV3											
EV4	/	+	?	/	+	+	?	+	+	EV4										
EV5	/	+	?	/	?		?	?	?	?	EV5									
EV6	/	+	?	?	?		+	+	?	?	?	EV6								
EV7	/	+	?	?	+	+	/	+	/	/	+	?	EV7							
EV8	/	+	?	?	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	EV8						
EV9	/	?	+	?	+	?	+	+	+	/	+	+	+	+	EV9					
EC1	?	?	+	+	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	EC1				
EC2	?	+	?	?	?	+	/	?	/	/	?	+	+	+	+	+	EC2			
EC3	?	+	+	+	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	EC3		
EC4	/	+	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	EC4	





Key to Local Development Framework Objectives

Social Objectives

- L1 Create communities where people want to live, work and socialise.
- L2 Meet the housing requirements of all members of the community.
- L3 Ensure the community has accessible healthcare.
- L4 Provision of leisure and educational facilities to meet the needs all the community.
- L5 Better quality of life through a safer and better designed urban and rural environment.
- L6 Promote thriving, balanced, inclusive and sustainable rural communities.
- L7 Ensure all members of the community have a viable choice of transport options.
- L8 Seek an improvement in retail opportunities and choices throughout the District.

Environmental Objectives

- L9 Protect our existing special natural environment.
- L10 Promote biodiversity enhancement.
- L11 Conserve and enhance the historic environment.
- L12 Promote the enhancement of existing areas of conservation.
- L13 Seek to identify and protect further areas of historical and natural importance.
- L14 Seek to reduce travel and promote an improvement in sustainable transport options.
- L15 Promote efficient use of the earth's resources and promote renewable energy.
- L16 Maintain the principles of Green Belt designation.

Economic Objectives

- L17 Maintain a high and stable level of employment by supporting economic modernisation.
- L18 Improve peoples access to job opportunities in new technologies.
- L19 Ensure opportunities for growth are linked to meeting the needs of the community.
- L20 Enable schemes that promote sustainable tourism.
- L21 Ensure sufficient sites are provided to ensure sustainable economic growth.
- L22 Provide positive support towards rural diversification.
- L23 Encourage cross-border economic linkages.



Appendix 7 Sustainability Objectives Compatibility Matrix



Sustainability Objectives and Local Development Framework Objectives Compatibility Matrix

Objectives are compatible = +
Compatibility unknown = ?

Possible conflict = /
No impact on each other = (left blank)

Mutually incompatible = ~

Objectives	L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	L6	L7	L8	L9	L10	L11	L12	L13	L14	L15	L16	L17	L18	L19	L20	L21	L22	L23
SO1	+	+	B	B	B	+	B	B	/	?	?	B	B	+	B	/	B	B	?	B	B	B	B
SO2	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	B	B	?	B	B	?	?	?	?	B	B	B
SO3	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	B	B	B	B	B	?	B	B	+	+	+	?	?	?	?
SO4	+	B	B	+	B	+	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	?	B	/	B	B	?	B	B	B	B
SO5	B	?	B	?	B	B	?	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	?	?	?	B	B	B	B
SO6	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
EV1	?	/	/	/	?	?	/	/	+	+	B	+	+	+	+	+	/	?	?	+	/	/	B
EV2	?	/	/	/	?	?	/	/	+	+	B	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	/	/	B
EV3	+	?	B	?	+	?	/	/	+	+	+	+	+	+	B	+	/	B	B	+	/	?	?
EV4	?	?	B	B	?	?	B	B	B	B	+	+	+	B	?	B	B	B	B	+	B	B	B
EV5	B	?	B	B	?	B	B	B	+	B	B	B	B	B	+	B	B	B	B	+	B	B	B
EV6	B	?	B	B	?	B	B	B	+	+	B	B	B	B	+	B	B	B	B	?	B	B	B
EV7	+	/	?	+	+	B	B	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	B	+	B	B	B	?	B	B	B
EV8	+	?	B	B	+	+	B	B	+	?	+	+	+	B	+	B	+	?	B	+	+	B	B
EV9	+	+	+	?	+	+	?	?	+	B	/	B	B	+	+	+	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
EC1	+	?	B	B	?	+	+	/	/	/	?	B	B	/	/	/	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
EC2	B	?	B	B	?	+	?	+	?	?	B	B	B	?	/	/	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
EC3	B	?	B	+	B	+	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	+	+	+	+	B	B	B
EC4	B	B	B	B	?	+	/	B	+	B	B	B	B	+	+	?	/	?	?	+	?	?	?



Appendix 8 Summary of Consultee Comments (2005)

SUMMARY OF CONSULTEE COMMENTS

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
Educational Services (Worcestershire County Council).	Explain the indicator ' Bromsgrove Schools PFI project.'	Indicator has been clarified.
	Crown Meadow and Alvechurch Meadow schools and Meadows and Parkside schools are not being combined but they will be accommodated in interconnecting buildings.	Text has been clarified.
	The requirement for developers to meet planning obligations under the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for Section 106 Contributions for Provision of Education should be included as a relevant objective from other plans and strategies.	Reference to the requirement has been included.
Philip Woodhams – Town Planning Consultant (representing Billingham and Kite Ltd).	In relation to S4 (housing) there is an indicator for number of homes built but no corresponding target.	Targets and indicators have been clarified.
	The baseline information should include a calculation of local housing need and the migrant need.	This is too detailed for the SA process. The aim of the SA is to determine whether the policies of the LDF will broadly affect housing provision and needs not investigate housing need in great detail. This will be addressed by specific housing need studies. Nevertheless, a summary of housing targets has been included in the baseline section.
	PPG 6 has been replaced by PPS 6.	Reference to PPG 6 updated.
	The SA should not be questioning government policy. The reference to ADR sites should be reviewed to ensure that it does not question/conflict with PPG 2.	Sites no longer designated as Green Belt. Emphasis on balancing needs.
	The section relating to local housing needs should be reviewed to take note of the planned review of the housing need figures used in the Regional Spatial Strategy and the significant improvement in survival rates.	The section on housing and the SA objectives, indicators and targets has been reviewed.
	The policy relating to affordable housing provision conflicts with government policy.	This was not the intention. Policy reworded to clarify.
	Queries the potential policy option ' Ensure housing is only provided where it matches employment growth.'	The policy will be considered and assessed further at the next stage of issues and options development.
	The housing needs SA objective should be reviewed. The objective suggests that meeting local housing needs will be to the exclusion of all other potential needs.	SA objectives have been reviewed, particularly those used for housing in line with other comments.
Identifies the publication of the interim SA guidance by the ODPM.	The ODPM guidance has been reviewed and the scoping report updated where relevant.	



Appendix 8 Summary of Consultee Comments (2005)

SUMMARY OF CONSULTEE COMMENTS *continued*

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
Philip Woodhams – Town Planning Consultant (representing Billingham and Kite Ltd).	<p>Although there may currently be an over supply of housing, this may not be the case in relation to the time period covered by the Regional Spatial Strategy – what time period is to be used for the LDF for housing?</p> <p>The baseline should include a ‘dimensioning’ of local housing need.</p> <p>Indication that the LDF will increase provision of housing to meet findings of needs survey, may exceed government thresholds.</p>	<p>Using the RSS figures the Council is still facing a significant housing oversupply situation over the RSS plan period to 2021.</p> <p>The SA is not a housing study and will therefore not venture into this much detail. Specific details will be covered in the Housing SPD.</p> <p>Text amended to increase ‘appropriate’ provision.</p>
The Countryside. Agency	No comments at this stage. However, the CA wants to be consulted at later stages of the plan development.	CA will continue to be consulted.
English Heritage.	<p>The Council’s and the County Council’s historic environment staff should be involved in the SA and the plan development.</p> <p>Would prefer the term ‘historic environment’ rather than ‘historic built environment.’</p> <p>Include details of Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p>Local lists of buildings of historic and or architectural interest should be included.</p> <p>The summary should refer to archaeological features and remains and should ensure it makes reference to aspects of industrial heritage.</p> <p>The historic dimension of the landscape needs to be recognised. The County Council are in the process of commissioning a Historic Landscape Characterisation to complement existing landscape character assessments.</p> <p>The importance of non-designated historic assets to the character, distinctiveness and sense of identify of the District must be recognised.</p> <p>The actual condition of the historic resources should be discussed i.e. identify any buildings on the English Heritage National Buildings at Risk Register.</p>	<p>Involvement of relevant historic environment staff will continue throughout the development of the LDF.</p> <p>Text amended.</p> <p>Baseline updated.</p> <p>This is too detailed for SA/SEA. Impacts upon these buildings would be addressed for specific schemes/ EIAs. It has been noted, however in the baseline that there are a number of buildings of local historic interest.</p> <p>Text amended.</p> <p>The baseline text has been amended to acknowledge the historic dimension of the landscape and the Historic Landscape Characterisation will be used when it is available and has been noted in the SA as a potential future data source.</p> <p>The baseline has been amended to highlight the importance of non designated features but it must be recognised that this is a strategic appraisal and, therefore individual, locally important buildings cannot be included in the SA.</p> <p>Condition data currently unavailable. Text updated.</p>



Appendix 8 Summary of Consultee Comments (2005)

SUMMARY OF CONSULTEE COMMENTS *continued*

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
English Heritage.	Consider the feasibility of monitoring the degree of change in the District's Conservation Areas in comparison with an up-to-date Conservation Area appraisal.	This is a very detailed level of appraisal and cannot be incorporated into the SA. The SA will however, consider whether a policy would have the potential to lead to changes in the historic environment assets and important historic environment landscape elements.
	A potential cumulative effect is the impact of relatively small changes on the character and appearance of an historic area of landscape.	This has been included as a potential cumulative effect.
	A new BVPI on Conservation areas has been introduced.	Such targets would be disproportionately detailed for the SA/SEA. However, a conservation area indicator has now been included.
	List of potential historic environment indicators provided.	The indicators have been reviewed and updated as appropriate. However, it was not feasible to include all of the recommended indicators, as the SA needs to consider a number of issues in addition to the historic environment. It is also essential that the process is manageable and does not become too detailed. The SA should not be assessing impacts upon specific buildings.
	The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (DCMS, 2001) needs to be included.	Included in the national policy documents section.
	Relevant Conservation Area Appraisals should be included in the local plans and strategies section.	The information presented in the Conservation Area appraisals is too detailed for the SA.
	Suggested some amendments to the social and environmental LDF objectives.	The LDF objectives have been reviewed and amended in line with English Heritage and other consultee comments.
	Suggested some amendments to the SA objectives and recommended that an objective on protecting and enhancing the character of the landscape and townscape is included.	The SA objectives have been updated and a new objective included relating to protecting and enhancing landscape and townscape character.
If data sets are absent which prevent the use of some indicators, this should be highlighted in the text and opportunities to develop new data sources should be developed.	All assumptions, uncertainties and data gaps are acknowledged.	



Appendix 8 Summary of Consultee Comments (2005)

SUMMARY OF CONSULTEE COMMENTS *continued*

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
English Nature.	<p>Identified typing errors in the document and inconsistencies.</p> <p>Further aim of CROW Act to be added.</p> <p>Biodiversity indicators should be included for the condition of SSSIs and the maintenance of the network of green space.</p> <p>There should be an indicator for green belt.</p> <p>There should be a water indicator for water consumption.</p>	<p>All noted errors have been corrected where appropriate.</p> <p>Aim added to PPP table.</p> <p>All indicators have been reviewed in light of consultee comments.</p>
Environment Agency.	<p>Emphasised the need to ensure that flood risk issues are incorporated into the SA.</p> <p>Emphasised need to ensure contaminated land issues are incorporated into the SA.</p>	<p>The water SA objectives have been modified to ensure that flood risk issues are considered.</p> <p>The soil SA objectives have been modified to ensure that contamination issues are considered.</p>
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.	<p>More information should be included about Special Wildlife Sites, BAP habitats and protected species.</p> <p>The Water Framework Directive needs to be considered.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands needs to be considered.</p> <p>Biodiversity enhancement should be an SA objective.</p> <p>An objective promoting the re-linking of features of biodiversity importance would be beneficial.</p> <p>A key sustainability issues is the degradation of the natural environment as a result of poor planning decisions and damaging land use practices.</p> <p>It would be useful to indicate the number of planning permission given on SSSIs and SWSs and any conditions attached. The outcome of applications affecting protected species and habitats would also be useful indicators.</p>	<p>Baseline information updated.</p> <p>The WFD has now been reviewed as part of the PPP analysis.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Strategy has been reviewed and included.</p> <p>All of the objectives have been reviewed, although it is considered that this objective is incorporated within the general biodiversity objective.</p> <p>Environmental degradation has been included within the list of sustainability issues.</p> <p>This is very detailed site-specific information and cannot be included with the SA. However, the baseline information has been revised to include more information about SSSIs, SWSs and BAP habitats.</p>



Appendix 9 Summary of Consultee Comments (2008)

SUMMARY OF CONSULTEE COMMENTS (2008)

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
Environment Agency.	Removal of statement "Flooding is not seen at the moment to be a significant issue in the District".	Statement removed.
	Draws attention to recent flooding events and affect on the District and how this is affected by local geography and other sources of flooding in the District.	Text amended.
	Climate change should be mentioned in relation to flooding.	Climate change mentioned in relation to flooding.
	States an SFRA is required.	An SFRA is being carried out. This was mentioned in original report, therefore no amendment to report but copy of letter given to consultants.
	Environmental Objectives page 46 should state that it is necessary to enhance as well as protect.	Text amended to include the word "enhance".
	Draws attention to concerns regarding water abstraction.	Text amended.
	Redevelopment of land affected by contamination is outlined in PPS23 which states that where development is proposed the developer is responsible for ensuring that development is safe and suitable for the purpose for which it was intended. It is therefore essential that PPS23 is referred to.	PPS23 is referred to.



Appendix 9 Summary of Consultee Comments (2008)

SUMMARY OF CONSULTEE COMMENTS (2008) *continued*

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
Natural England.	<p>Additional plans, policies and programmes could be included:</p> <p>International: Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive 96/61/EC. Conservation of Wild Birds Directive 79/409/EC. Freshwater Fisheries Directive 78/659/EC. Groundwater Directive 80/68/EC.</p> <p>National: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. Sustainability of the Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Frameworks. Minerals Policy Statement 2.</p> <p>Regional: West Midlands Waste Strategy.</p> <p>County: Worcestershire Sustainability Action Plan.</p> <p>Local: Worcestershire County Council Sustainability Policy.</p> <p>It appears that the tables under section 3 and numbered incorrectly.</p> <p>Provided updated information on state of SSSI's.</p> <p>Suggested slight rewording of SA objective from conserve and enhance to preserve, enhance and recreate the District's Biodiversity and Geodiversity.</p>	<p>Directive added. Directive already included. Directive added. Directive added.</p> <p>Act added. Act already mentioned. Directive added.</p> <p>Document added.</p> <p>Document added.</p> <p>Not added – part of RSS.</p> <p>Added.</p> <p>Added at County level in conjunction with Action Plan.</p> <p>Table numbering amended.</p> <p>Report amended to include the now up to date position.</p> <p>Report amended to include slight rewording.</p>
English Heritage.	<p>The Council's and the County Council's historic environment staff should be involved in the SA and the plan development.</p> <p>Additional plans, policies and programmes could be included:</p> <p>International: European Landscape Convention.</p> <p>National: Heritage Protection White paper. Heritage Protection Bill. Planning(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act. Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act .</p>	<p>Involvement of relevant historic environment staff will continue throughout the development of the LDF.</p> <p>Added.</p> <p>Added. Added. Added. Added. Text amended.</p>



Appendix 9 Summary of Consultee Comments (2008)

SUMMARY OF CONSULTEE COMMENTS (2008) *continued*

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
English Heritage.	In appendix 2 the analysis of PPG15 could usefully be expanded.	Text amended.
	Links to the historic environment in PPS1, PPS3, PPS7 and PPS22 should be highlighted.	Added
	To note:	
	the West Midlands Regional Historic Forum is developing a Regional Historic Environment Strategy.	Noted.
	other community based planning initiatives such as Parish plans, Town and Village design statements could be highlighted.	Noted.
	For subsidiary scoping reports it may be relevant to include relevant Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans.	The information presented in the Conservation Area appraisals is too detailed for the SA.
	LDF objectives in appendix 3 contains some overlap.	Text amended where overlap occurs.
	Omission of objective relating to safeguarding and enhancing the District's landscape.	This aspect is included in objective 1.
	EV2 Landscape -refers to Countryside Quality Counts initiative by Natural England.	This has been noted as a potential future data source.
	EV10 possible indicators are highlighted.	The indicators have been reviewed and updated as appropriate.
	Suggest that in issues and options the text referring to the degradation of the natural environment should either, be more general such as, degradation of the environment or made more specific such as degradation of the natural and historic environment.	Text amended.
	Sustainability objectives 2, 3 and 4 suggested text changes.	Text amended.
	Menu of questions offered to support environmental, social and economic objectives.	Noted.





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District Council

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Planning and Environment Services

Bromsgrove District Council, The Council House, Burcot Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 1AA.

Tel: (01527) 881325/881316, Main Switchboard: (01527) 873232, Textphone: (01527) 881291, Fax: (01527) 881313, DX: 17279 Bromsgrove
e-mail: ldf@bromsgrove.gov.uk