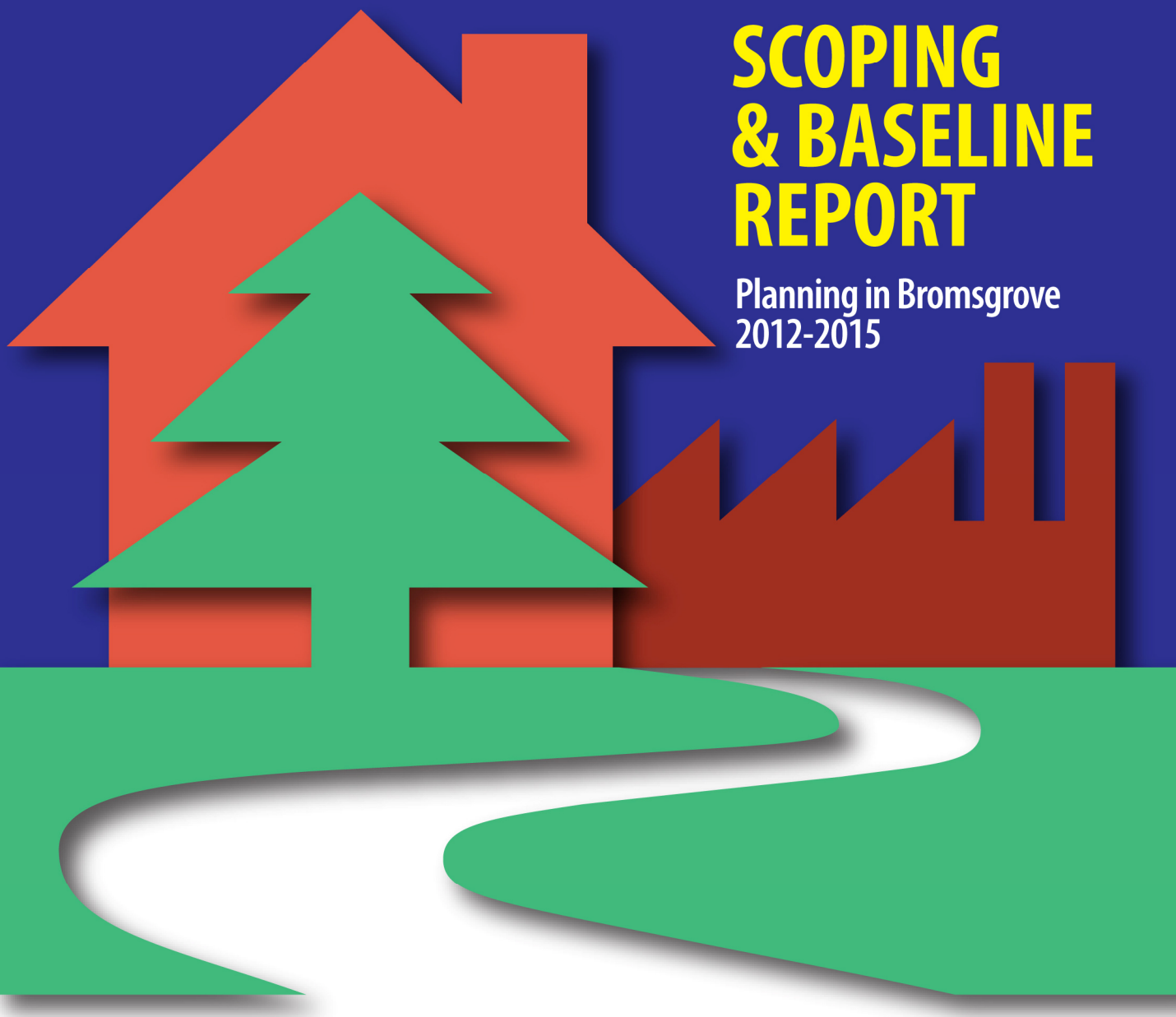


Bromsgrove District Council

# Sustainability Appraisal

**SCOPING  
& BASELINE  
REPORT**

Planning in Bromsgrove  
2012-2015



OCTOBER 2012



**Bromsgrove**  
District Council

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

**Bromsgrove District Plan  
Sustainability Appraisal  
Scoping and Baseline Report  
October 2012**

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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 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 of plans. SA is not 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 planning process should address in the pursuit of sustainable development
- set a framework 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 effect upon the environment. This process is referred to as 'strategic environmental assessment' (SEA) and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

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. 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.

However, it is important 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).

### **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 guidance for Development Plan Documents in the CLG Plan Making Manual launched in September 2009, which is the latest sustainability appraisal guidance available at the moment but is probably due for updating after the introduction of the Localism Act and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

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.

### **Programme and stages of Assessment**

The sustainability appraisal process should inform the preparation of a development document from the outset. Early and effective community engagement through the scoping of the sustainability appraisal and engagement with key delivery stakeholders will ensure the local planning process contribute to sustainable development.

### **The Environmental / Sustainability Report**

The sustainability appraisal is an iterative process. This Scoping Report corresponds to the evidence gathering stage of the local planning process and will set the baseline and framework for assessing policy options and policies. The report is updated every three years to ensure a robust and comprehensive Sustainability Framework process to appraise planning documents in subsequent stage.

Each time a document in the local planning process is consulted, a draft Sustainability Appraisal Report will be prepared and the findings of the assessment will be consulted on at the same time as the planning document. For example, an initial SA report was prepared at the Core Strategy Issues and Options Stage which was then updated to a full draft report at the Core Strategy Preferred Options Stage. A Final Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published and consulted on when the Bromsgrove District Plan (which replaces the Core Strategy) is submitted to the Secretary of State.

The Initial SA Report includes:

- 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 are/ will be structured as follows;

1. Summary and outcomes
2. Introduction
3. Appraisal Methodology
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 on the Scoping Report**

The Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage are 'designated as bodies with environmental responsibilities' through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The first scoping report was published in July 2005. Statutory consultees were 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. They were:

#### Environmental Consultees

- Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
- Severn Trent Water

#### Social Consultees

- Bromsgrove Local Strategic Partnership
- Worcestershire Education Authority
- Redditch and Bromsgrove Primary Care Trust (Now, Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust)
- West Mercia Police
- Bromsgrove District Council Highways Partnership (Now, Worcestershire Highways Partnership Unit)

#### Economic Consultees

- The Redditch & Bromsgrove Chamber of Commerce
- Bromsgrove District Council Economic Development Officer (Now the North Worcestershire Economic Development & Regeneration)
- Herefordshire & Worcestershire Learning Skills Council

This report was updated again in 2008 and agencies were re-consulted.

These agencies will be again re-consulted on this updated scoping report for a 5 week period.

This is not an exhaustive list but refers to the main consultation bodies. As part of the general public consultation exercise 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 Plan and its accompanying SA Report. Responses will be encouraged through the provision of feedback forms. The Council will take into account the representations received during each consultation process and publish its responses to the relevant documents by the next consultation stage. The Council will clearly state their response to each representation and how it has or has not affected the revisions of the document and reasons why.

**Introduction**

Before an assessment is made on how policies in the local planning process 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 their performance towards achieving sustainable development. Initially this baseline will relate to District wide issues to reflect that the first document the Council will be producing will be the Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030.

The study has been split into the following topics which reflect the requirements of both the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

**Social Characteristics of the District**

Population  
Deprivation  
Community Safety  
Housing  
Education  
Transport  
Culture and Leisure

**Environmental Characteristics of the District**

Biodiversity  
Landscape  
Air Quality  
Noise

Soil and Land Quality  
Water Quality and Flooding  
Waste  
Climate Change  
Health  
Historic Environment

### **Economic Characteristics of the District**

Economy  
Material Assets

### **Summary Profile of the District**

The Bromsgrove District covers approximately 21,714 hectares and at 2011 had a projected resident population of 94,300. The population of Bromsgrove was projected to increase to 99,600 by 2020 and 105,800 by 2030.

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. These links, and the attractiveness of the area historically as a desirable place to live, have resulted in sustained inward migration from the nearby conurbation and has also become attractive to businesses considering expansion, relocation or establishing for the first time. As a result, there is continuing pressure to meet increased demand for leisure, health, education, housing and other personal and social requirements.

### **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 faced by the District and possible cumulative or synergistic effects that could arise. The second table identifies potential indicators that could be used to measure the baseline.

### **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 planning process will need to take account of the specific needs of the District's above average older population.

The local planning process 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 but the fear of crime is a concern to some residents. The Bromsgrove District Plan can play a key role in ensuring safe neighbourhoods and development that improves natural surveillance and designs out crime. Reducing fear of crime can potentially lead to less car use and a healthier population.

The Quality of Life Survey (2008) found that 65% of residents said that they felt they belong in their local area and this is something that should be encouraged.

It is clear from the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Housing Availability Study that the District has a clear 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 Bromsgrove District Plan. Lack of future provision of affordable housing 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, the use of brownfield land wherever possible will need to be continued. However, there is only a finite amount of brownfield land available. Hence an appropriate balance needs to be struck between meeting the housing needs and protecting the natural environment.

### **Environmental Analysis**

The concentration of new development on brownfield sites not only protects the open aspect of the Green Belt but also helps regeneration and protection of the natural environment in the District. However brownfield sites are not always devoid of wildlife and assessments should be carried out prior to development, so that important wildlife and habitats can be protected or enhanced.

The District has high car usage compared to public transport. This is explained by the proximity of the District to the West Midlands conurbation and the employment opportunities it contains; poor public transport provision; the rural nature of the District and the excellent road network. Improvements to the sustainable transport network should be encouraged to try halt the upward trend in car use.

The provision of accessible cultural and leisure facilities that meet the needs of the population is vital for reducing the need to/ distance of travel and emissions. The District also attracts visitors, primarily from the conurbation, who explore the District's wooded hills and farmlands landscape character areas such as the Lickey, Waseley and Clent Hills. A choice of travel modes should therefore be made available for such visitors.

The District contains 13 Sites of Special Scientific Importance and 88 Local Sites (83 ecological and 5 geological). These sites are varied in their nature ranging from whole

valleys and hills to canals, ponds and rock exposures. Accessibility to these important sites must be balanced against their protection.

Although the District benefits from excellent strategic road connections, it does experience localised environmental problems caused by high traffic volumes. The District has four Air Quality Management Areas, at Redditch Road, Stoke Heath; Kidderminster Road, Hagley; along Hanover Place and Worcester Road within the town centre, and Lickey End adjacent to Junction 1 of the M42. The LDF will have a role in improving air quality in these locations and throughout the District via for example the promotion of development in more sustainable locations. However there are limits to what can be done within the District as for example, high carbon emissions are predominantly located around the motorways particularly at junctions. Furthermore if there is a problem with traffic flows on the motorway(s) in the vicinity of Bromsgrove, non-local and heavy vehicles tend to divert through Bromsgrove, causing localised congestion and air quality issues at certain times. These main traffic routes also pose problems with noise pollution for local residents. Localised pollution is also caused by closed landfill sites.

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

Bromsgrove falls within the Severn Water Resource Zone which is already experiencing shortfalls in water supply. Existing abstraction as a result of long term groundwater abstraction and low dry weather flows within surface watercourses have caused unacceptable environmental impacts in several areas which include the Battlefield Brook and the Bow Brook in the District. Flood risk within the District is mainly associated with flash flooding of ordinary watercourses as a result of rapid rainfall runoff. In addition to the increase in flow, the localised flooding is exacerbated by the lack of maintenance of the watercourses, change of land management practice, more development, the soil types, blockages and reduced channel capacity resulting from

culvert collapse. In addition, parts of Bromsgrove are also affected by fluvial, sewer and groundwater flooding. In Bromsgrove, with the exception of Batchley Brook, all watercourses fail to meet at least one of the required river water quality targets. Sustainable Drainage Systems can play an important role in reducing water demand and rainwater run-off as well as reducing pollutants in watercourses. The impacts of climate change are of relevance in relation to flooding particularly due to the incidence of more intensive rainfall events.

The District has a real sense of history with 12 designated conservation areas, over 467 statutory listed buildings, 13 scheduled monuments, 839 sites of some archaeological interest and 2 registered historic parks and gardens. The massive growth that has occurred in the District since the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War has, to some extent, over time diluted the historic character and form of many of the settlements.

The District is constantly changing and further changes including the regeneration of the town centre will have a major effect on the historic character and appearance of Bromsgrove Town. The Draft Bromsgrove Town Centre Area Action Plan which provides a planning framework to guide and promote future development in the Town Centre, was out for consultation in January 2011. The Council has also been awarded a first round pass of £1.2m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to operate a Townscape Heritage Initiative in the town centre.

The health of people in Bromsgrove is generally better than the England average. Over the last 10 years, all cause mortality rates have fallen. The early death rate from heart disease and stroke has fallen. However life expectancy is 4.9 years lower for men in the most deprived areas of Bromsgrove than in the least deprived areas. About 16.8% and 24.9% of Year 6 children and adults are classified as obese and an estimated 17.8% of adults smoke. The health priorities in Bromsgrove are to tackle obesity, alcohol use and falls in older people (Source: [www.communityhealthprofiles.info](http://www.communityhealthprofiles.info)). 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 and associated land use implications. The local planning process 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, the majority of jobs are now situated in the urban areas. There appears to be an imbalance between the type of jobs and pay available within Bromsgrove compared with the average wages of the population. Industries with higher paid jobs need to be encouraged to stay or locate in the District to correct this imbalance and reduce the daily traffic flow in and out the District. It would appear that further development in high tech manufacturing and knowledge based industries is required to redress the imbalance.

### **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 and the key issues identified then were:

#### *Housing:*

The Draft Core Strategy 2 (January 2011) adopted the housing figures proposed in the Panel Report of the West Midlands Spatial Strategy (WMRSS), which is to provide approximately 4000 houses by 2021 and a further 2-3000 houses by 2026. Since then, the Coalition Government has proposed a fundamental change to the planning system. The Localism Act had received Royal Assent in November 2011. The Act provides the Government with the power to abolish the regional strategies (including the WMRSS) and replace them with the 'duty to cooperate'. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment has recently been published. The assessment considers five different scenarios and identifies housing figures for each District in Worcestershire accordingly. Currently, it is not expected that there will be drastic changes to the housing target proposed in the Panel Report for Bromsgrove but it is uncertain whether Bromsgrove



will need to identify land for meeting Birmingham's and Redditch's housing needs. The Panel Report identified a need for 7,000 dwellings in Redditch, with around 3000 dwellings to be provided in Bromsgrove. Birmingham City Council has also commissioned consultant to carry out a Strategic Housing Market Assessment to identify their housing needs.

*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 which 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. Increased traffic congestion is a further knock-on effect of these commuting patterns which has a direct effect on environmental quality in the District and neighbouring authorities.

The Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-2026) was adopted by the Worcestershire County Council in February 2011. The plan includes a range of policies, underpinned by a strategic programme of investment in maintenance of the existing network and investments in transport schemes where these can be justified, to deliver the vision and achieve the objectives and outcomes sought. As before, it is expected that the Bromsgrove District Plan will link to the Local Transport Plan and try to reduce the need to and distance of travel and promote more sustainable 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 the 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.

The Longbridge Area Action Plan was formally adopted by both Bromsgrove District Council and Birmingham City Council on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009 as the development plan for the former MG Rover site.

**Section 3                    The local planning process and other plans and strategies**

**Introduction**

The content of plans produced as part of the local planning process will be influenced by the social, environmental or economic objectives of other relevant plans and strategies. It is essential that the Bromsgrove District Plan 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 local planning process will need to have regard to. Appendix 2 contains a table summarising the impact of each document on the Bromsgrove District Plan. This table documents relevant aims, objectives and targets and implications for both the Bromsgrove District Plan 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 District Plan.

**International treaties or strategies influencing the Local Planning Process**

The local planning process 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 District Plan.

<b>International treaty or strategy</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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

International treaty or strategy	Comments
	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.
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. It sets out the aim for the noise climate of Europe "to achieve reduction of the number of people regularly affected by long-term high noise levels from an estimated 100 million people in the year 2000, by around 10% in 2010 and by 20% in 2020."
EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy	This strategy aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss. Its vision is "by 2050, European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity's intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided."
EU Sustainable Development Strategy	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. The 2009 Review reports on the policy developments and opens a discussion on how the strategy can be improved.
European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe Treaty Series	Aims to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional, national and international level for protecting, managing

International treaty or strategy	Comments
no. 176)	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.
Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system (COM/2011/0144 final)	Aims to build a competitive transport system that will increase mobility, remove major barriers in key areas and fuel growth and employment. It also aims to reduce Europe’s dependence on imported oil dramatically and cut carbon emissions in transport by 60% by 2050.
The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development 2002	Re-affirmed nations’ commitment to sustainable development. Incorporated into national and regional planning guidance.
The Kyoto Protocol 1997	Enhancement of energy efficiency and the limiting and / or reducing of greenhouse gas emissions. Reflected in UK Climate Change Programme.
The Rio declaration on Environment and Development 1992	Committed countries to the principles of sustainable development. Incorporated into national and regional planning guidance.
The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage.
The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Revised) (Valetta Convention)	The new text makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. It is concerned in particular with arrangements to be made for co-operation among archeologists and town and regional planners in order to ensure optimum conservation of archaeological heritage.
<b><i>EU Directives</i></b>	
Ambient Air Quality Directive	sets legally binding limits for concentrations in outdoor air of major air pollutants that impact

(2008/50/EC)	public health such as particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2). As well as having direct effects, these pollutants can combine in the atmosphere to form ozone, a harmful air pollutant (and potent greenhouse gas) which can be transported great distances by weather systems.
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	aims to protect all European wild birds and the habitats of listed species, in particular through the designation of Special Protection Areas
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
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
Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010/31/EU)	Seeks to promote energy performance of buildings within the European Community taking into account outdoor climatic and local conditions as well as indoor climate requirements and cost-effectiveness. It also gives the public sector a leading role in promoting energy efficiency.
Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	has no quantitative goal for noise reduction, but sets out an ongoing programme of noise mapping and noise action planning. The Directive aims to “define a common approach intended to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to the exposure to environmental noise”. For that purpose several actions are to be progressively implemented. It furthermore aims at providing a basis for developing EU measures to reduce noise emitted by major sources, in particular road and rail vehicles and infrastructure, aircraft, outdoor and industrial equipment and mobile machinery.
EU Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009/28/EC)	Lays down a common framework for the use of energy from renewable sources in order to limit greenhouse gas emissions and to promote cleaner transport. Each Member State has a renewable target which is in line with the overall ‘20-20-20’ goal, i.e. to reduce consumption of primary energy by 20% by 2020. Moreover, the

	share of energy from renewable sources in the transport sector must amount to at least 10% of final energy consumption in the sector by 2020.
EU Flood Directive (2007/60/EC)	Aims to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. It requires Member States to first carry out a preliminary assessment by 2011 to identify the river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding. Then flood risk maps for such zones will need to be drawn up by 2013 and establish flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness by 2015.
EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Aims to establish a framework for the protection and enhancement of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. It will ensure that all aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands meet 'good status' by 2015.
Freshwater Fish Directive (2006/44/EC)	Aims to protect and improve the quality of rivers and lakes to encourage healthy fish populations. It sets water quality standards and monitoring requirements for areas of water (which are chosen or 'designated' by Defra) that are capable of supporting fish populations.
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	This Directive establish a regime which sets underground water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater. The quality criteria takes account local characteristics and allows for further improvements to be made based on monitoring data and new scientific knowledge. It relates to assessments on chemical status of groundwater and the identification and reversal of significant and sustained upward trends in pollutant concentrations.
Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC)	It aims to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed on the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European Importance. Annex I to the Directive covers habitats, Annex II species

	requiring designation of Special Areas of Conservation, Annex IV species in need of strict protection, and Annex V species whose taking from the wild can be restricted by European law.
Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (2008/1/EC)	This Directive requires new or existing industrial and agricultural activities with a high pollution potential to have a permit. This permit can only be issued if certain environmental conditions are met, so that the companies themselves bear responsibility for preventing and reducing any pollution they may cause.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC)	The Directive aims to provide a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation of public plans and programmes with a view to reduce their environmental impact. They ensure public participation in decision-making and thereby strengthen the quality of decisions.
Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC)	The Directive establishes the legislative framework for the handling of waste in the Community. It defines key concepts such as waste, recovery and disposal and puts in place the essential requirements for the management of waste. It also establishes major principles such as an obligation to handle waste in a way that does not have a negative impact on the environment or human health, an encouragement to apply the waste hierarchy and, in accordance with the polluter-pays principle, a requirement that the costs of disposing of waste must be borne by the holder of waste, by previous holders or by the producers of the product from which the waste came.

### **National Policies and Strategies influencing the local planning process**

The local planning process will need to reflect the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), any extant Planning Policy Statements and companion guides, as well as other relevant plans and strategies. The NPPF issued by the Government provides the national policy framework which is a material planning consideration. The local planning process including Bromsgrove District Plan (BDP) 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 published.

*National Policy Documents, Plans or Strategies that may influence the local planning process*

Title of National Policy Document, Plan or Strategy	Adopted/ Published/ Launched
<b><i>Bills, Acts, Regulations and White Papers</i></b>	
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act	1979
Building Act	1984
Climate Change Act	2008
Countryside and Rights of Way Act	2000
Energy Act	2008
Environment Act Part IV local Air Quality Management	2003
Flood and Water Management Act	2010
Localism Act	2011
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act	2006
Planning Act	2008
The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations	2012
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act	2004
Planning(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas)Act	1990
Wildlife and Countryside Act	1981
Air Quality (England) Regulations	2000
Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations	2010
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations	2010
Flood Risk Regulations	2009
Water Industry (Schemes for Adoption of Private sewers) Regulations	2011
Energy White Paper- Meeting the Energy Challenge	2007



Local Transport White Paper -Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon – making sustainable local transport happen	2011
The Future for Transport: A network for 2030 White Paper	2004
Natural Environment White Paper – The Natural Choice: Securing the value of Nature	2011
Rural White Paper	2000
Urban White Paper - Our Towns and Cities: The Future - Delivering an Urban Renaissance	2000
Draft Water Bill	2012
<b>Strategies, Policy Statements, Plans and Programmes</b>	
Building a Greener Future: policy statement	2007
Directing the Flow Priority for Future Water Policy (DEFRA)	2002
Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice (GP3)	N/A
Innovation and Research Strategy for Growth	2011
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England	2011
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy	2011
National Policy Statements for Energy	2011
Noise Policy Statement for England	2010
National Policy Statements for Transport	2012 (Ports)
National Policy Statements for Water, Waste Water, and Waste	2011 (Hazardous Waste)
Securing the Future – The UK Sustainable Development Strategy	2005
Plan for Growth	2011
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	2005
UK Climate Change Programme	2004
Minerals Policy Statement 2; Controlling and Mitigating the effects of mineral extraction in England	2005
Blueprint for Water:10 steps for sustainable water by 2015	2006
<b>Reviews</b>	
Barker Review of Land Use Planning	2006

Government Review of Waste Policy in England	2011
Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change	2006
The Eddington Transport Study	2006
The Rural Economy Growth Review	2011
The Rural Service Review	2004
<b>Others</b>	
By Design Urban Design in the Planning System-towards Better Practice (CABE)	2000
Code for Sustainable Homes	2006
Forestry Commission England Corporate Plan 2011-15	2011
<b>National Planning Policies, Circulars, Guidance</b>	
National Planning Policy Framework	2012
Technical Guidance to the National Planning Policy Framework	2012
Design: Safer Places The Planning System and Crime Prevention	2004
Diversity and Equality in Planning: A good practice guide	2005
A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive	2006
Circular 08/10: Changes to Planning Regulations for Dwellinghouses and Houses in Multiple Occupation	2010
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites	2012
Delivering Affordable Housing	2006
Planning for Town Centres: Practice guidance on need, impact and the sequential approach	2009
Good Practice Guide on Planning Tourism	2006
Principles of Selection for Listed Buildings	2010
PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment Practice Guide	2010
Planning for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: A Guide to Good Practice	2006
Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System	2005

PPS 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management	2011
DCLG Plan Making Manual	
Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17	2001
Planning for Renewable Energy: A Companion Guide to PPS 22	2004
Circular 03/99: Planning requirement in respect of the Use of Non-Mains Sewerage incorporating Septic Tanks in New Development	1999
PPS 25: Development and Flood Risk - Practice Guide	2009

### **Regional Plans and Strategies influencing the local planning process**

The Localism Act has given the Government power to abolish all the regional strategies. Environmental Reports for regional strategies were out for consultation in 2011 and the Government is now considering the comments. Before the regional strategies are formally abolished, the local planning process will also need to reflect the requirements of relevant regional plans and strategies on strategic issues unless more up-to-date sound evidence is available which indicates otherwise.

#### *Regional Plans and Strategies that may influence the local planning process*

<b>Title of Regional Plan or Strategy</b>	<b>Time period/ Published</b>
Ecological budget UK (West Midlands)	2006
Environmental (consultation) report on the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands	2011
Panel Report of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands Phase 2 Revision	2009
Putting the Historic Environment to Work: A Strategy for the West Midlands	
Regional Economic Strategy for the West Midlands	2004 to 2010
Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands	2004 to 2021
Regional Sustainable Development Framework	2006
Restoring the Regions Wildlife: Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands	2005
Severn Trent Water: Third Water Resources Management Plan	2010 to 2035
West Midlands declaration on climate change	2006
West Midlands Economic Strategy Review	2006-2007
West Midlands Housing Strategy	2006 to 2021

West Midlands Regional Cultural Strategy	2001-2006
West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy	2004
West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework	2004
West Midlands Regional Health and Well Being Strategy	2008
West Midlands Regional Visitor Economy Strategy	2004
West Midlands Rural Affairs Forum Rural Priority Position Statements	2010
West Midlands Sustainable Development Framework	2006

### County Plans and Strategies influencing the local planning process

The local planning process will also need to conform with county plans and strategies:

Air Quality a Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire	2008
Farmstead Assessment Guidance	Expect in Autumn 2012
Site Assessment Guidance	Expect in Autumn 2012
Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire	2011-2021
New Look at the Landscapes of Worcestershire	2004
NHS Worcestershire Draft Strategic Plan	2010/11 – 2014/15
Planning for a Multifunctional Green Infrastructure Framework in Worcestershire	2012
Severn River Basin Management Plan	2009
The right home, at the right time, in the right place: A Housing Strategy for Worcestershire (draft version 13)	2011
Worcestershire Access and Informal Recreation Strategy	2009-2019
Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan	2007
Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy	2005-2011
Worcestershire County Council Sustainability Policy and Worcestershire Sustainability Action Plan	2011
Worcestershire County Council Tourism Strategy	2002-2005
Worcestershire County Structure Plan	1996-2011
Worcestershire Cultural Strategy	2009-2013
Worcestershire Geodiversity Action Plan	2009
Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Guidance	2011

Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 3	2011-2026
Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan	1997
Worcestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment	2012
Worcestershire Supporting People Strategy (draft)	2010-2013
Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy submission document	2011

### **Local Plans and Strategies influencing the local planning process**

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 Local Plan and Strategies that may influence the local planning process are discussed in Appendix 2 together the objectives that are intended to be developed through the local planning process

#### *Local Plans and Strategies that may influence the local planning process*

<b>Title of Local Plan or Strategy</b>	<b>Time period</b>
Bromsgrove Community Plan	2003 to 2013
Bromsgrove Council Plan	2009 to 2012
Alvechurch Conservation Area Draft Character Appraisal	1969
Belbroughton Conservation Area Draft Character Appraisal and Management Plan	2012
Beoley Conservation Area Draft Character Appraisal	2011
Bromsgrove Town Conservation Area Character Appraisal and draft Management Plan	2011 and 2010
Dodford Conservation Area Draft Character Appraisal	2011
Hagley Conservation Area Draft Character Appraisal	2010
Hewell Grange Conservation Area Character Appraisal	2010
St Johns Conservation Area Character Appraisal	2011
Local Air Quality Management Areas Progress Report	2010
Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire (Bromsgrove)	2011-2021
Playing Pitch Strategy	2010
Bromsgrove District Biodiversity Action Plan	Adopted 2000

Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 3 (Bromsgrove)	2011-2026
Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Plan	2008-2011
Climate Change Strategy for Bromsgrove and Redditch	2010-2013
Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy	2009
Bromsgrove Arts and Event Strategy	2010-2013
Worcestershire Public Health Directorate Business Plan	2011/12
West Mercia Crime and Safety Survey (annually)	2011
Bromsgrove Evidence Report- Bromsgrove Profile	2011
Bromsgrove Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy	2007

**Introduction**

As shown in Section 3 and in Appendix 2 a framework of plans and strategies exists that will influence the local planning process. The Bromsgrove District Plan, has included Strategic Objectives that were developed using evidence from the baseline characterisation study and the analysis of other plans and strategies. The Strategic Objectives therefore effectively reflect the objectives of the whole local planning process and are detailed below.

**Strategic Objectives**

- S1) Regenerate the Town Centre to create a thriving and vibrant centre providing facilities to meet the needs of Bromsgrove residents
- S2) Focus new development in sustainable locations in the District such as on the edge of Bromsgrove Town in the first instance
- S3) Support the vitality and viability of local centres and villages across the District
- S4) Provide a range of housing types and tenures to meet the needs of the local population for example the special needs of the elderly and the provision of affordable housing
- S5) Provide support and encouragement for economic growth of existing and new business for example, in knowledge based industries and high tech manufacturing, whilst also supporting farming and rural diversification and investing in lifelong education and learning skills
- S6) Encourage more sustainable and healthy modes of travel and a modal shift in transport, for example encouraging walking and cycling and promoting a more integrated, sustainable and reliable public transport network across the District
- S7) Improve quality of life, sense of well being and reduce fear of crime by promoting active, healthy lifestyles for example by providing safe and accessible health, education, cultural and leisure facilities to meet the needs of Bromsgrove's residents
- S8) Protect and enhance the unique character, quality and appearance of the historic and natural environment, throughout the District
- S9) Safeguard and enhance the District's natural resources such as soil, water and air quality; minimise waste and increase recycling including re-use of land, buildings and building materials
- S10) Ensure the District is equipped to adapt to and mitigate against the impacts of climate change, for example, by managing and reducing flood risk by ensuring water and energy efficiency and by encouraging new developments to be low or zero carbon

- S11) Promote high quality design of new developments and use of sustainable building materials and techniques
- S12) Foster local community pride, cohesion and involvement in the plan making process

### **Relationships between Objectives**

The Strategic Objectives need to be tested against each other to identify possible synergies and conflicts. Appendix 3 contains a compatibility matrix which summarises the relationships between the objectives.



**Introduction**

The SA Framework will be the primary means of assessing the Bromsgrove District Plan policies and Strategic Objectives in terms of their sustainability. An SA Framework consists of sustainability objectives which are separate from the Strategic Objectives although in some cases they may overlap.

The West Midlands Regional Sustainable Development Framework (WMRSDF) (2006) sets out 33 objectives for sustainable development in the Region. These reflect key regional priorities around sustainable consumption and production, climate change and energy, natural resource protection and environmental enhancement and sustainable communities. The WMRSDF recommends that the Framework is used to inform statutory Sustainability Appraisal as well as in the process of scoping and identifying measures for strategies, policies and plans for which statutory SA is not required.

Worcestershire County Council has produced 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 planning document 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 earlier consultations a number of key sustainability issues have been identified. These issues are identified in table form in Appendix 4 together with the source of the issue.

**Identification of Sustainability Issues**

The identification of key sustainability issues provides an opportunity to identify sustainability objectives and indicators to monitor change. A consultation on this Scoping Report Update 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 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 older 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**

A number of large greenfield sites were removed from the Green Belt through the Bromsgrove District Local Plan (2004) and designated as Areas of Development Restraint(ADR). ADRs were reserved for future development beyond the life of the Local Plan.

- **Housing to meet local needs**

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment published in 2012 provides evidence for the housing figures appropriate for Bromsgrove District.

- **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 could lead to increased use of private transport and the avoidance of sustainable transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.

- **Under-provision of affordable housing, an increase in young residents leaving in search of work and housing**

Limited affordable housing for local people leading to social exclusion and harm to community life and networks. Young people that cannot afford to live in the District and those who work outside the District are moving away.

- **Implications of redeveloping brownfield sites**

High density development within existing settlements can have negative impact on local environments and brownfield sites can be biodiversity rich.,

- **High car usage and congestion**

High amount of car usage compared to sustainable transport leading to congested roads at peak periods and costs associated with this include costs to businesses, poor air quality, etc.

- **Commuting out of District**

There appears to be an imbalance between the type of jobs and pay available within Bromsgrove. Commuting out to work for example, also contribute to high 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**

Although the District benefits from excellent strategic road connections, it does experience localised air quality problems caused by high traffic volumes.

- **Changing economy**

The District is undergoing a change in its economy from heavy industry to high tech industries. For example, MG Rover, once a major employer of Bromsgrove residents, was closed down in 2005.

- **Degradation of the Natural and Historic Environment**

Degradation of the environment as a whole has been realised incrementally over time as a result of damaging land use practices, development pressures, neglect/decay of heritage assets at risk, traffic congestion, air quality, noise pollution, loss/erosion of landscape/ townscape character or quality, climate change and so on. Specific concerns includes conservation of biodiversity, cultural heritage, historic assets, character of the townscape, landscape character and the protection of groundwater supplies.

- **Responding to climate change**

Improvement and promotion of sustainable transport and energy efficiency, etc can all help reduce the causes of climate change. Flood risk within the District is mainly associated with flash flooding and climate change means that more extreme weather is likely to happen. This includes hotter and wetter summer and drier and colder winter.

- **The revival of the town centre as well as regeneration at Longbridge**

The Town Centre is considered 'run down' and has a high vacancy rate. The MG Rover plant in Longbridge was closed down in 2005.

- **Keeping the sense of community 'alive'**

The Quality of Life Survey (2008) found that 65% of residents said that they felt they belong in their local area and this is something that should be kept alive.

- **Possible cross boundary growth in the District**

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment published in 2012 provides evidence for the housing figures appropriate for Redditch Borough. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment commissioned by Birmingham City Council will also provide evidence for the housing figures in the City.

## **Policy Options**

During the issues and options stage of the Core Strategy a number of options were considered as there were different ways to meet the needs of the District. Some options may be more sustainable than others, and to ensure that the Core Strategy (now Bromsgrove District Plan) contributes to sustainable development a number of different options were assessed.

The Planning Inspectorate published a document entitled "Local Development Frameworks – Examining Development Plan Documents: Learning from Experience" in September 2009. It contains advice in relation to options. It states that "In some instances it appears that options are identified for the sake of having options rather than because they are realistic... If the options are limited there is no point in trying to artificially create options. This is a waste of resources and confusing. Where there are no or few options the reason for this should be clearly explained. In some instances this may be obvious... In other instances a detailed explanation of why there are limited

options may need to be provided...Options are more than simply the location of development (but includes matters such as density, the rate of development, delivery mechanism, etc)... Far more rigorous thought should be given at the outset to what sort of sustainability is needed. Sustainability Appraisal is where the consideration and assessment of the main alternatives should be found...The role of the SA in the choice is sometimes not clearly articulated despite the presentation of vast amounts of sustainability data”

As local policies have to take account of the requirements and policies of plans at a higher level, options that conflict with planning policies at the national or regional level are considered unrealistic and will not be considered. 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 local planning process.

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.

Issues and Options Table

Sustainability Issue	Policy Options
Rising older population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ensure policies promote an increase in accessibility to public transport and address the housing requirements of the elderly</li> <li>● Regenerate local centres to meet the needs of the older population.</li> </ul>
Barriers to housing and services in rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prevent losing essential village facilities.</li> <li>● Designate land for a new settlement.</li> <li>● Promote new affordable housing</li> </ul>

Sustainability Issue	Policy Options
	developments in villages to improve housing affordability to local people and to help support new facilities.
Large identified greenfield sites for future development needs (ADRs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use sites to address local needs</li> <li>● Re-designate sites as Green Belt.</li> <li>● Ensure full environmental assessment of sites prior to development where appropriate.</li> <li>● Deliver multiple benefits green space</li> </ul>
Housing to meet local needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ensure most housing is for meeting local needs.</li> <li>● A mix of some market housing and high levels of affordable housing.</li> </ul>
Reducing fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Incorporate minimum ‘design out crime’ standards in all new development.</li> <li>● Promote regeneration of ‘run down’ Town Centre and the Longbridge site.</li> <li>● Promote sustainable transport to improve natural surveillance.</li> </ul>
Under-provision of affordable housing, an increase in young residents leaving in search of work and housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Promote 100% affordable housing schemes.</li> <li>● Develop policies that allow market housing to cross fund new affordable housing units.</li> <li>● Redevelop Council owned sites to affordable housing units.</li> </ul>
Implications of redeveloping brownfield sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Require full environmental assessment of all brownfield sites prior</li> </ul>

Sustainability Issue	Policy Options
	<p>to development where appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Deliver multiple benefits green space and introduce minimum open space standards.</li> <li>● Ensure development reflects the character of the area.</li> </ul>
High car usage and congestion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ensure new developments contribute to improvements in sustainable transport.</li> <li>● Support improvements to public transport interchanges.</li> <li>● Ensure housing, services and employment are located together in mixed use developments.</li> </ul>
Commuting out of District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Allocate additional employment land to encourage major businesses to relocate to Bromsgrove.</li> <li>● Promote high tech manufacturing and knowledge based industries in the District</li> <li>● Ensure housing is only provided where it matches employment growth.</li> </ul>
Local facilities to meet the needs of the population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To avoid losing essential local facilities</li> <li>● Develop a settlement hierarchy and carry out regular audit of services/ facilities at each settlement.</li> <li>● Promote the use of Council owned land for new facilities.</li> </ul>
Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reduce the distance of and need to travel by car by enhancing sustainable transport options.</li> </ul>

Sustainability Issue	Policy Options
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maintain buffer zones between new housing and major roads.</li> <li>● Explore opportunities of traffic diversions through developing new roads or installing/changing existing road signs.</li> </ul>
Changing economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Designate new employment sites to meet the needs of 'new industries'.</li> <li>● Promote more mixed use schemes will small starter units.</li> <li>● Ensure new employment facilities include flexible layout</li> </ul>
Degradation of the natural and historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Promote policies which protect and enhance all elements of the natural and historic environment such as contribute to the green infrastructure networks, promote heritage-led regeneration opportunities etc.</li> <li>● Preparation of Conservation Area Appraisals and management plans</li> <li>● Strategy for biodiversity</li> <li>● Ensure developments contribute towards the Worcestershire GI Strategy</li> <li>● Ensure design of new developments is sensitive to the historic environment and enhance local biodiversity through appropriate mitigation and compensation measures.</li> <li>● Promote/encourage developments to follow the waste and water</li> </ul>



Sustainability Issue	Policy Options
	management hierarchies and adopt the SUDS management train concept.
Responding to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote/encourage developments to follow the waste and water management hierarchies, adopt the SUDS management train concept.</li> <li>• Reduce the distance of and need to travel by car by promoting/ enhancing sustainable transport options.</li> <li>• Ensure developments take into account of the impacts of climate change.</li> </ul>
The revival of Bromsgrove town centre and regeneration at Longbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To prepare separate Area Action Plans to address the issues in Town Centre and Longbridge</li> </ul>
Keeping the sense of community 'alive'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure essential local facilities are not lost</li> <li>• Promote design that encourages social interaction.</li> </ul>
Possible cross boundary growth in the District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure sustainable areas in the local authority are used first</li> <li>• Ensure sites are used to meet local needs</li> <li>• Ensure delivery of multiple benefits green space.</li> </ul>

**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 local planning process 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.

Based on the Worcestershire SEA/SA Framework, a set of sustainability objectives have 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 in Appendix 1, plans and strategies affecting the local planning process outlined in Section 3 and consultation with the public including feedback from the Local Strategic Partnership (Appendix 7-9).

**Sustainability Appraisal objectives**

Sustainability Appraisal objectives provide a yardstick against which the social, environmental, and economic effects of a plan are tested. The objectives can also be used to compare the effects of alternatives. SA 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.

**National 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.”*

Specifically the WMRSS 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
- h) sustainable future.

### **Bromsgrove District Plan 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 planning 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 local planning process. 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 Bromsgrove District Plan as it provides the over arching strategic policy base for the district.

It should be appreciated though that the Bromsgrove District Plan may have only limited scope to significantly influence some of the objectives, such as improve health and well being, as the Bromsgrove District Plan and other planning documents 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

- SO1) Provide decent affordable housing for all, of the right quality and tenure and for local needs, in clean, safe and pleasant local environment.
- SO2) To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health
- SO3) Improve the vitality and viability of Town Centre, other centres and communities and the quality of and equitable access to local services and facilities regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, socio economic status or educational attainment
- SO4) Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti- social behaviour

- SO5) Increase sustainable travel choices and move towards more sustainable travel patterns
- SO6) To provide 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

- EV1) To conserve and enhance 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 and biodiversity interest.
- EV3) Safeguard and strengthen landscape and townscape character and quality.
- EV4) Conserve, protect and enhance the architectural, cultural and historic environment, heritage and seek well designed, high quality built environment in new development proposals
- EV5) To manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy, 1) Prevention, ,2) Preparing for reuse,, 3) Recycling 4) Other recovery and5) 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 other areas
- EV7) Promote resource 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

### Economic Objectives

- 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) To raise the skills levels and qualifications of workforce and quality of education opportunities for all.

### **Compatibility of Sustainability Objectives**

It is useful to test the internal compatibility of the SA objectives (Appendix 6), so that future decisions are well based and mitigation measures can be considered. For the same reason, it is also useful to test the SA objectives against the Strategic Objectives to identify any potential conflicts between objectives (Appendix 6).

### **Sustainability Indicators**

To measure the success of the local planning process in achieving sustainable development a set of indicators are identified. Appendix 5 identifies the sustainability objectives together with proposed indicators.

The number of indicators may change as baseline data or higher level plans or strategies change. Furthermore the indicators may change in line with any changes to the objectives through the consultation process.

## **Social Characteristics of the District**

### **Population**

Having an accurate record of the current population and a reliable projections are important as policies and plans do not only need to cater for the needs of current residents but also 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 11<sup>th</sup> (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 99,600 by 2020 and 105,800 by 2030.

The ONS 2008-based projections, which is trend-based, suggests that the population in Worcestershire will grow by around 49,500 people (almost 9%) by the year 2030, to stand at most 605,000 people. The largest increase is projected to be in Bromsgrove, which has a projected growth of 12,800 (13.6%) with the rural districts of Malvern Hills and Wychavon also having projected increases of around 10%. Redditch has the smallest projected increase, at around 4,600 persons (5.8%). (Source: Worcestershire County Council –population projections).

In mid-2010 the population of the UK was 62.3 million, of which 55.2 million lived in England. The median age at mid-2010 was 39.7 years, compared with 37.9 in 2001. In mid-2010, there were more people of state pensionable age than there were under-16s, a pattern first seen in mid-2007. There were 11.6 million (18%) people aged under 16 in mid-2010, compared with 12.2 million (20%) people of state pensionable age. Natural change (i.e. births and deaths), net migration are the two main components of population change for the UK in mid-2001 to mid-2010. (Source: ONS Annual Mid-year

population estimates 2010)

The UK has a growing population. An increase of 470,000 people (0.8%) on the previous and an increase of 3.1 million compared with mid-2001. The population growth rate in the year to mid-2010 was at the highest level since 1962, the beginning of the 'baby boom' years. (Source: ONS Annual Mid-year population estimates 2010)

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, Barnt Green, Alvechurch and Rubery, with a number of varying size rural settlements accounting for the remainder of the population.

## **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.

According to the 2010 Indices of Multiple Deprivation Bromsgrove had the highest proportion of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the least deprived quintile (47%) across the West Midlands. When compared to the rest of Worcestershire, Bromsgrove



District has the lowest instances of deprivation, and ranks in the bottom quarter of most deprived local authorities across England (280th out of 354 authorities). However, this has seen an increase from the 2007 Indices, whereby Bromsgrove was positioned 299th nationally. Although the majority of the District performs well in terms of deprivation, there are small pockets of deprivation that need to be tackled. There are three LSOAs in the 30% most deprived nationally and the most deprived area in the District is in the northern part of Sidemoor, which is ranked 8,168<sup>th</sup> out of 32,482 most deprived areas nationally (DCLG Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010).

In December 2011, 10 per cent of the working age people in Bromsgrove claiming a key benefit, compared to 17 per cent in West Midlands and 15 per cent in England..

In a 2011/2012 survey of satisfaction with street cleanliness, 65% responded to be satisfied. (Council Plan, 2009 to 2012).

### **Community Safety**

Bromsgrove is a safe place to live, with levels of crime being lower than the national average. Vandalism or damage to property (including car) offences are the most common crime in the District (Source: West Mercia Crime and Safety Partnership Survey 2010-2011).

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 51% in 2010-2011 (Source: West Mercia Crime and Safety Partnership Survey 2010-2011).

The majority of respondents (83%) in Bromsgrove felt their neighbourhood has been safe during the 3 months prior to completing the survey (Source: West Mercia Crime and Safety Partnership Survey 2010-2011).

### **Housing**

The housing market in the District has been buoyant in recent years due to the District's proximity to the West Midlands conurbation. However, due to the current economic climate house prices have fallen 2.3% in the District over the past year, although this is significantly better than the 13.6% decrease experienced last year. Despite these

decreases, house prices are still relatively high compared to the rest of the West Midlands. The average house price in June 2011 was £229,048, compared with £154,325 in neighbouring Birmingham and the West Midlands average of £170,920 (Land Registry).

In March 2011 the number of dwellings in the District was 39,148. Of this 90% were privately owned (Neighbourhood Statistics). At the time of the 2001 Census, 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 Council's social rented housing stock has been transferred to Bromsgrove District Housing Trust, which is a Registered Social Landlord (RSL). Taking into account this transfer the social housing sector in April 2010 accounts for approximately 9.9% of the District's housing stock (Neighbourhood Statistics). This compares with an approximate West Midlands figure of 19.4% and a national figure for social housing stock of 18.1%.

Affordability is a major problem across the District, particularly in the smaller rural settlements where property prices are generally even higher, meaning that young people are often unable to find a home in the community where they grew up. One of the key findings of the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) is that 57% of households are unable to afford to purchase or rent in the open market in Bromsgrove District. The SHMA has identified that a total of 219 new affordable dwellings are required each year over the next 5 years to meet affordable housing needs.

## **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: 15 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.

During September 2010 to August 2011, the overall authorised (4.8%) and unauthorised absence (0.5%) in schools in Bromsgrove were lower than the regional (5.9% and 1.1%) and national percentage (5.8% and 1.1%) (Neighbourhood Statistics).

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 supplementary regional and local data for the State of the Countryside 2010 report, only 11.7% 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 7.1% of the region's rural population live within 4km of a secondary school (State of the Countryside Report 2010, Defra).

The population in Bromsgrove on average has higher levels of qualification than the county and regional average, in particular the higher qualification level – NVQ Level 4 and above (31.6% against a county average of 29.4% and a regional average of 26%). 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.

At the time of the 2001 Census, car ownership in Bromsgrove is higher than the regional and national average, with 46.9% of the households having two or more cars/

vans. The method of travel to work 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%.

Bromsgrove District benefits from a range of inter-urban bus services which are key to providing access to employment opportunities and key services and facilities across the Region, these services include:

- *144: Birmingham and Worcester (maximum 4 per hour)*
- *X3: Redditch - Kidderminster -Stourport (maximum 2 per hour)*
- *142/143: Birmingham - Redditch (maximum 2 per hour)*
- *145: Longbridge (maximum 1 per hour)*

These services are key to providing links between Bromsgrove Town, and parts of the District, to urban areas in Worcestershire and the wider West Midlands Region and to rail services.

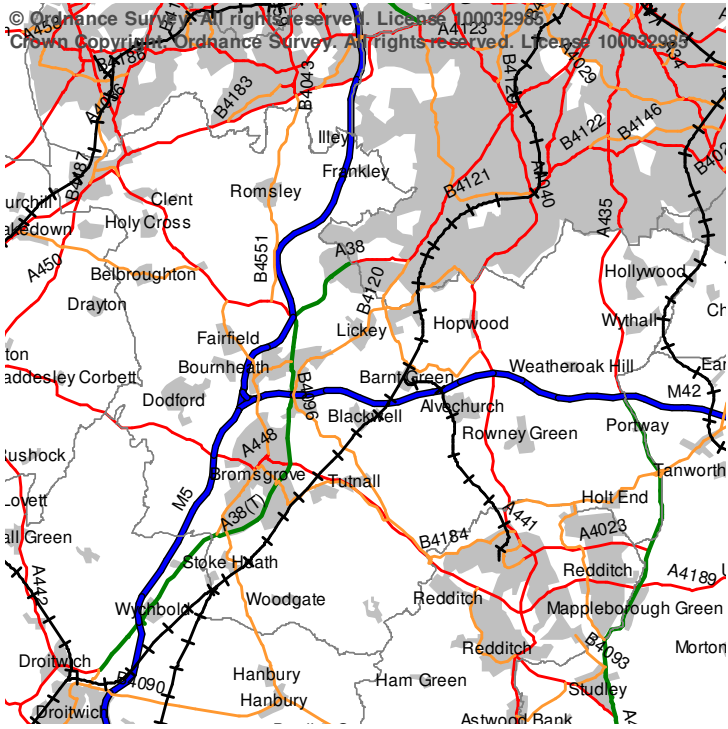
Rural areas of the District are served by infrequent bus services which have limited hours of operation; however for residents such services provide access to key services and facilities, including the rail network, within the District and the County.

Punctuality and reliability is an issue for inter-urban and local bus services operating within the District. Infrastructure constraints on the highway network are the predominant cause of this. Poor punctuality and reliability negatively impacts upon passenger confidence, bus mode shares and leads to increasing operating and passenger costs.

The District is reasonably well served by the rail network, although Bromsgrove train station suffers due to its isolation from the Town Centre, limited facilities at the station and short platform. For example, the train station at Bromsgrove is served by infrequent bus routes which exist to serve other locations and hence the timetable of the bus is not linked to the train's. There are also minimal customer facilities i.e. no waiting room, facilities for people with disabilities and inadequate car parking space. Also due to the short platform, longer trains cannot stop at the station,

Other stations that provide a commuter service into Birmingham are situated at Barnt Green, Alvechurch, Wythall and Hagley. Apart from Barnt Green and Alvechurch which has direct train between the two, it is impractical to travel via train between settlements in the District.

Plan showing the Road and Rail Network



**Culture and Community Services**

The Council are responsible for the following key leisure and cultural services: allotments, arts development, play areas, parks, open spaces and sports pitches, sports development and sports facilities at the Dolphin Centre.

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.

Allotments can provide a source of exercise as well as giving residents the chance to meet new friends and grow fresh produce. 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. In some rural areas allotments are also provided by Parish Councils. There are currently waiting lists on all 8 allotment sites and only Bromsgrove residents can apply.

There are three Country Parks in the District: the Clent Hills Country Park, the Waseley Hills Country Park and the Lickey Hills Country Park. These three 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 clubs, golf courses, indoor bowling greens, tennis courts, swimming pools and so on.

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 Aston Fields Middle School, Bromsgrove School, Catshill Middle School, Hagley Catholic High School, Parkside Middle School/ Meadows First School, South Bromsgrove Community High School and Waseley Hills High School and Sixth Form Centre.

Although there is no established cinema in Bromsgrove, Artrix (the theatre) shows around 2 film screenings a day. 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**

The District is an area with rich biodiversity, geodiversity and attractive landscape. The District contains 13 Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs), 83 Local (Wildlife)

Sites and 5 Local (Geological) Sites. These sites varied in their nature ranging from whole valleys and hills to canals, ponds and rock exposures.

It is not the place of a SA 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 the areas in question.

The SSSIs are in various conditions – favourable, unfavourable recovering, unfavourable no change, and unfavourable declining. Unfortunately in one case the SSSI seems to have been destroyed. Over the page detail each SSSI, its condition and if applicable the reason for decline.

Site Name	Condition	Reason For Adverse Condition / Condition Assessment Comments	Latest Assessment Date
Sling Gravel Pits	100% Unfavourable – no change	Earth science feature obstructed. The key features remain in unfavourable condition. Some vegetation, and possibly scree removal is likely to be required before the condition will improve.	03 April 2009
Madeley Heath Pit	100% Destroyed	Earth science feature removed	01 September 2010
Hewell Park Lake	100% Favourable	-	27 October 2009
Hopwood Dingle	100% Favourable	A dingle woodland with steep banks down to the streams. Many nice ferns bordering	17 June 2009

		the water. Lots of fallen trees providing good amounts of deadwood for invertebrates and fungi	
Romsley Manor Farm	100% Unfavourable declining	Overgrazing, undergrazing. Grazing now in place on the site, unfortunately the level/timing of grazing is inappropriate.	29 June 2011
Bittell Reservoirs	100% Unfavourable – No Change	Fish stocking, inappropriate scrub control, other - specify in comments, water abstraction, water pollution - agriculture/run off, water pollution - discharge	29 September 2006
Burcot Lane Cutting	100% Favourable	The exposures near the central and eastern sections of the cutting were in good condition, but with a significant covering of vegetation in places. This vegetation could be easily removed in localised sections, but removal along the entire length of the cutting would require a	10 March 2009



		much larger input of time and effort. The western exposures detailed by Cottle in 1993 (photographs 12 to 16 in the original Site Management Brief), are no longer present following road alterations several years ago.	
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Birmingham Plateau SSSI sites	Condition	Reason For Adverse Condition	Latest Assessment Date
Hurst Farm Pasture	100% Favourable	Site was a little overgrazed but the assessment still passed on herb species and ratio. Scrub removal is on-going which is beneficial to the site.	20 May 2010
Little Royal Farm Pastures	100% Favourable	2 Northern fields now managed as one field, this was shut up for hay. 2 Southern fields had been sheep grazed.	21 July 2011
Penorchard and Spring Farm Pastures	100% Favourable		24 June 2009
Berry Mound	100% Unfavourable –	Site has been under	06 December

Pastures	Recovering	pressure from grazing. A new consent agreed by land owner means all grazing will stop until at least the 1st of July 2011 to allow the site to recover. A new consent will then be produced.	2010
Romsley Hill	100% unfavourable – declining	Inappropriate scrub control, undergrazing. Cattle grazing on site in low number >10. Scrub encroachment becoming a greater problem.	22 July 2011
Oakland Pasture	100% unfavourable – no change	Unable to visit prior to hay cutting, visited in Sept when allowed after some regrowth of vegetation. Landowner now has a ew farmer involved for hay cutting and aftermath grazing. Field has only been topped previously when not haycut or grazing has been possible. Aftermath currently grazed by approx 5 cattle.	30 September 2011

Information is presently unavailable on the condition of the Local (Wildlife & Geological) Sites within the district. This detailed information should be obtained and survey conducted if specific area allocations are to be investigated. It is sufficient at this point to recognise the value of Bromsgrove's biodiversity and geodiversity and to ensure that it is afforded protection via the local planning process.

As stated in the Water Cycle Study 2011, on top of the 12 low flow investigations as part of the Severn Trent Water's AMP4, the Environment Agency has identified a further 31 licensed abstractions for investigation during the AMP5 period from 2010 to 2015 which may be having a negative impact on designated water bodies. Battlefield Brook in the District is one of the sites identified for investigation.

The revised Worcestershire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2007-2017 consists of 19 habitats and 25 species; some of these are also UK priorities, some of regional or local significance:

<u>LBAP Species</u>	<u>LBAP Habitats</u>
S1 Otter	H1 Arable Farmland flora and invertebrates
S2 Dormouse	H2 Traditional Orchards
S3 Bats	H3 Ancient and Species-rich Hedgerows
S4 Water Vole	H4 Scrub
S5 Noble Chafer	H5 Woodland
S6 Nightingale	H6 Veteran Trees with Lowland Wood Pasture and Parkland
S7 Allis and Twaite Shad	H7 Wet Woodland
S8 Adder	H8 Reedbeds
S9 Slow worm	H9 Fen and Marsh
S10 Great Crested Newt	H10 Wet Grassland
S11 White-clawed Crayfish	H11 Lowland Dry Acid Grassland
S12 High Brown Fritillary	H12 Lowland Hay Meadows and Neutral Pastures
S13 Brown Hairstreak	H13 Lowland Calcareous Grassland
S14 Common Club-tail	H14 Lowland Heathland
S15 Stag Beetle	H15 Road Verges
S16 Violet Click Beetle	H16 Urban
S17 Hornet Robberfly	H17 Canals
S18 Black Poplar	H18 Ponds and Lakes
S19 True Service Tree	H19 Rivers and Streams
S20 Farmland Birds including skylark, tree sparrow, corn bunting, lapwing, grey partridge, yellowhammer, barn owl, linnet and reed bunting	
S21 Wood White	
S22 Grizzled Skipper	
S23 Pearl-bordered Fritillary	

S24 Common Fan-foot S25 Drab Looper	
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The species and habitats that are of particular relevance to the District are:

Habitats/ Species	Details
Water vole	The water vole is critically endangered within Worcestershire with the only known surviving populations centred on the canal, stream and ditch network around Bromsgrove town.
Bats	High-quality roost sites are as important as high-quality foraging habitat. Bats will roost in a range of habitats and structures and these will differ from species to species. Potential roost sites include damaged or veteran trees, barns, churches, bridges, old and new buildings of all types, and in many cases people's homes. Bat species that have in the past relied on natural underground structures, such as caves, have become well adapted to using man-made structures.
Hay meadows	The total England resource of unimproved lowland hay meadows and pastures is estimated to be around 7282ha. Whilst the total extent of the Worcestershire resource remains unknown, to date approximately 1200 hectares have been surveyed and sites continue to be regularly discovered. Based on these figures it has been estimated that the county supports over 20% of England's remaining lowland hay meadows.
Acid grassland	Acid grasslands occur on free-draining and often sandy acidic soils. They are found in the Wyre Forest and Bromsgrove Districts of north Worcestershire and in association with the Malvern Hills.

Habitats/ Species	Details
Veteran Trees	Veteran trees are of particular value for the fungi, lichens and bryophytes and, most importantly, for the huge range of invertebrates (1700+ species) associated with decaying timber. Since veteran trees are usually hollow, they are also important nesting and roosting sites for bats and birds. The rural landscape around Bromsgrove contains remnants of ancient countryside and hidden away in old hedgelines, pockets of ancient woodland and field corners are many veteran trees.
Canals	Canals provide a green corridor into urban areas, with a mixture of freshwater and terrestrial habitats that can be very important for wildlife. Associated wetland habitats are often species-rich, some of which are relicts of formerly widespread habitats such as unimproved grassland, marsh and carr. Canals can help in the re-colonisation of the countryside by otters and canal tunnels can provide roosting, foraging and hibernation sites for bat species. In Bromsgrove the canal system is of particular importance for water voles.
Urban	Areas of urban greenspace such as gardens, school grounds, allotments, parks, churchyards and cemeteries can provide valuable wildlife habitat and allow people the opportunity for contact with nature near to their homes. The value of brownfield sites to wildlife, particularly invertebrates, must also not be underestimated.

(Revised Worcestershire Local Biodiversity Action Plan, 2007-2017)

The LBAP contains a detailed list of actions that the local authority needs to undertake to promote biodiversity. The local planning process 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.

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 10 different landscape character type (excluding urban): Estate Farmlands, Principal Settled Farmlands, Principal Timbered Farmlands, Principal Wooded Hills, Sandstone Estatelands, Settled Farmlands with Pastoral Land Use, Timbered Pastures, Timbered Plateau Farmlands, Wooded Estatelands and Wooded Hills and Farmlands.

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. 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.

### **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.

In 2000, the Government reviewed the National Air Quality Strategy and produced a revised Strategy, which set out a revised framework for air quality standards and objectives for seven pollutants. These were subsequently published in the form of regulatory standards in 2000 and then amended in 2002. Where it appears that the air quality objectives will not be met by the designated target dates, local authorities must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and develop action plans in pursuit of those objectives.

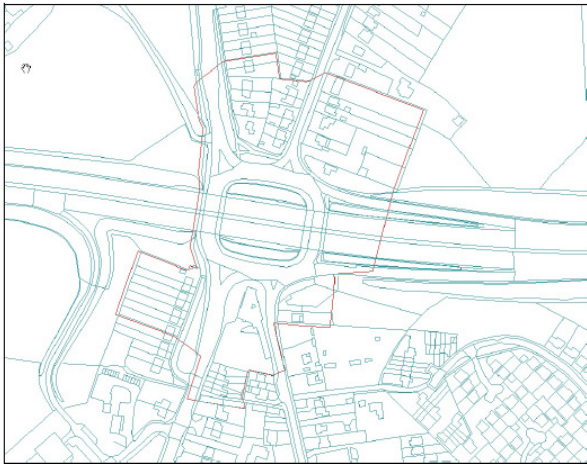
Arising from the findings of the local air quality review and assessment work, an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared in 2001 for Lickey End, due to road traffic emissions (Nitrogen Dioxide [NO<sub>2</sub>]) from the M42.

Following declaration of the AQMA, the Council in partnership with Worcestershire County Council (WCC) as the Local Transport Authority and the Highways Agency (HA) as the body responsible for the motorways network, were required to develop an Action Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to deliver viable measures that will work towards achieving the air quality objectives within an AQMA, and to encourage active participation in its achievement through consulting the local community and raising awareness of air pollution issues.

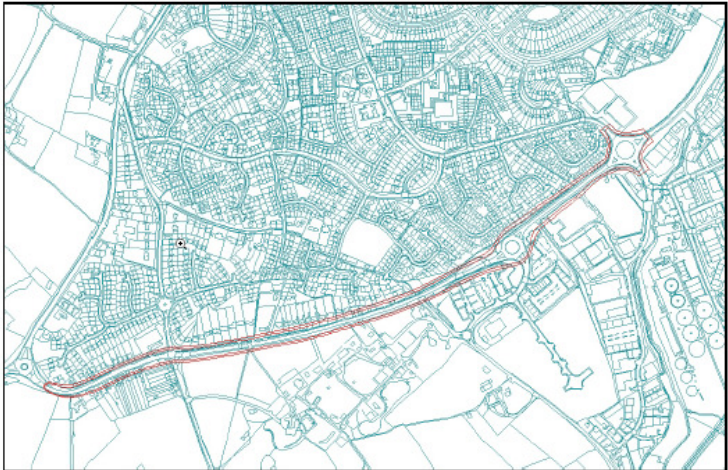
In February 2010 and June 2011, arising from the findings of the local air quality detailed assessment work, three further Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) were declared for Redditch Road Stoke Heath, part of Kidderminster Road Hagley and Worcester Road Bromsgrove, due to road traffic emissions (Nitrogen Dioxide [NO<sub>2</sub>]).

Review and assessment is now an on going process up until 2017 with annual reports needing to be submitted to DEFRA. In order to meet government targets and to maintain the high standards of the air quality programme, a 4 year partnership arrangement has been entered into with consultants. Some 30+ NO<sub>2</sub> diffusion tubes, including those required for the national survey, are located at various sites throughout the District. The followings are the boundaries of the four AQMAs in the District:

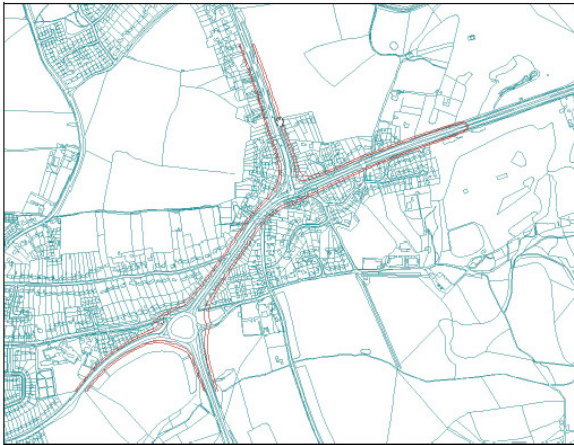
Lickey End AQMA



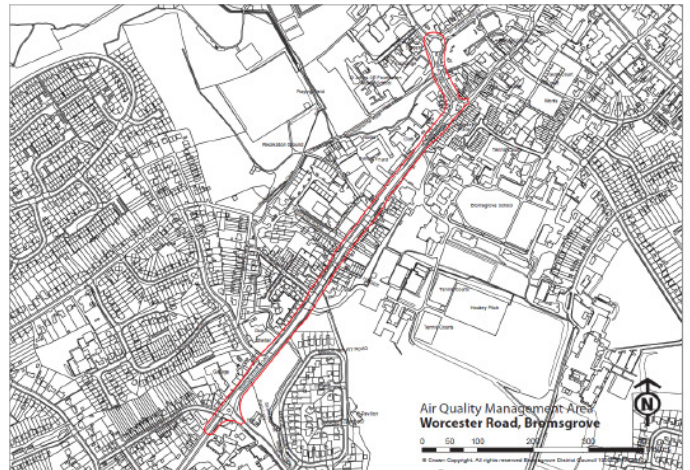
Redditch Road, Stoke Heath AQMA



Kidderminster Road, Hagley AQMA



Worcester Road, Bromsgrove AQMA



## 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.

In 1995 the Council for the Protection of Rural England (now the Campaign to Protect Rural England CPRE) and the then Countryside Commission first published a national set of 'Tranquil Area' maps, indicating areas that were not affected by noise from man made influences such major roads, airports, urban areas etc. Since then, more up-to-date data has been collected and a new set of maps were published in "Developing an Intrusion Map of England" (2007)<sup>1</sup>. The report shows that in Worcestershire, the area disturbed by noise and visual intrusion has increased significantly from 27.40% in early

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/countryside/tranquil-places/item/1790-developing-an-intrusion-map-of-england>



1960s, to 51.02% in early 1990s and 60.23% in 2007. The report also mentions that B roads were omitted from the 2007 analysis, and therefore the 2007 figures present an 'optimistic scenario'. This is useful baseline noise data for the District.

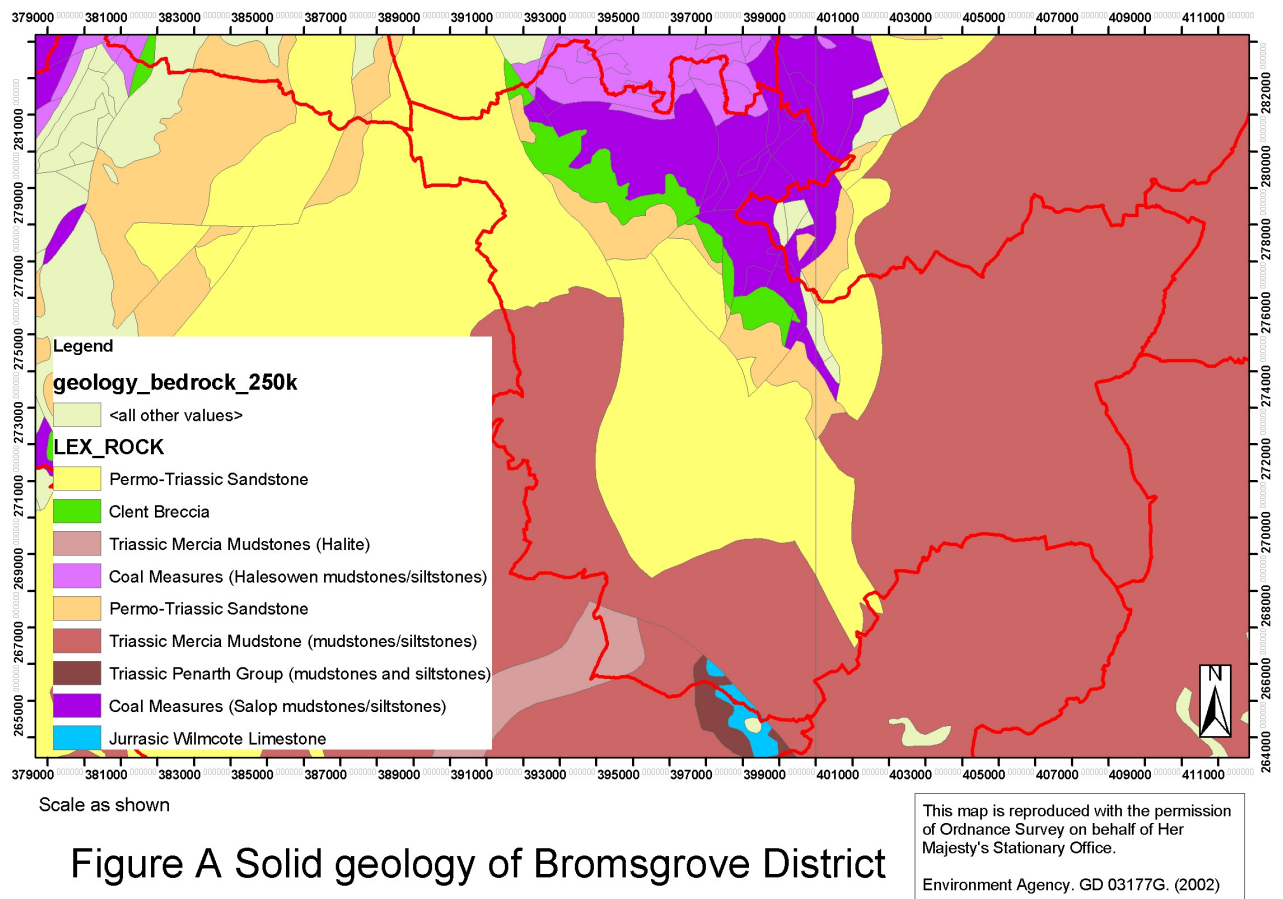
### **Soil and Land Quality**

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.

Bromsgrove has continued to achieve a high level of housing built on brownfield land, although slightly decreased from 09/10 (72% compared with 73%), these figures are still above the Worcestershire target of 68%. However, this will become increasingly difficult to achieve in future years as brownfield sites diminish and Greenfield areas are required to meet the housing needs of the District.

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 that relies on the quality of agricultural land which is categorised into Grade 1 excellent; Grade 2 very good; Grade 3a good; Grade 3b moderate; Grade 4 poor and 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. The Map below shows the quality of agricultural land in the District:





Water supply in the District is mainly from borehole sources and these wells abstract water from Triassic Sherwood Sandstones. The Permo-Triassic sandstones are classed as principal aquifers (formerly major aquifers) of generally high vulnerability to surface contamination. This vulnerability classification is based upon the presence and nature of overlying soil; the presence and nature of drift (deposits at the surface); the nature of the geological strata (solid rock) and the depth of the unsaturated zone (i.e. depth to the water table). The sandstones are classed as principal aquifers as large volumes of water can easily be drawn from them via boreholes or wells. Indeed, these sandstones are regionally important aquifers in terms of public water supply. They are of high vulnerability to surface contamination primarily due to the lack of any overlying protective cover e.g. clay layer. As a result any surface contamination can move relatively quickly to the groundwater, hence the high vulnerability classification.

The areas underlain by the Permo-Triassic Sandstone also fall within Source Protection Zones (SPZ) (See map below for the SPZs). SPZs have been modelled to protect specific sensitive locations such as springs, wells and boreholes used for potable supply

e.g. public water supply boreholes. There are a number of public water supply abstractions in Bromsgrove District. The abstraction of groundwater from a borehole modifies the natural groundwater flow in the aquifer. Depending on the amount of data available relating to the aquifer, it may be possible to define the source catchment area i.e. the area underlain by groundwater which will eventually be drawn to that borehole or well. Generally, the closer a polluting activity or release is to a groundwater source the greater the risk of pollution. All groundwater abstraction sources may be liable to contamination and needs to be protected.

Each SPZ has three subdivisions for each source, moving out from the source these are:

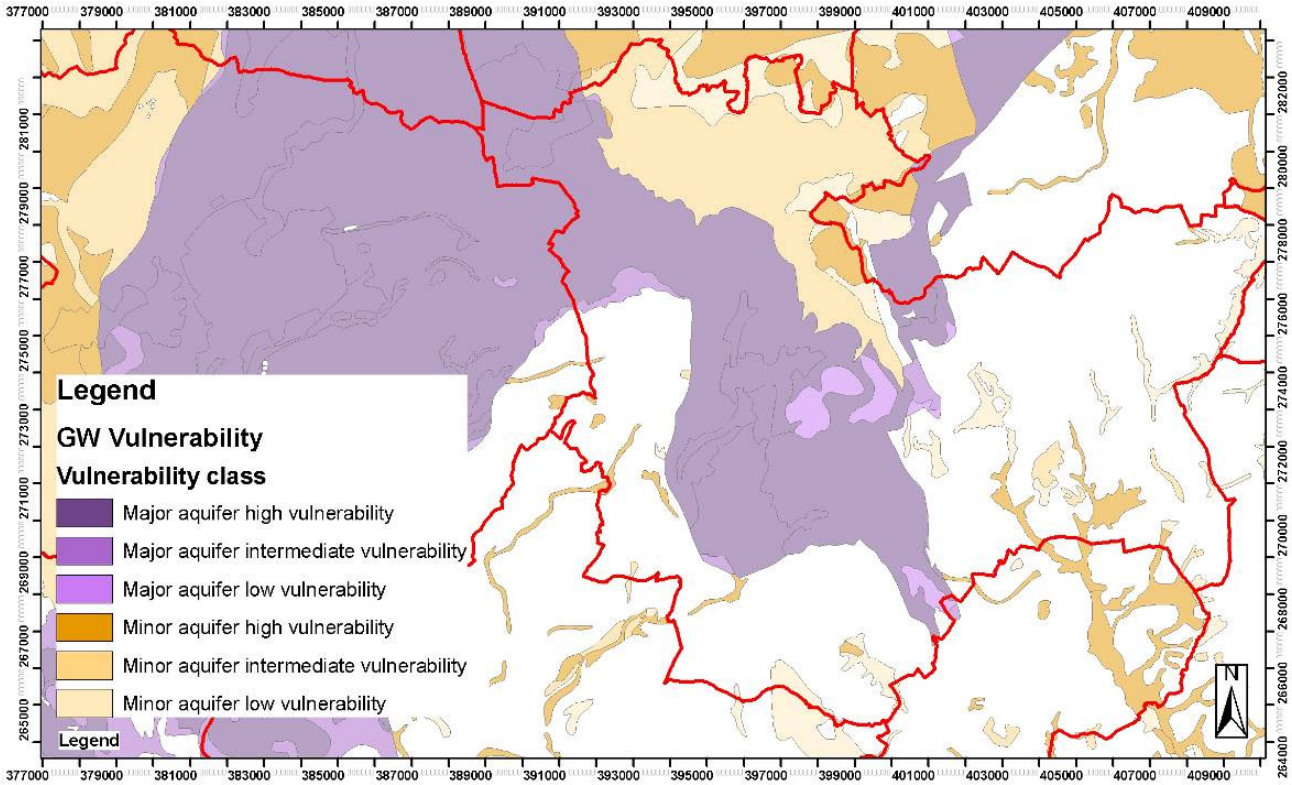
- Zone I (Inner Source Protection);
- Zone II (Outer Source Protection);
- Zone III (Source Catchment).

As the more densely occupied/developed areas such as Bromsgrove town, Catshill and Hagley are highly sensitive in terms of protection of groundwater, it is essential that all appropriate measures are taken to ensure that the underlying aquifers are protected. The sensitivity of the underlying aquifer must be appropriately considered when determining land use allocations.

The Coal Measures are classed as Secondary (formally minor) aquifer of low to intermediate vulnerability to contamination and the Triassic Mercia Mudstone is classed as un-productive (formally non-aquifer). It must however be acknowledged that where more permeable sandstone skerries are encountered within these sequences, both the Coal Measures and the Mercia Mudstones have the potential to provide locally important groundwater supplies for domestic, agricultural and commercial properties.

The overall sensitivity of groundwater is again broadly based upon the groundwater vulnerability classifications and the SPZs. In general the higher the groundwater vulnerability and the nearer the site is to a groundwater source/SPZ, the more stringent the protection measures will be. In some cases we may object to certain activities e.g. disposal of foul drainage to ground or a proposed petrol station in a SPZ1. Further information on the Agency's policies in relation to control of land use can be found in the

Agency's document Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice (GP3) Part 4 of this document refers to legislation and our groundwater 'policies'.



Scale as shown

Figure B Groundwater vulnerability map of Bromsgrove District

This map is reproduced with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of Her Majesty's Stationary Office.  
Environment Agency, GD 03177G, (2002)

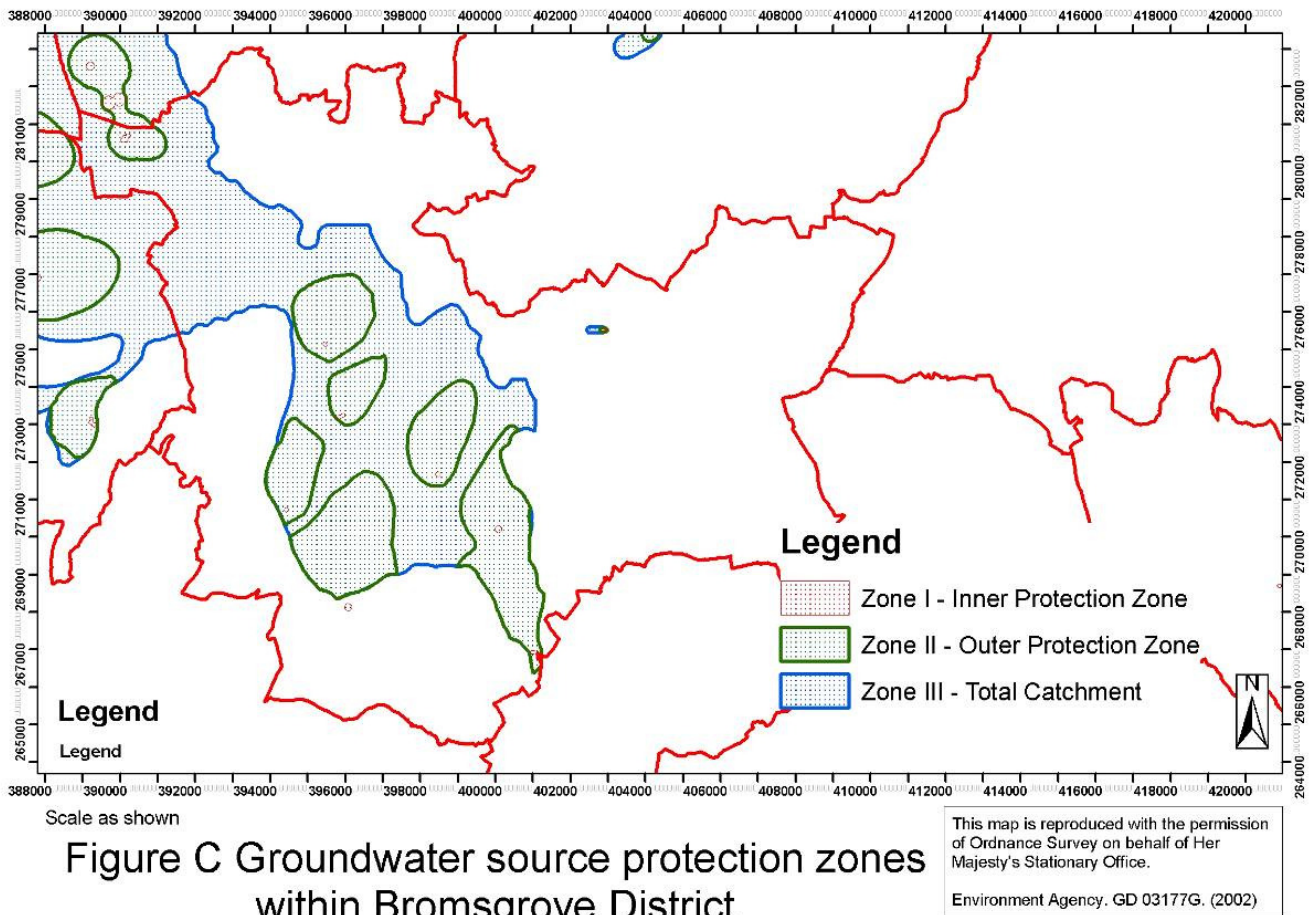
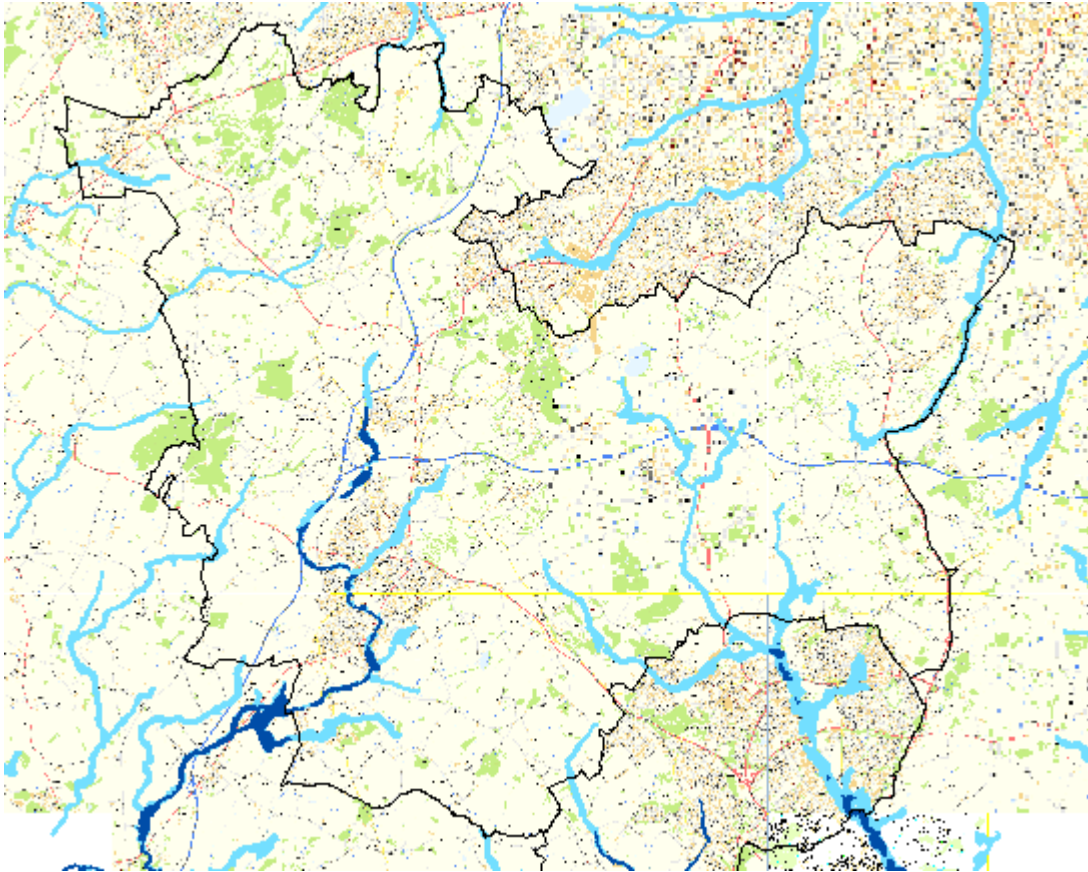


Figure C Groundwater source protection zones within Bromsgrove District

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. In accordance with PPS25 Development and Flood Risk Practice Guide, a Level 1 and Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA) had been carried out. Due to the cross boundary issues in particular with Redditch, the SFRA's were jointly commissioned by the two Councils. The Assessments 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.

The map below shows the potential fluvial flood risk areas within the District along the rivers modelled by the Environment Agency (Note: the Environment Agency only models rivers with a catchment size greater than 3 km<sup>2</sup> and the sea).



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.

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. 82 river and canal water bodies fall wholly or partially within Worcestershire representing around 700 kilometres of watercourse. 6 water bodies have been designated as 'artificial', 12 as 'heavily modified' water bodies. Worcestershire watercourses do not compare very favourably with watercourses in the wider area. Within the Midlands region, 22% of watercourses are designated as good- compared to 8% within Worcestershire. Within

the River Severn basin, 29% of the watercourses have a good status. Nationally, 26% of Rivers have a good status. (Worcestershire State of the Environment Report<sup>2</sup>).

A potential cause of pollution is surface run off. This 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 Drainage Systems (SUDS). Closed waste sites can also affect both groundwater and air quality. The level of abstraction and the consequent adverse effect 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 Outline Water Cycle study with Redditch had been completed. The study examines the water supply, wastewater collection and wastewater treatment issues, their environmental impacts as well as the issues that could arise from potential future development.

## **Waste**

Over 258,516 tonnes of waste were collected from households in 2009/10, which is a significant reduction compared to 2004/2005 figures of nearly 291,000. Of this 41.7% was recycled or composted. In Bromsgrove the combined recycling and composting rate was 37.37% in 09/10, which represents a 6.19% drop from 08/09 (43.56%) (Worcestershire State of the Environment Report).

The introduction of a kerbside recycling scheme in 2004 has resulted in approximately 93.9% 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.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk/cms/theme-groups/environment-group/state-of-the-env-report.aspx>



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 landfill sites, infilling sites, and transfer stations, household waste sites and so on. The following is a list of the facilities in Bromsgrove:

Address	Facility	Size (ha)	Throughput (tpa)
Sandy Lane (Veolia), Wildmoor, Bromsgrove, B61 0QT	Landfill	<b>2.1 &gt;</b> (9.9)	-
Warwick Stone, Tickeridge Farm, Timberhonger Lane, Bromsgrove, B61 9DN	Infilling	<b>2.1 &gt;</b> (2.8)	-
Chadwich Lane Quarry, Madley Heath, Bromsgrove, DY9 9UX	Infilling	<b>2.1 &gt;</b> (6.9)	-
Weights Farm, Weights Lane, Redditch, B97 6RG	Landfill	<b>2.1 &gt;</b> (4.2)	-
Pinches 3 Sand Quarry, Wildmoor Lane, Wildmoor, Bromsgrove	Infilling	Shared site <b>2.1 &gt;</b> (1.66)	-

Address	Facility	Size (ha)	Throughput (tpa)
Pinches 3 Sand Quarry, Wildmoor Lane, Wildmoor, Bromsgrove	Household commercial and industrial waste transfer station		-
Wildmoor Quarry, Redditch Skip Hire, Sandy Lane Wildmoor, Bromsgrove, B61 0QT	Waste Transfer Station	<b>0.6 - 1.0</b> (0.8)	19,317
Bromsgrove Bulking Bays, Aston Road, Aston Fields Industrial Estate, Bromsgrove, B60 3EX	Waste Transfer Station	Shared size <b>0.5 &lt;</b> (0.4)	13,000
A-Z Skips Metals and Ores, Trading Estate, Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, B60 4JZ	Waste Transfer Station	<b>0.5 &lt;</b> (0.2)	2,526
Lower Park & Redditch Skip Hire, Weights Lane, Redditch, B97 6RG	Waste Transfer Station	<b>0.5 &lt;</b> (0.14)	41,317
Quantry Lane (Bromsgrove) Household Waste Site Off Money Lane Romsley Bromsgrove, DY9 9UU	HWS	<b>0.5 &lt;</b> (0.4)	5,800
Bromsgrove Household Waste Site, Aston Road, Aston Fields Industrial Estate, Bromsgrove, B60 3EX	HWS		16,200
Veolia Ltd, Sandy Lane, Wildmoor, Bromsgrove, B61 0QT	Composting	<b>1.1 – 2.0</b> (1.3)	
Westside Forestry Ltd, The Stables, Harbours Hill, Belbroughton, DY9 9XE	Storage and Recycling of timber by- products	<b>2.1 &gt;</b> (2.8)	1,000

Address	Facility	Size (ha)	Throughput (tpa)
Portway Motor Services, Holly Farm, White Pits Lane, Alvechurch, B48 7HX	Metal recycling site (vehicle dismantler)	<b>0.5 &lt;</b> (0.43)	827
DJ Craddock & Sons, Clevedon Farm, Icknield Street, Redditch, B98 9AH	Metal recycling site (MRS)	<b>0.6 - 1.0</b> (1.0)	16,500
Associated Commercial Dismantlers (ACD), High Park Wood, Alcester Road, Redditch, B98 9DT	End of Life Vehicles Facility	<b>0.5 &lt;</b> (0.24)	145
Reservoir Motors Ltd, High Park Wood, Alcester Road, Redditch, B98 9DT	End of Life Vehicles Facility	<b>0.5 &lt;</b> (0.14)	573

(Source: Waste Sites in Worcestershire, Worcestershire Waste Bromsgrove District Plan Background Document, 2011)

The Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Herefordshire & Worcestershire 2004-2034 (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.

The Worcestershire County Council has now prepared the Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy which has now been found sound. The Strategy sets out how all the different kinds of waste produced by everyone who lives in, works in, or visits the County will be managed between now and 2027. In the submission document, the strategy identified a geographic hierarchy for waste management in Worcestershire. Some parts of the District fall within the Level 1a Redditch zone and the Level 2 Bromsgrove zone. Areas within the District that have been identified as potentially suitable for waste management facilities include: Ravensbank Business Park and Weights Farm Business Park (which are within the Redditch zone), and Bromsgrove Technology Park, Buntsford Gate Business Park, Buntsford Hill Industrial Estate and Silver Birches and Basepoint Business Parks (which are within the Bromsgrove zone).

## 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 (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane and nitrous oxide. The accumulation of these gases in the atmosphere strengthens the greenhouse effect. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), 30.6 gigatons of carbon dioxide were emitted in 2010; up 5% from 2008's level of 29.4Gt and for a two degree increase to be averted, global energy-related emissions in 2020 must not be greater than 32 Gt<sup>3</sup>. Total UK net emissions of GHG after trading were 580 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents in 2009. When compared against a fixed base year figure of 779.9 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent of the Kyoto Protocol target (i.e. 12.5% reduction), emissions in 2009 were 25.6% lower than the base year (UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory: National Statistics User Guide, DECC, 2011)

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.

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<sup>3</sup> Environmental Leader (2011) "World GHG Emissions Hit Record Level" in *Environmental and Energy Management News*, 31 May 2011. [<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2011/05/31/world-ghg-emissions-hit-record-level/> ]

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 occurred since 1997 and all the UK's top seven warmest years happened in the past decade<sup>4</sup>.

In Europe, the summers of 2003 and 2010 broke 500-year-old records across half of Europe and simulations show that the heat waves will become more frequent, more intense and longer lasting in future<sup>5</sup>.

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. The flooding events in June/ July 2007 were estimated to cost the Worcestershire County Council £9 million of which £6 million was estimated for the repairs carried out by the Highways Department (Planning for Water in Worcestershire, 2011).

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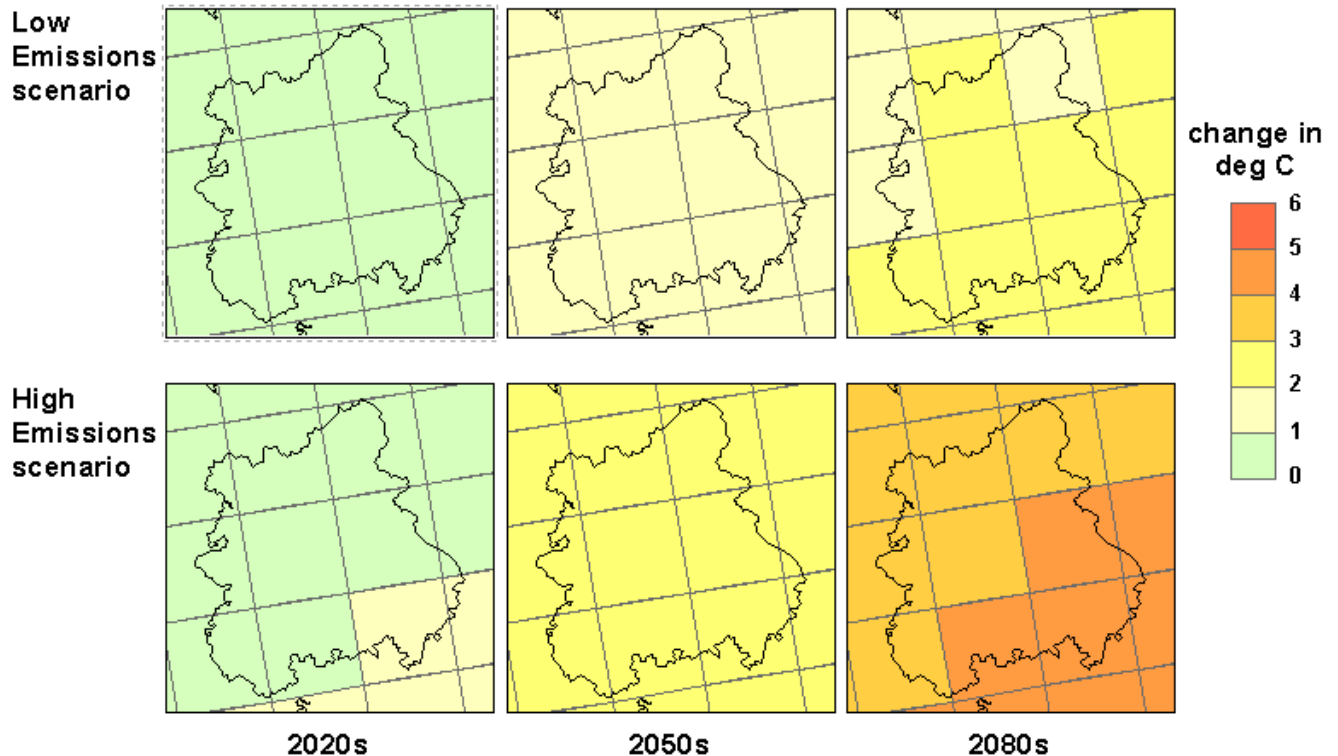
<sup>4</sup> BBC (2011) "2011 is UK's second warmest year on record – Met Office" on 30 Dec 2011  
[<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-16366078> ]

<sup>5</sup> Science Daily (2011) "Record-Breaking 2010 Eastern European/Russian Heatwave" on 18 March 2011  
[<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/03/110318091141.htm> ]

# West Midlands

Source: UKCIP02 Climate Change Scenarios (funded by Defra, produced by Tyndall and Hadley Centres for UKCIP)

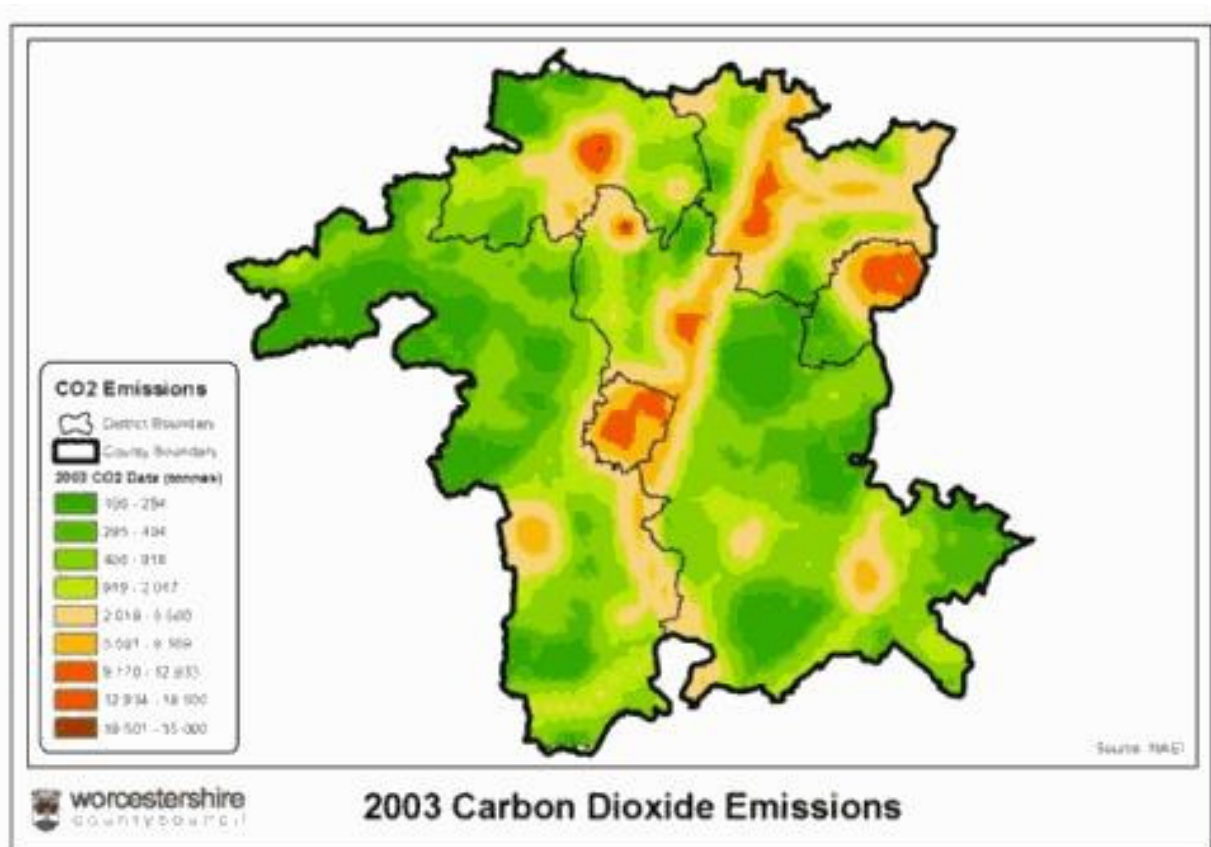
## Change in annual average daily temperature



CO<sub>2</sub> emissions accounted for around 84% of the total GHG emissions in the UK in 2009. Between 2008 and 2009, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions decreased by 9.8%. The five most significant sources of CO<sub>2</sub> in 1990 and 2009 were: power stations, road transport, residential combustion, industrial combustion and commercial/ institutional combustion. Four of these five sources have decreased from 1990 to 2009 except road transport, which have increased 7.7 Mt across the time series. The overall trend of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is dominated by the power generation sector, where emissions have decreased predominantly due to switching fuel from coal to gas (UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory: National Statistics User Guide, DECC, 2011).

The CO<sub>2</sub> emission figures for 2008 show that Worcestershire emissions have reduced by 0.3 tonnes (or 4.2%) per capita compared with the 2005 baseline. In Worcestershire, most emissions (38%) came from the industry and commercial sector with the smallest emissions from the road transport sector (26%) (Worcestershire State of the Environment Report).

In Bromsgrove, the highest emissions correlate to the M5 and M42 motorway corridors (see the CO<sub>2</sub> emission map below), whilst in other, predominantly rural areas, emissions are low (National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory).



## Health

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

The Health Act 2006 introduced provisions for the creation of a ban on smoking in enclosed public places and granted the Secretary of State the power to increase the age for purchasing tobacco from 16 to 18. The Health Act 2009 proposed measures to improve the quality of NHS care, the performance of NHS services and to improve public health. It further strengthens tobacco control to protect children and young people from the health harms caused by tobacco

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)

	<b>Bromsgrove</b>	<b>England and Wales</b>
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)

	<b>Bromsgrove</b>	<b>England and Wales</b>
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 17<sup>th</sup> 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. Nailmaking 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 467 Listed Buildings and 12 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 national register of heritage sites at risk is produced annually by English Heritage and includes ancient monuments, Grade I and II\* Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas at risk. From our District two listed buildings (the Temple of Theseus, Hagley Hall and the Congregational Chapel in Bromsgrove), five scheduled monuments (the Banqueting Orchard moated site northwest of Bentley village hall, the moated site at Tardebigge Farm, the Dodford Priory moated site, the standing cross in St Leonards churchyard in Frankley, and the moated site at Blackgreves Farm in Wythall), the Bromsgrove Town Centre Conservation Area and the registered historic park at Hewell Grange are included on the 2011 "Heritage at Risk" Register.

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, 13 are Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

They are:

1. Wychbury Camp
2. Berry Mound Camp, Solihull
3. The Mount
4. Standing cross in St Leonards churchyard
5. Moated site at Fairfield Court
6. Moated site 130m north east of Moorgreen Farm
7. Moated site at Blackgreves Farm
8. The Banqueting Orchard moated site, 650m north west of Bentley village hall
9. Moated site at Tardebigge Farm
10. Moated site of Frankley Hall
11. Dodford Priory moated site
12. Moated site and fishponds at the Bishop's Palace
13. Churchyard cross in St Leonard's churchyard

The diversity of designated and non-designated heritage and archaeological sites form a key component of the historic landscape of the District. A Historic Environment Assessment has been carried out and the results have produced 36 distinctive Historic Environment Character Zones in the District. Archaeological survival and potential varies across the District. Raison d'être for this include marked differences in historic landscape character, archaeological features present and 20<sup>th</sup> century land management. All areas have some amenity value and there is a need to develop networks that may enhance the amenity value of moderate and low scoring zones through the provision of enhanced access, conservation and promotion of the historic environment, which will become clear through an integrated approach to the Green Infrastructure Framework.

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 Grange. The District also contains a number of other historic parks of regional

importance which are detailed in the following (information extracted from Appendix 7A of the Bromsgrove Local Plan):

<b>Park/ Garden</b>	<b>Site Type</b>
Alvechurch Palace/ Park	Deer Park, Garden
Church House, Belbroughton	Park, Garden, Garden Building
Church House, Belbroughton	Garden Building
Yewtree House, Belbroughton	Park
Bentley House	Garden
Bentley Manor	Park
Bentley Pouncefoot Park	Deer Park
Beoley Hall	Park
Beoley Park	Deer Park
Bordesley Hall	Park
Bordesley Park	Deer Park
Bradford House, Belbroughton	Park, Garden
Brookfield Hall, Belbroughton	Park, Garden
Castle Bourne, Belbroughton	Park, Garden Building
Chadwich Manor	Park, Garden
Field House, Clent	Park, Garden
Clent Grove	Park, Garden Building
Clent Hall	Garden
Clent Hills Country Park	Park
The Dust House, Tardebigge	Garden
Finstall House, Bromsgrove	Park, Garden Building
The Forelands, Bromsgrove	Park - now redeveloped
Forhill House, Alvechurch	Park
The Four Stones, Clent	Garden Building
Frankley Park	Deer Park
Grafton Manor	Park, Garden
Grafton Park	Deer Park
Hagley Hall	Deer Park, Park, Garden Building
The Birches, Hagley	Park
Hewell Grange	Deer Park, Park, Garden, Garden Building
Lickey Hills Country Park	Park, Garden Building

Lickey Grange	Park – now redeveloped
Longfield Manor, Alvechurch	Deer Park
Rigby Hall, Bromsgrove	Park
Rockingham Hall, Bromsgrove	Park, Garden, Garden Building
The Grange, Stoke Heath	Park
Waseley Hills Country Park	Park
Wassell Grove Farmhouse, Hagley	Park, Garden
Weatheroak Hall, Wythall	Deer Park, Park

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. The Council is planning to commence a local list survey 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. The dominant industries in Bromsgrove District, in terms of the percentage of employees, are service related industries which account for 27,700 and 82.2% of jobs, followed by tourism-related (10.4%), manufacturing (9.1%) and construction (6.8%) (ONS, 2008).

Unemployment rate in the District was 6.2% in July 2010 to June 2011, which compares favourably to the regional and national average of 8.7% and 7.7%.

The average annual earnings of people who work within the District is £26,652, which is higher than the regional average of £23,675 but lower than the national average of £27,569. However, there is a big difference between male (£34,836) and female (£20,232) earnings in the District, which is 42% (ASHE, 2011).

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 Technology Park currently undeveloped, which occupies part of the former Garringtons/UEF site, previously a heavy industry works. The site provides a valuable economic boost for the district and can potentially reduce the mismatch between the type of jobs available and the type of workforce in the District.

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 the neighbouring centres. According to the Town Centre Health Check 2011, there were over 300 businesses in the Town Centre. Bromsgrove town centre is considered 'rundown' and is in need for regeneration. The Council has recently been awarded a first round pass of £1.2m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to operate a Townscape Heritage Initiative in the town centre.

### **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 demand.

## National Plans, Policies and Strategies

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
<b>Bills, Acts, Regulations and White Papers</b>			
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.	Large area of archaeological potential in Bromsgrove
Climate Change Act	Creates a new approach to managing and responding to climate change in the UK	a legally binding target of at least an 80% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, to be achieved through action in the UK and abroad. Also a reduction in emissions of at least 34% by 2020. Both targets are against a 1990 baseline.	High emissions from the two motorways causing local congestion, air quality and noise pollution issues. Reliance on private motor vehicles for rural areas conflict emissions targets. Challenge to provide for waste recycling in rural areas and apartment blocks.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Greater protection to SSSIs.</li> <li>● Stronger wildlife protection.</li> <li>● Public right of access to mountain, moor, heath, down and registered common land.</li> <li>● Encourages the creation of new rights of way.</li> <li>● Provides a statutory basis for biodiversity protection</li> </ul> Public bodies have a duty to	(See aims) Plan objectives to contribute to achieving general aims of the Act.	Lack of in-house ecological expertise

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
	further and enhance the conservation of SSSIs		
Energy Act	Reflect the availability of new technologies, correspond with the UK's changing requirements for secure energy supply and protect the environment and tax payer as the energy market changes.	<p>The Act:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ strengthens the Renewable Obligation to increase the diversity of the electricity mix, improve the reliability of energy supplies and help lower carbon emissions from the electricity sector.</li> <li>▪ Enables the Government to offer financial support for low-carbon electricity generation in projects up to 5 megawatts (MW)</li> <li>▪ Allows the Secretary of State to establish a financial support programme for renewable heat generated anywhere, from large industrial sites to individual households.</li> </ul>	Large number of listed buildings in the District
Environment Act part IV local air quality management	Guidance on adopting a structured and regular approach to the preparation of air quality progress reports	<p>Provides ready sources of information on air quality</p> <p>Provides timely indication of the need for further measures to improve air quality</p>	<p>High emissions from the two motorways causing local congestion, air quality and noise pollution issues.</p> <p>Reliance on private motor vehicles for rural areas conflict emissions targets.</p> <p>Potential waste management facilities may impact on air quality</p>
Flood and Water	provides for better, more	The Act's provisions include:	Some areas in the District are

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Management Act	comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses, helps safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in surface water drainage charges and protects water supplies to the consumer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New statutory responsibilities for managing flood risk</li> <li>▪ Protection of assets which help manage flood risk</li> <li>▪ Sustainable drainage</li> <li>▪ New sewer standards</li> </ul>	located upon clays and silts or within the Source Protection Zones.
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act	An Act to make provision about bodies concerned with the natural environment and rural communities;	<p>The Act's provisions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ to make provision in connection with wildlife, Site of Special Scientific Interest, National Parks and the Boards</li> <li>▪ to amend the law relating to rights of way</li> <li>▪ to make provision as to the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council</li> <li>▪ to provide for flexible administrative arrangements in connection with functions relating to the environment and rural affairs and certain other functions, and for connected purposes</li> </ul>	Lack of in-house ecological expertise
Planning Act	Aims to speed up the process for approving major new infrastructure projects	The Act establishes the Infrastructure Planning Commission and make provision about its functions, the development of nationally significant infrastructure and town and country	Resource implications on implementing the new system Economic downturn impacting on the viability of developments



Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
		planning. It also makes provision for the introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy.	
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act	An Act to make provision relating to spatial development and town and country planning; and the compulsory acquisition of land.	Makes a number of significant changes to the planning system, the most significant of which is a new development plan system that is less complex, more accessible and actively engages the community and stakeholders in the plan making process.	Resource implications on implementing the new system
Localism Act	The Act changes the powers of local government in England. It includes more elected mayors, referendums and a new 'general power of competence' which will empower local authorities to do anything which is not forbidden.	<p>The Act makes provision about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the functions and procedures of local and certain other authorities</li> <li>▪ town and country planning, the Community Infrastructure Levy and the authorisation of nationally significant infrastructure projects.</li> </ul> <p>Regional strategies are abolished but there is a duty for interested parties to co-operate in the preparation of development plans. The <u>Community Infrastructure Levy</u> now includes the additional costs, besides infrastructure costs, that development places on an area and the money raised can be used to fund the improvement, replacement, operation</p>	Resource implications on implementing the new system

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
		<p>or maintenance of infrastructure as well as its provision.</p> <p>The act allows neighbourhood plans to be developed but to be adopted they have to pass both an inspection stage and a local referendum. Suitable community organisations can obtain the rights to develop an area.</p> <p>The act specifies how planning decisions can be legally enforced and allows planning authorities to decline to process planning applications which include any region affected by a planning enforcement notice. Nationally the Infrastructure Planning Commission is abolished and new powers put in place to cover national infrastructure projects.</p>	
<p>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act</p>	<p>Legislation for the protection of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Resource implications on implementing the new plan</p>

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	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>	<p>(See aims)</p> <p>Plan objectives to contribute to achieving general aims of the Act.</p>	Lack of in-house ecological expertise
Air Quality (England) Regulations	Local authorities in the UK have statutory duties for managing local air quality under Part IV of the	<p>This provides ready sources of information on air quality</p> <p>Provides timely indication of the need for further measures to improve air quality</p>	<p>High emissions from the two motorways causing local congestion, air quality and noise pollution issues.</p> <p>Reliance on private motor vehicles</p>

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	<p>Environment Act 1995.</p> <p>Local Authorities are required to carry out regular reviews and assessments of air quality in their area against standards and objectives prescribed in regulations for the purpose of local air quality management (LAQM) before undertaking Action Planning if air quality is found to breach the regulations</p>		<p>for rural areas conflict emissions targets. Potential waste management facilities may impact on air quality</p>
Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations	<p>The regulations introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy which local authorities can choose to introduce to help fund new infrastructure in their areas in addition to infrastructure schemes to be from mainstream public funding.</p>	<p>CIL will be charged on most types of development and local authorities can choose the CIL rate that they wish to set as set out in a new legal document (a 'charging schedule') which is to be independently examined to ensure that it is evidence-based and appropriate for the local area. The CIL will be based upon the size and type of development and the CIL charge will be required at the commencement of the development.</p> <p>The Regulations also provide for the reform of the current system of</p>	<p>Resource implications on implementing the new system Economic downturn impacting on the viability of developments</p>

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		<p>developer contributions towards infrastructure ('planning obligations') so that the two regimes operate effectively alongside each other.</p>	
<p>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations</p>	<p>To consolidate all the amendments which have been made to the Conservation (Natural Habitats Etc) Regulations 1994</p>	<p>The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites.</p> <p>Under the Regulations, competent authorities i.e. any Minister, government department, public body, or person holding public office, have a general duty, in the exercise of any of their functions, to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>Lack of in-house ecological expertise</p>
<p>Flood Risk Regulations</p>	<p>The Regulations transpose the EU Floods Directive into UK law</p>	<p>The key provision of the Regulations is to give responsibility to lead local flood authorities to prepare a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for its area so as to identify areas of significant local flood risk and prepare management plans by 2015 accordingly.</p>	<p>Some areas in the District are located upon clays and silts or within the Source Protection Zones.</p>

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Water Industry (Schemes for Adoption of Private sewers) Regulations	Except those owned by the railway undertaker or those on land belonging to the Crown, the Regulations make provisions to transfer all private sewers and lateral drains to the water and sewerage companies.	All pipe that drains more than one property within the curtilage of a property, pipes outside the curtilage which connects to a main sewer and main sewer itself (if privately owned) will all transfer to the water and sewerage companies.	
Energy White Paper- Meeting the Energy Challenge	Sets out the Government's international and domestic energy strategy to address the long term energy challenges faced by the UK.	<p>The paper sets 4 key policy goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To put the UK on a path to cut carbon dioxide emissions by some 60% by about 2050, with real progress by 2020;</li> <li>▪ To maintain reliable energy supplies</li> <li>▪ To promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond, helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and to improve productivity</li> <li>▪ To ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated</li> </ul>	Large number of listed buildings in the District
Local Transport White Paper - Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon – making sustainable local transport	It sets out the Government's vision for a sustainable local transport system that supports the economy and reduces carbon emissions. The paper explains how the Government is placing localism at the heart	The paper sets out the importance of offering people transport choices that will deliver the shift in behaviour and reduce carbon emissions. These choices include making car travel greener by supporting the development of electric and other	Rural nature of the District and high proportion of elderly population.

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happen	of the transport agenda and taking measures to empower local authorities to address issues in their areas. It also underlines Central Government's direct support to local authorities, including the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.	<p>ultra-low emission vehicles; and prioritising spending on key rail projects to provide commuters and intercity travellers with new options.</p> <p>The Government also believes that effective sustainable local transport is delivered through solutions developed for the places they serve.</p> <p>The Government also made a number of national commitments to enhance the sustainability of local transport, such as reviewing the way in which investment decisions are made to ensure that the carbon implications are fully recognised and reviewing traffic signs policy to provide more freedom for local authorities to reduce the number of signs they put up and to develop innovative traffic management solutions.</p>	
The Future for Transport: A network for 2030 White Paper	The Paper looks at the factors that will shape travel and transport over the next thirty years and sets out how the Government will respond to the increasing demand for travel, maximising the benefits	<p>The paper expects to have a coherent transport networks with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the <b>road</b> network providing a more reliable and freer-flowing service for both personal travel and freight, with people able to make informed choices about how and</li> </ul>	Rural nature of the District and high proportion of elderly population.

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	<p>of transport while minimising the negative impact on people and the environment.</p>	<p>when they travel;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>bus</b> services that are reliable, flexible, convenient and tailored to local needs;</li> <li>▪ making <b>walking</b> and <b>cycling</b> a real alternative for local trips; and</li> </ul> <p>The strategy also aims to improve safety and security and respecting the environment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ there will be a strong presumption against schemes that would significantly affect environmentally sensitive sites or important species habitats or landscapes;</li> <li>▪ the environmental impacts of new and existing transport infrastructure will be kept to a minimum and mitigation measures will be implemented to a high standard;</li> <li>▪ ensure that carbon savings in line with the domestic and international commitments and reduce the impact of other emissions which pollute the environment;</li> <li>▪ reducing the impact of all forms of transport;</li> <li>▪ ensuring that the noise impacts of</li> </ul>	



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		transport are reduced and mitigated; by investing in public transport to provide alternatives to the car.	
Natural Environment White Paper – The Natural Choice: Securing the value of Nature	The Paper outlines the Government’s vision for the natural environment over the next 50 years and includes a detailed programme of action to repair damage done to the environment in the past.	<p>Key measures in the White Paper which also takes forward recommendations contained in ‘Making Space for Nature’ include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) providing bigger, connected sites for wildlife to live in and adapt to climate change</li> <li>▪ Biodiversity offsetting – new way for developers to ensure we don’t lose wildlife sites and make them better by making and improving other sites</li> <li>▪ New Local Nature Partnerships to strengthen joined-up action across local agencies and organisations</li> <li>▪ Green Areas Designation which allow local communities to give protection to areas</li> <li>▪ Better urban green spaces for the benefit of cities and towns. Support for parks, gardens, and there planting which benefit people and nature alike</li> <li>▪ Strengthening local public health</li> </ul>	Resource implications on implementing the new system Lack of in-house ecological expertise

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
		activities which connect people with nature for better health	
Rural White Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deliver an improved quality of life for everyone in the countryside.</li> <li>▪ Protection of the countryside.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Thriving rural communities.</li> <li>▪ Access to public services in rural areas.</li> <li>▪ Diverse rural economy.</li> </ul>	Access to public services in rural areas a challenge given the limited public transport infrastructure.
Urban White Paper - Our Towns and Cities: The Future - Delivering an Urban Renaissance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vision of towns, cities and suburbs which offer a high quality of life and opportunity for all, not just the few.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased involvement of local communities.</li> <li>▪ Attractive well designed and safe local environments.</li> <li>▪ Better local services.</li> </ul>	Bromsgrove currently has high quality of life this needs to be maintained.
Draft Water Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The draft Bill includes measures to strengthen the water sector's ability to respond to the challenges of a growing population and less certain water supplies, and improve the deal it offers to its customers by offering more choice, and driving efficiency and innovation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ allowing for Ofwat, other regulators and market participants to establish market codes to help new competitive markets run more effectively;</li> <li>▪ reforming the connection charges regime to help facilitate housing growth.</li> </ul>	Water companies to provide sufficient sewage treatment capacity in line with development proposals
<b>Strategies, Policy Statements, Plans and Programmes</b>			
Building a Greener Future: policy	The policy statement confirms the Government's intention for all homes to be zero carbon by	(See aims)	Economic downturn impacts on viability of development

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statement	2016 with a major progressive tightening of the energy efficiency (Part L) building regulations – by 25% in 2010, 44% by 2013 – up to the zero carbon target in 2016.		
Directing the Flow Priority for Future Water Policy (DEFRA)	<p>Prudent use of water keeping within the limits of replenishment</p> <p>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	Ability to manage water will be a significant infrastructure constraint on policy options
Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice (GP3)	Aim to improve understanding of the importance of groundwater and encourage one to act responsibly and improve practices to prevent or mitigate impacts on	Groundwater is an integral part of water cycle which is facing threats such as demand, climate change, diffuse pollution, Pesticides and land use change. Though some contamination is inevitable, one	Ability to manage water (i.e. protect groundwater and reduce the risk of surface water flooding) will be a significant constraint on policy options. Some areas in the District are located upon clays and silts or

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	groundwater.	must learn to deal with it. Solutions need to be a realistic mix that meet the demands of society and the economy as well as the environment.	within the Source Protection Zones.
Innovation and Research Strategy for Growth	<p>The Government's vision for the UK is to have "a dynamic, balanced, competitive and growing economy, driven by business investment and revenues from technology-based products and services"</p> <p>This strategy sets out how the Government will achieve the vision, and leverage the significant public investment to drive sustainable growth.</p>	<p>Some of the central elements of the new approach that may be relevant to planning are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encouraging increased business investment in all forms of innovation, particularly by SMEs, including technology development, but also in intangible assets such as design, the development of new business models and skills</li> <li>▪ Increasing knowledge exchange and facilitating networks, clusters and research campuses as hubs for interaction at local, national and international levels</li> </ul>	Rural nature of the District
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England	<p>The Housing Strategy sets out a package of reforms to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Get the housing market moving again,</li> <li>▪ Lay the foundations for a more responsive, effective and stable housing market in the future</li> </ul>	<p>The new strategy introduces measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consulting on a proposal to allow reconsideration of those planning obligations agreed prior to April 2010 where development is stalled</li> <li>▪ The establishment of Growing Places Fund, 'Get Britain Building'</li> </ul>	91% of the District in the Green Belt

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support choice and quality for tenants</li> <li>▪ Improve environmental standards and design quality.</li> </ul>	<p>investment fund, New Home Bonus, Community Infrastructure Levy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Launching a Custom Homes programme</li> <li>▪ Freeing up public sector land with capacity to deliver up to 100,000 new homes</li> <li>▪ Providing funding to bring empty homes back into use as affordable housing</li> <li>▪ Funding the Design Council to support communities in shaping development in their area, improving the energy efficiency of both new and existing homes and ensuring protection of the Green Belt and protected areas as part of the commitment to sustainable development.</li> </ul>	
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy	This strategy is developed in response to the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The strategy's overall aim is to ensure that flooding and coastal erosion risks are well-managed and co-ordinated, so that their impacts are	The strategy sets out a statutory framework that will help communities, the public sector and other organisations to work together to manage flood and coastal erosion risk. Under the strategy, District Council will have the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Power to designate structures and</li> </ul>	Some areas in the District are located upon clays and silts or within the Source Protection Zones.

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	minimised.	<p>features that affect flooding or coastal erosion;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duty to act consistently with local and national strategies</li> <li>▪ Duty to be subject to scrutiny from lead local flood authorities' democratic processes.</li> </ul> <p>The Lead Local Flood Authority (which is the Worcestershire County Council) will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop, maintain and apply a local flood risk strategy</li> <li>▪ Investigate all flooding incidents, where deemed to be necessary</li> <li>▪ Maintain a register of assets relevant to flooding</li> <li>▪ Approve drainage systems for construction work, in their capacity as SuDs Approving Bodies, and adopt and maintain SuDS</li> <li>▪ Cooperate with other FCERM authorities</li> </ul>	
National Policy Statements for Energy	Sets out the Government's policy for delivery of major energy infrastructure	The NPS covers fossil fuel electricity generating infrastructure, renewable energy infrastructure, gas supply infrastructure & gas and oil pipelines, electricity networks infrastructure and nuclear power generation.	91% of the District is Green Belt and some parts of the District have high landscape sensitivity.
Noise Policy	It commits to include noise	The Policy aims are through the	The two motorways causing noise

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Statement for England	considerations in policy making across departments and applies to all forms of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise (it does not apply to workplace noise). It sets out a noise policy vision to “promote good health and a good quality of life through the effective management of noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development.”	effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life</li> <li>▪ Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life</li> <li>▪ Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life</li> </ul>	pollution.
National Policy Statements for Transport	Sets out the Government’s policy for delivery of major transport infrastructure	The NPSs cover ports, transport networks and aviation. At the moment, only the NPS for ports has been published	
National Policy Statements for Water, Waste Water and Waste	Sets out the Government’s policy for delivery of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects	The NPSs cover water supply, hazardous waste and waste water treatment. At that moment, only the waste water NPS was published.	
Securing the Future – The UK Sustainable Development Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Place sustainable development at the heart of the planning system.</li> <li>▪ Help people make better choices.</li> <li>▪ “One Planet” economy: Sustainable consumption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drive to improve resource efficiency and reduce waste and harmful emissions across business sectors.</li> <li>▪ Influence consumption patterns.</li> <li>▪ Take account of natural systems as a whole.</li> </ul>	Challenges for rural industry initiative to deliver environmental benefits.

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	<p>and production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Confronting the greatest threat: Climate change and energy.</li> <li>▪ A future without regrets: protecting our natural resources and enhancing the environment.</li> <li>▪ From local to global: creating sustainable communities and a fairer world.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage farmers to deliver environmental benefits.</li> <li>▪ Address problems of degraded resources and environmental inequalities.</li> <li>▪ Reduce the rate of biodiversity loss.</li> </ul>	
Plan for Growth	<p>The Plan for Growth contains four overarching ambitions to make progress to achieve this economic objective. The ambitions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ to create the most competitive tax system in the G20;</li> <li>▪ to make the UK one of the best places in Europe to start, finance and grow a business;</li> <li>▪ to encourage investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy; and</li> <li>▪ to create a more educated</li> </ul>	<p>Each ambition is supported by a number of measures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ introduce a powerful new presumption in favour of sustainable development, so that the default answer to development is 'yes';</li> <li>▪ localise choice about the use of previously developed land, removing nationally imposed targets while retaining existing controls on greenbelt land;</li> <li>▪ produce a shorter, more focused and inherently pro-growth National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to</li> </ul>	91% of the District in the Green Belt



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	workforce that is the most flexible in Europe.	<p>deliver more development in suitable and viable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ locations;</li> <li>▪ set clear expectations that with immediate effect local planning authorities and other bodies involved in granting development consents should prioritise growth and jobs;</li> <li>▪ introduce new powers so that businesses are able to bring forward neighbourhood</li> <li>▪ plans and neighbourhood development orders;</li> <li>▪ bring forward proposals to extend Permitted Development rights, and will consult on proposals to make it easier to convert commercial premises to residential;</li> <li>▪ pilot a new land auction model, starting with public sector land;</li> <li>▪ ensuring all planning applications and appeals will be processed in 12 months and that major infrastructure projects will be fast-tracked.</li> <li>▪ Increased investment in low carbon technologies</li> </ul>	
UK Biodiversity	Describes the UK's biological		Plan is UK Governments response

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Action Plan	<p>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</p>		<p>to the Convention on Biological Diversity and has lead to the production of County and Local BAP's.</p>
UK Climate Change Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Details of how the UK plans to deliver its Kyoto targets by reducing Greenhouse emissions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve business and residential use of energy including better efficiency.</li> <li>▪ Encourage renewable power generation.</li> <li>▪ Cut emissions from the transport sector.</li> </ul>	<p>High emissions from the two motorways causing local congestion, air quality and noise pollution issues. Reliance on private motor vehicles for rural areas conflict emissions targets. Commercial renewable energy project may not be suitable in some landscape character types in the District Challenge to provide for waste recycling in rural areas and apartment blocks.</p>
Minerals Policy Statement 2; Controlling and Mitigating the effects of mineral extraction in	<p>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</p>	<p>Provides policy advice on the planning considerations for the formulation of Development Plans and decisions on individual planning applications and formulating planning conditions</p>	<p>Potential conflict between exploitation of resources and environmental aims</p>

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England	<p>Ensure that the environmental impact caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are kept to a minimum</p> <p>Minimise production of waste and to encourage efficient use of materials, including appropriate use of high quality materials and recycling of waste.</p>		
Blueprint for Water:10 steps for sustainable water by 2015	Sets out 10 steps for sustainable water and details progress made so far since original document produced in 2006	<p>10 steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Waste less water</li> <li>2. Keep rivers flowing and wetlands wet</li> <li>3. Price water fairly</li> <li>4. Make polluters pay</li> <li>5. Stop pollutants contaminating our water</li> <li>6. Keep sewage out of homes and rivers and off beaches</li> <li>7. Support water-friendly farming</li> <li>8. Clean up drainage from roads and buildings</li> <li>9. Restore rivers from source to sea</li> <li>10. Retain water on floodplains and wetlands</li> </ol>	Issues of climate change and flooding create challenges and the ability to manage water will be a significant infrastructure constraint on policy options

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<b>Reviews</b>			
Barker Review of Land Use Planning	<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	Potential conflict between economic growth and environmental issues.
Government Review of Waste Policy in England	<p>The Government's review of waste policies was guided by the 'waste hierarchy' and the conclusion of the review sets out the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consultation in 2012 on introducing landfill restriction on wood waste.</li> </ul>	Planning should also follow the waste hierarchy.	<p>Waste management facilities could reduce the attractiveness of the sites nearby</p> <p>Challenge to provide for waste recycling in rural areas and apartment blocks.</p>

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	<p>A review of the case for introducing landfill bans on other materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accelerate recycling and reducing waste creation</li> <li>▪ Scrap unfair bin fines and taxes while bringing in powers to deal with repeat fly-tipping offenders and genuine nuisance neighbours</li> <li>▪ Crack down on fly-tippers</li> <li>▪ Consultation on increased recycling targets to 2017 for plastic, steel, aluminium and glass</li> <li>▪ Removal of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme from April 2013.</li> </ul> <p>A follow-up zero waste action plan on waste prevention will be published in Dec 2013 to check progress and address further developments under any new EU regulation.</p>		
Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change	The Review focuses on the impacts and risks arising from uncontrolled climate change, and on the costs and	The planning systems chief role will be encouraging buildings and infrastructure to take account of climate change particularly by limiting	Economic downturn impacts on viability of development. Financial burden of dealing with the causes and impacts of climate

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	<p>opportunities associated with action to tackle it. It also examines the national and international policy challenges of moving to a low-carbon global economy. It was concluded that a shift to a low-carbon economy will bring huge opportunities and tackling climate change is the pro-growth strategy. Ignoring it will ultimately undermine economic growth. Key elements of future international frameworks should include emissions trading, technology co-operation, action to reduce deforestation, and adaptation.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>change in the current market Challenge to provide for waste recycling in rural areas and apartment blocks.</p>
<p>The Eddington Transport Study</p>	<p>Sets out the importance of a good transport system to maintaining a strong economy and the importance of reducing congestion in urban areas Transport contributes around a quarter of CO2 emissions and is the fastest growing source. There is a need to reduce the</p>	<p>Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>Potential conflict between economic growth and limiting choice in transport modes.</p>

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	emissions from the transport sector in order to tackle global warming		
The Rural Economy Growth Review	<p>Measures that are designed to address the key rural barriers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enabling rural businesses to grow and diversity through funding for rural businesses, pilot Rural Growth Networks, consulting on how to put redundant farm buildings to appropriate alternative business uses and steps to improve rural broadband access.</li> <li>▪ Supporting rural tourism</li> <li>▪ Expanding the food and drink sector and a joint Government/ Industry export action plan which will be launched in Jan 2012</li> <li>▪ Delivering Green Growth to help communities tap into the renewable energy potential for rural areas and to improve skills in the</li> </ul>	Planning policies to address the key rural barriers where appropriate.	Access to public services in rural areas a challenge given the limited public transport infrastructure and viability issues.

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	Forestry sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reducing regulation on farms</li> </ul>		
<b>Others</b>			
By Design Urban Design in the Planning System-towards Better Practice (CABE)	The guide is intended as a companion to PPGs/PPSs and aims to encourage better design and to stimulate thinking about urban design. It promotes 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.	Policies will need to reflect this document and encourage better design.	With 91% of land in the Green belt, design may conflict with development density that is required to meet the housing needs in the District.
Code for Sustainable Homes	It called for a step change in the way new homes are designed and constructed, and introduced a 1 to 6 star rating system to communicate their overall sustainability performance.	Policies will need to reflect this document and can apply standards of the Code for Sustainable Homes to new development, provided it is within a DPD and viable.	Economic downturn impacts on viability of development.
Forestry Commission England Corporate	Focuses on protecting, improving and expanding the resource of trees, woods and forests; through the	The Plan aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protecting the woodland resource and increasing its resilience to pests, diseases and the impact of</li> </ul>	Tree planting may conflict with some of the landscape character types in the District



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Plan 2011-15	engagement of people, communities, civil society organisations, landowners, and private businesses with this resource; and supporting economic activity in and from trees, woods and forests.	climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improving the woodland resource to enhance benefits including biodiversity, landscape quality and a range of other ecosystem services</li> <li>▪ Promoting and incentivising the planning and natural regeneration of trees, woods and forests of the right type in the right place.</li> <li>▪ Promoting a competitive, thriving and resilient forestry sector alongside a wide range of private sector business partners</li> </ul>	
<b>National Planning Policies, Circulars, Guidance</b>			
National Planning Policy Framework	Key part of the Government's reforms to make the planning system less complex and more accessible, and to promote sustainable growth	The NPPF replaces most of the Planning Policy Guidance and Planning Policy Statements and proposes some changes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the presumption in favour of sustainable development to ensure that the planning system focuses on opportunities.</li> <li>▪ the Duty to Co-operate on Councils means that local councils should work together, with other public bodies, on planning issues that impact beyond local boundaries.</li> </ul>	Resource implications on implementing the new system.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ neighbourhood planning which will help communities to say what their area should look like. If approved by a local referendum, the plan will need to be put into force by the local council.</li> <li>▪ green space designations which allow local communities to protect green areas that are very special and important to them</li> </ul>	
Technical Guidance to the National Planning Policy Framework	provides additional guidance to local planning authorities to ensure the effective implementation of the planning policy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework on development in areas at risk of flooding and in relation to mineral extraction.	This guidance retains key elements of Planning Policy Statement 25 and of the existing Minerals Policy Statements and Minerals Planning Guidance Notes which are considered necessary and helpful in relation to these policy areas. The retention of this guidance is an interim measure pending a wider review of guidance to support planning policy.	Resource implications on implementing the new system.
Design: Safer Places The Planning System and Crime Prevention	Encourage greater attention to the principles of crime prevention and attributes of safer places Prevent crime and enhancement of community safety	Have regard to the 7 principles of crime prevention in policy development Consider need for policy	Ensuring that principles are incorporated early in the design process and issues of existing poor environments

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	<p>Contribute to well designed sustainable places that do not fail people and stand the test of time</p> <p>Promote 7 attributes of access/movement, structure, surveillance, ownership, physical protection, activity and management/ maintenance</p>		
Diversity and Equality in Planning: A good practice guide	<p>Early and Effective engagement between Local Planning Authorities and the communities they serve.</p> <p>Appreciation required of the mix of people within a district and how this may be changing</p> <p>Effective data analysis combined with local knowledge can help to identify planning needs and monitor progress over time</p>	Limited implications refer to SCI	Resource implications on implementation
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	Resource implication on implementation

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		sustainable development.	
Circular 08/10: Changes to Planning Regulations for Dwellinghouses and Houses in Multiple Occupation	This circular gives guidance on the planning regulations, in particular on changes of use for dwellinghouses and houses in multiple occupations, following changes to legislation in April and October 2010.		
Planning for Traveller Sites	The Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.	The Government's aims in respect of traveller sites are that local planning authorities should make their own assessment of need for the purposes of planning, working collaboratively to develop fair and effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for sites, that plan-making and decision-making should protect Green Belt from inappropriate development, that plan-making and decision-taking should aim to reduce the number of unauthorised developments and encampments and make enforcement more effective, to enable provision of suitable accommodation from which travellers can access education, health, welfare and employment infrastructure, etc.	Opposition from local residents
Delivering	To support local authorities	Local authorities should assess	91% of land in the Green Belt.

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Affordable Housing	and other key players in delivering more high quality affordable housing within mixed sustainable communities by using all tools available to them.	<p>current and future need and demand for both market and affordable housing through a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). This evidence will form the basis of local housing strategies and is an important aspect of developing affordable housing policies including targets and thresholds. Targets should reflect long term as well as short term need.</p> <p>Local authorities should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Developing an early dialogue with the Housing Corporation (i.e. Homes and Communities Agency) on availability of grant</li> <li>▪ The availability of both public and private investment in the delivery of affordable housing and its impact on the viability of sites and level of affordable housing targets and thresholds.</li> <li>▪ Adopting flexible practices when considering choice of provider</li> <li>▪ Enter into service level agreements with HomeBuy Agents to protect nomination rights and alignment of sales policies</li> <li>▪ Ensure practical payment</li> </ul>	Economic downturn impacts on viability of development

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		<p>arrangements are in place when seeking developer contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Challenging developers to produce high quality housing designs that help integrate affordable and market units in a mixed community.</li> </ul>	
<p>Planning for Town Centres: Practice guidance on need, impact and the sequential approach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To promote the development of positive strategies to underpin the planning and development of town centres</li> <li>▪ To provide advice on preparing and understanding need and impact assessments to guide the development of effective town centre strategies</li> <li>▪ To illustrate how the sequential approach can be applied when allocating sites in plans</li> <li>▪ To encourage a greater degree of consistency and transparency in terms of the approach and key data required to assist those preparing and reviewing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assess the detailed need for floorspace for main town centre uses</li> <li>▪ To set out a strategy for the management and growth centres over the plan period</li> <li>▪ Locally based assessment to assist in the preparation of LDF</li> </ul>	

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
	need and impact assessments.		
Good Practice Guide on Planning 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		Potential conflict between visitors and rural tranquillity/agriculture.
Principles of Selection for Listed Buildings	General principles that the Secretary of State applies when deciding whether a building is of special architectural or historic interest and should be added to the list of buildings compiled under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Evidence will need to take into account the principles covered in the document.	The need for regeneration Economic downturn impacts on viability of development
Planning for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: A Guide to Good Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To help address biodiversity and geological conservation considerations in planning applications and in the design of development;</li> <li>▪ To inform members ways to promote biodiversity and geological conservation</li> <li>▪ What people can expect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Information on biodiversity and geological resources for the local development framework and sustainability appraisals</li> <li>▪ Applies information from all policies and programme influencing the nature of places</li> <li>▪ Recognise environmental trends resulting from climate change and provision for natural systems,</li> </ul>	Potential conflicts between conservation and viability.

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	<p>from the planning process and how they might be involved to improve their environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide good practice examples to help integrate nature conservation into the planning process</li> </ul>	<p>habitats and species to adjust to this;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A strategic framework for the protection, restoration, creation or enhancement of priority BAP habitats and species</li> <li>▪ maintain, restore or add to networks of natural habitats and other landscape features essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species</li> <li>▪ promote development which includes features beneficial to biodiversity or geological conservation</li> <li>▪ identify the role of a hierarchy of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites</li> <li>▪ safeguard the biodiversity value of previously developed land through planning decisions</li> <li>▪ promote and support the enhancement and management of local geological sites through the planning process</li> </ul>	
Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation –	Provide administrative guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation that	Policies will need to take account of this guidance.	Potential conflicts between conservation and viability.



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Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System	applies in England.		
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promotion of waste hierarchy.</li> <li>▪ Ensure new developments incorporate recycling facilities.</li> <li>▪ Ensure protection of environment when waste is disposed of.</li> <li>▪ NB BDC is not a waste planning authority and therefore target setting is inappropriate</li> </ul>	Challenge to provide for waste recycling in rural areas and apartment blocks.
DCLG Plan Making Manual	Bring together council experience, useful advice and guidance in plan preparation	To refer to the guidance during the local planning process	
Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indicates how councils can establish the wishes of their local communities and apply their provision standards in a way which is equitable to both developers and local communities</li> <li>▪ Promotes as consistent an approach as possible</li> </ul>	PPG17 assessment to take into account this guidance	Potential conflicts between provision requirements and viability.

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	<p>across different facility types, at different scales and in urban and rural areas, in order to limit the resources and range of skills needed to undertake assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provides a framework for determining the need for planning conditions or the negotiation of planning agreements</li> </ul>		
<p>Planning for Renewable Energy: A Companion Guide to PPS 22</p>	<p>To offer practical advice as to how the policies set out in PPS22 can be implemented on the ground.</p>	<p>Planning policy at the local level needs to provide guidance in relation to both standalone renewable energy schemes and the integration of renewable energy into new development.</p>	<p>Potential conflict between climate change mitigation and protecting the natural environment.</p>
<p>Circular 03/99: Planning requirement in respect of the Use of Non-Mains Sewerage incorporating Septic Tanks in New Development</p>	<p>Provide advice on the exercise of planning controls on non-mains sewerage and associated sewage disposal aspects of future development so as to avoid environmental, amenity or public health problems.</p>	<p>Policies to take into account of this circular.</p>	

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PPS 25: Development and Flood Risk - Practice Guide	This guide provides guidelines on how to implement development and flood risk policies by the land use planning system. The guide also includes working examples through case studies	This Practice Guide contains a checklist to help developers and applicants to prepare an appropriate, site-specific flood risk assessment in accordance to the advice in the Practice Guide.	
<b>Regional Plans and Strategies</b>			
Ecological budget UK (West Midlands)	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		Resource implications on implementing the plan
Environmental (consultation) report on the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands	To assess the environmental impacts of the revocation of the existing regional strategy.	To take into account the findings of the Environmental Report during the preparation of the Local Development Framework.	Resource implications on dealing with the changes
Panel Report of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands Phase 2 Revision	Sets out the conclusions reached by the independent Panel which conducted the Examination in Public of the Phase 2 West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy.	To take into account the evidence collected in the Phase 2 Revision of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategies	Newer evidence of various quality and baseline at local, and sub-regional level.
Regional Economic	To make the west Midlands	Improve energy efficiency	May be issues of practicality or

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Strategy for the West Midlands	the most energy efficient region in the UK To make an important contribution to meeting the goals of national energy policy	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	cost effectiveness associated with the use of renewable energy in certain circumstances.
Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands	To guide the preparation of local authority development plans and local transport plans so that they can deliver to a coherent framework for Regional development. When using this RPG it is important to consider the document as a whole. Many policies (e.g. environment) are cross-cutting and therefore apply across all other policy areas.	The Spatial Strategy covers a wide range of subjects including housing, economic development, the built, historic and natural environment, renewable energy, minerals, waste and transport. The local planning process has to be consistent with the RSS to be sound.	Revocation by Coalition Government subject to the strategic environmental assessments.
Restoring the Regions Wildlife: Regional Biodiversity	Maintain and improve the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems Develop an area based	Monitor the condition of habitats species and ecosystems	Lack of in-house ecological and geological expertise Economic downturn impacts on viability of development

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Strategy for the West Midlands	approach to restoring wildlife Reconnect and integrate action for biodiversity with other environmental, social and economic activity Cope with the impact of climate change		91% of land in the Green Belt To meet housing needs
Sustainable Communities in the West Midlands: Building Action for the Future	Aim to make our communities places where people want to live and to work.	Highlights actions to address housing, neighbourhood renewal issues, planning, transport, economy, employment and skills.	Economic downturn impacts on viability of development 91% of land in the Green Belt To meet housing needs
West Midlands Economic Strategy Review	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.	Conservation of historical and natural assets
West Midlands Housing Strategy	To develop a pattern of housing investment that meets the needs and aspirations of the people of the West Midlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Urban renaissance – reduce out migration from urban areas</li> <li>▪ Rural Renaissance</li> <li>▪ Encourage Housing Choice and affordability</li> </ul>	Challenge to determine long-term local needs and maintain affordable housing.
West Midlands	Preservation, renewal and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Excellence and innovation</li> </ul>	

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Regional Cultural Strategy	<p>promotion of cultural activities across the region</p> <p>Promotion of cultural education</p> <p>Ensuring the economic potential of cultural activities</p> <p>Providing a range of cultural activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Diversity, access and equity</li> <li>▪ Investment, sustainability and effectiveness</li> <li>▪ Consultation and joined up working</li> </ul>	
Putting the Historic Environment to Work: A Strategy for the West Midlands			
West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy	<p>Aims to make the West Midlands the most energy efficient region in the UK. The vision for this strategy is "By 2020 we will have delivered the West Midlands' commitment to the climate change challenge, having ensured a sustainable, secure and affordable supply of energy for everyone and strengthened the region's economic capability".</p>	<p>The Strategy has four headline objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improving energy efficiency</li> <li>▪ Increasing the use of renewable energy resources</li> <li>▪ Maximise uptake of business opportunities</li> <li>▪ Ensuring focused and integrated delivery and implementation</li> </ul>	<p>Economic downturn impacts on viability of development</p> <p>Conservation of historical and natural assets</p> <p>Commercial scale renewable energy may impact on the landscape character</p> <p>91% of land in the Green Belt</p>
West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework	<p>The vision for woodland and forestry in the West Midlands is to create a viable and inclusive woodland and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inform and encourage development of woodlands using landscape character assessment tools at landscape and site scales</li> </ul>	<p>Woodland planting not suitable in some landscape character types in the District</p>

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	forestry sector that maximises sustainable development through delivery of economic, environmental, cultural and social benefits to the people of the region.	<p>to enhance diversity and local distinctiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To protect manage and enhance existing trees and woodlands</li> <li>▪ To create new woodlands(urban and rural) and develop associated targeting</li> <li>▪ To use trees and woodlands to enhance local distinctiveness and sense of place</li> </ul>	
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.		
West Midlands Regional Visitor Economy Strategy	Create successful, sustainable destinations Role of leisure sector in achieving wider regeneration aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To develop a diverse and dynamic base</li> <li>▪ To promote a learning and skilful region</li> <li>▪ To create the conditions for growth</li> <li>▪ To regenerate communities</li> <li>▪ To provide a powerful voice for the region</li> </ul>	
West Midlands Rural Affairs Forum – Rural Priority	The Statements identifies the current priorities for the rural areas of the West Midlands:	Planning policies to take into account of the challenges and actions.	Viability of services and facilities in the rural areas

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Position Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Rural Economy and the Resilience of Rural Communities</li> <li>▪ Rural Skills</li> <li>▪ Affordable Housing</li> <li>▪ Rural Broadband</li> <li>▪ The Rural Environment</li> </ul> Each of the priority area has a separate paper that identifies a series of action to address the challenges.		
West Midlands Sustainable Development Framework	Develop thriving sustainable communities. Enhance and protect the environment Ensure prudent and efficient use of natural resources. Developing a flourishing, diverse and stable regional economy.	33 regional sustainable development objectives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reduce car dependence</li> <li>▪ Encourage urban living</li> <li>▪ Housing to be developed on PDL</li> <li>▪ Encourage rural diversification</li> <li>▪ Environmental protection</li> </ul>	Challenge to address car dependence especially for rural areas. Conflicts with rural diversification, environmental protection urban development on greenfield land allocations.
<b>County Plans and Strategies</b>			
Air Quality a Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire	Aims to develop a more holistic and unified approach to managing local air quality across Herefordshire and Worcestershire	The Councils of Herefordshire and Worcestershire have signed up several commitments, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensuring that air quality is considered as a material planning consideration within development control planning processes of the Councils through the</li> </ul>	High emissions from the two motorways causing local congestion, air quality and noise pollution issues. Reliance on private motor vehicles for rural areas conflict emissions targets. Potential waste management



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		<p>implementation of the Supplementary Planning Document for Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Where deteriorations in air quality due to a development (or developments) are predicted, to ensure measures to mitigate the effects are put in place;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Require modelling and/ or monitoring to be undertaken to accurately assess the impacts of proposed development on local air quality;</li> <li>▪ Ensuring that air quality is properly considered within planning policy processes, in particular within the LDF process, with the inclusion of a specific air quality policy where applicable</li> </ul>	facilities may impact on air quality
Farmstead Assessment Guidance	To be included after publication	To be included after publication	
Site Assessment Guidance	To be included after publication	To be included after publication	
Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire	Sets out the vision for the future of Worcestershire enabling partners to focus on the activity needed in the short	<p>The three key priorities identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A skilled and prosperous economy</li> <li>▪ An environment that is cherished and resilient</li> </ul>	

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	<p>term to improve the quality of life of the people who live, visit or work in the County. The vision for Worcestershire is “A county with safe, cohesive, healthy and inclusive communities, a strong and diverse economy and a valued and cherished environment.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improving health &amp; well-being</li> </ul> <p>To support working towards these priorities, the Worcestershire Partnership has agreed a number of values that apply to all partners in their work and underpin everything we do. They are:</p> <p>Provide for the needs of all groups in society</p> <p>Treat people with equality and value diversity</p> <p>Build strong, cohesive communities and promote good community relationships</p> <p>Remove barriers that prevent individuals from reaching their full potential</p> <p>Intervene early to prevent problems from becoming entrenched</p> <p>Take account of the needs of future generations</p> <p>Deliver the right services to the right people at the right price</p> <p>Involve and listen to local people and communities whether they are geographical or communities of interest</p> <p>Promote Worcestershire on the regional, national, European and</p>	

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		international stage and maximise the opportunities available to the county.	
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.	Enhance the character of the landscape whilst balancing development pressures.
NHS Worcestershire Draft Strategic Plan 2010/11 -2014/15	NHS Worcestershire's vision is "a County where people live longer and live better have the support they need to adopt healthy lifestyles and have the choice of high quality services which are delivered as close to home as possible".	NHS Worcestershire identifies 8 priority areas, including: staying healthy, children and young people. The relevant goals are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To improve health and well-being overall, and close the gap between the health of the worst-off and best-off in Worcestershire</li> <li>▪ To improve the physical and mental health and healthcare of children and young people</li> </ul>	Economic downturn impacts on the viability of development
Planning for a Multifunctional			

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Green Infrastructure Framework in Worcestershire			
Severn River Basin Management Plan	<p>Sets out the pressures facing the water environment in the Severn River Basin District and the actions that address them.</p> <p>It has been prepared under the Water Framework Directive, and is the first of a series of six-year planning cycles.</p>	<p>The targets set are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ By 2015, 17% of surface waters (rivers, lakes, estuaries) in this river basin district are going to improve for at least one biological, chemical or physical element, measured as part of an assessment of status according to the Water Framework Directive.</li> <li>▪ 34% of surface waters will be at good or better ecological status/potential and 65% of groundwater bodies will be at good status by 2015. In combination 35% of all water bodies will be at good or better status by 2015. The Environment Agency wants to go further and achieve an additional 2% improvement to surface waters across England and Wales by 2015</li> <li>▪ At least 38% of assessed surface waters will be at good or better biological status by 2015</li> </ul>	<p>Bromsgrove STW operating at its capacity</p> <p>Some areas in the District are located upon clays and silts or within the Source Protection Zones.</p> <p>91% of land in the Green Belt and many areas still used for agriculture</p>
The right home, at the right time, in the	To provide the right type of housing and support to those	<p>Primary goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Better use of existing homes</li> </ul>	91% of land in the Green Belt Meeting housing needs

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
right place: A Housing Strategy for Worcestershire (draft)	<p>who need assistance so as to deliver the vision ‘the right home, at the right time, in the right place’</p> <p>To promote partnership working with customers, other agencies and across boundaries to create sustainable places to live.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Delivering new homes by enabling 500 new affordable homes which meet local needs in terms of property type, size, tenure and affordability by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.</li> <li>▪ Improving the condition of existing homes</li> <li>▪ Providing housing related support</li> </ul>	Economic downturn impacts on viability of development.
Worcestershire Access and Informal Recreation Strategy	<p>The vision for the Strategy is: “to develop a recreation culture in Worcestershire in which residents and visitors alike benefit from the opportunity to access a range of high quality urban and rural recreation opportunities. This will be planned and implemented having respect for the wishes of both landowners and the local community and ensuring the utmost protection of environmental interests”</p>	<p>Objectives identified in the Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensuring opportunity is available to all sections of the community to enjoy access and recreation opportunities</li> <li>▪ Securing and promoting opportunities for access</li> <li>▪ Encouraging and enabling local communities to become involved in and take action to share and increase the local benefits of recreation opportunities</li> <li>▪ 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</li> <li>▪ Making use of recreational opportunities whilst protecting and</li> </ul>	Accessibility in rural areas

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
		<p>enhancing environmental quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide a range of facilities of high standard to ensure that the differing demands and aspirations of users are catered for, to help people enjoy and appreciate their recreational experience</li> <li>▪ Contributing to and promoting the health and well-being qualities associated with access and recreation activities</li> <li>▪ Raise the awareness of the opportunities and benefits of access and recreation for the diversification of the urban and rural economy, in particular in its support for local tourism</li> </ul>	
Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan	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.	Lack of internal ecological expertise 91% of land in the Green Belt To meet housing needs Economic downturn impacts of the viability of development

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	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</p>		<p>High emissions from the two motorways causing local congestion, air quality and noise pollution issues.</p> <p>Reliance on private motor vehicles for rural areas conflict emissions targets.</p> <p>Commercial renewable energy project may not be suitable in some landscape character types in the District</p> <p>Challenge to provide for waste recycling in rural areas and apartment blocks.</p>

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
	<p>development  Promote the use of climate change risk assessment  Encourage renewable energy requirements for new properties and include renewable energy in planning documents  Minimise waste by reducing recycling and reusing  Increase production of renewable energy from 5% to 12.5% of regional targets by 2010</p>		
<p>Worcestershire County Council Sustainability Policy and Worcestershire Sustainability Action Plan</p>	<p>Worcestershire County Council is committed to the principles of sustainability set out in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy 2005 and will demonstrate the commitment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continuously improving our environmental, social and economic performance to maximise our positive and minimise our adverse effects on the environment and society, whilst complying with all relevant</li> </ul>	<p>The proposed actions include:  Develop ways to ensure strategies, policies and services for which we are responsible take account of their impact on local and global environmental, economic and social well-being. Actions that are of particular relevance to planning are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue development of Joint Sustainable Appraisal Framework for Planning.</li> <li>▪ Implement measures to enhance biodiversity through delivery of the Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)</li> </ul>	



Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
	<p>legislation and regulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Actively encouraging and monitoring responsible environmental, social and economical performance by our suppliers and contractors as well as raising awareness of and encouraging action for sustainability amongst staff, councillors, partners and the general public.</li> <li>▪ Fulfilling our role as a partner to deliver the UK Climate Change Programme and the England Biodiversity Strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of Green Infrastructure Strategy</li> <li>▪ Delivery of Local Transport Plan to include Smarter Choices, promotion of sustainable modes, management of public transport networks, delivery of walking and cycling infrastructure projects</li> <li>▪ Meeting the challenge of Climate Change by viewing waste as a resources; commitment to the waste hierarchy, of which waste prevention is top; continued commitment to re-use, recycling and composting;</li> <li>▪ Develop Renewable Energy Strategy for County</li> <li>▪ Work with Destination Worcestershire to promote sustainable tourism</li> <li>▪ Promote low carbon economy via Local Economic Development Strategy &amp; LEP</li> <li>▪ Identify resources to support businesses to diversify into sustainable technologies/ renewable energy</li> </ul>	

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Worcestershire County Structure Plan (saved policies as of 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2007)	<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</p>		

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
	<p>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>Work towards a better balance between housing, employment, social and community facilities within settlements</p> <p>Enhance the role of settlements as centres for service provision</p> <p>Encourage development which will help retain and enhance the identity, character and vitality of settlements</p> <p>Promote energy efficient construction, design and development patterns</p> <p>Seek the location of development in areas which</p>		

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
	<p>will minimise the need to travel and reduce the distances required to be travelled (energy efficient locations)</p> <p>Guide new development to locations which can be served by a choice of transport modes for both the movement of people and freight</p> <p>Support and facilitate the development of alternative modes of travel to the car</p> <p>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> <p>Encourage urban and rural regeneration</p> <p>Support the enhancement, development and integration of and access to a range of recreation facilities both within and around settlements</p> <p>Seek to reduce crime the fear</p>		

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
	of crime and anti social behaviour by introducing crime prevention as a material consideration into the land use and development planning process		
Worcestershire Cultural Strategy	The vision for the Strategy is “A county with safe, cohesive, healthy and inclusive communities, a strong and diverse economy and a valued and cherished environment”	<p>The Strategy addresses the following six themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communities that are safe and feel safe</li> <li>▪ A better environment for today and tomorrow</li> <li>▪ Economic success that is shared by all</li> <li>▪ Improving health and well-being</li> <li>▪ Meeting the needs of children and young people</li> <li>▪ Stronger communities - covering a range of issues including housing, culture and volunteering</li> </ul> <p>The priority outcomes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To provide decent, appropriate and affordable housing that meets the diverse needs of Worcestershire</li> <li>▪ To improve quality of life in Worcestershire by providing vibrant cultural and sporting opportunities for all</li> </ul>	

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To support effective volunteering that is accessible to all</li> <li>▪ To reduce income deprivation including child and pensioner poverty</li> <li>▪ To deliver an accessible, affordable, safe, convenient, sustainable and integrated passenger transport network</li> </ul>	
Worcestershire Geodiversity Action Plan	Aims to conserve and enhance the landscapes and materials that make up the County.	<p>Objectives identified are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Audit and record all geodiversity resources</li> <li>▪ Increase awareness, understanding and appreciation of the county's geodiversity</li> <li>▪ Ensure that geodiversity is identified and included in regional and local strategies, plans and policies</li> <li>▪ Provide guidance and support to those dealing with geodiversity, e.g. local authorities, landowners, organisations and individuals</li> <li>▪ Protect, conserve and enhance geodiversity resources</li> <li>▪ Further the opportunities for business involvement in geotourism and geodiversity</li> </ul>	<p>Many areas of geological interests in the District. Lack of in-house geological expertise Potential minerals sites in the District</p>

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve and sustain the links between geodiversity, biodiversity, archaeology and landscape</li> <li>▪ Secure the continuity, sustainability and effectiveness of the GAP process and geo-conservation in Worcestershire</li> </ul>	
Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Guidance	To provide guidance on the application of landscape character principles to development.	<p>Aims and objectives of the guidance are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ to support the landscape policies within Worcestershire's County and District Plans and thus help guide development</li> <li>▪ to enable an understanding and appreciation of the character and diversity of the Worcestershire landscape</li> <li>▪ to identify and describe the various Landscape Character Areas within Worcestershire.</li> <li>▪ to identify the range of Landscape Types within the county through an understanding of their inherent characteristics.</li> <li>▪ to inform and explain the process of Landscape Character Assessment to interested professionals and members of the public.</li> </ul>	91% of land in the Green Belt Enhance the character of the landscape whilst balancing development pressures. Permitted developments and changes that do not need planning permission can also impact on the landscape character

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ to provide an analysis of inherent character and current landscape condition in order to enable future identification and development of landscape related strategies and priorities.</li> <li>▪ to enable the analysis and evaluation of landscape character and so arrive at an understanding of the resilience of different landscapes to change.</li> <li>▪ to enable detailed analysis of landscape character areas with a view</li> <li>▪ to evaluating their sensitivity to change.</li> </ul>	
Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 3	To ensure that transport is able to play a full role in assisting the delivery of Worcestershire’s vision – “A county with safe, cohesive, healthy and inclusive communities, a strong and diverse economy and a valued and cherished environment” - by supporting growth in our local economy and protecting and enhancing our built and natural environments.	<p>Objectives identified are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To support Worcestershire’s economic competitiveness and growth through delivering a reliable and efficient transport network</li> <li>▪ To reduce the impacts of transport in Worcestershire on the local environment, by reducing noise and transport-related emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, with the desired outcomes of tackling</li> </ul>	<p>Economic downturn impacts on the viability of development  High emissions from the two motorways causing local congestion, air quality and noise pollution issues.  Reliance on private motor vehicles in rural areas.</p>



Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
		<p>climate change and reducing the impacts of transport on public health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To contribute towards better safety, security, health and longer life-expectancy in Worcestershire, by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport and promoting healthy modes of travel</li> <li>▪ To optimise equality of opportunity for all of Worcestershire's citizens with the desired outcome of creating a fairer society.</li> <li>▪ To enhance the quality of life for Worcestershire's residents by promoting a healthy, natural environment, conserving our historic built environment and preserving our heritage assets</li> <li>▪ To enhance the quality of Worcestershire's Transport Asset, through sensitive and appropriate design with the desired outcome of reducing the costs and inconveniences of maintenance works</li> </ul>	
Worcestershire	To elaborate on the Structure	Planning to take into account of the	Sites/areas of geological interests

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Minerals Local Plan	Plan Minerals policies; Identify areas in the County where the extraction of aggregates would be least damaging; Set out policies to guide the extraction and restoration of minerals sites and to safeguard aggregate resources.	saved policies as well as the sites identified.	in the District
Worcestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment	To estimate housing need and demand in terms of affordable and market housing and to determine how the distribution of need and demand across Worcestershire, consider future demographic trends and identify the accommodation requirements of specific groups and the likely mix of housing.	Findings to inform planning policies.	91% of land in the Green Belt
Worcestershire Supporting People Strategy (draft)	Key objectives: Making our neighbourhoods safer Addressing homelessness Tackling substance misuse Producing support to people who are vulnerable through age, disability or life	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	91% of land in the Green Belt Economic downturn impacts on the viability of development

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
	experience to maintain independence		
Worcestershire Waste Core Strategy submission document	To inform and guide waste management development by the private and public sector and encourage and stimulate businesses involved in the recycling and re-use of resources.	<p>The document identified geographic hierarchy for waste management in Worcestershire. Bromsgrove zone falls within Level 2 of the hierarchy and the following areas in Bromsgrove have been identified as being potentially suitable for most waste management facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bromsgrove Technology Park</li> <li>▪ Buntsford Gate Business Park</li> <li>▪ Buntsford Hill Industrial Estate</li> <li>▪ Silver Birches and Basepoint Business Parks</li> </ul>	Potential waste management facilities may impact on the attractiveness of area in general Challenge to provide for waste recycling in rural areas and apartment blocks.
<b>Local Plans and Strategies</b>			
Bromsgrove Community Plan	Addressing issues important to residents, the business community and visitors to Bromsgrove District.	<p>Five priority areas for action have been identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consider your environment – achieve domestic energy efficiency, improve waste management including recycling, litter and dog fouling, increase use of sustainable forms of transport, improve access to the countryside and open spaces, protection of the countryside and Green Belt</li> <li>▪ Develop and Prosper –provision of a blueprint for Bromsgrove,</li> </ul>	91% of land in the Green Belt To meet housing needs High dependence of cars in the rural areas

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
		<p>provision of housing for all, build up tourism and ‘Business Tourism’, improve sustainability of tourism related employment, promote Bromsgrove as a business location, support rural communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Feel Safe – reduce crime, tackle drugs and substance misuse, reduce anti-social behaviour amongst young people, improve the quality of life, improve road safety</li> <li>▪ Health and Social Well-being – to be able to access healthcare and advice when you want it, promotion of a healthier lifestyle, improving social care</li> <li>▪ Learn and Grow –raise participation in lifelong learning, increase opportunities for recreation and leisure, provide cultural based learning and enjoyment, increase opportunities for those with physical and/or mental issues.</li> </ul>	
Bromsgrove Council Plan 2009 to 2012	The Council’s Vision for the District and the Council is: “Working together to build a	The Council’s four objectives and relevant priorities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regeneration – town centre,</li> </ul>	Economic downturn impacts on the viability of development.

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
	district where people are proud to live and work, through community leadership and excellent services”	housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improvement</li> <li>▪ Sense of community and well-being – sense of community</li> <li>▪ Environment – clean streets and climate change</li> </ul>	
Conservation Area Character Appraisals and Management Plan	Conservation Area Character Appraisals aim to identify the factors and features which make an area special based on an in-depth assessment of an area’s buildings, spaces, evolution and sense of place. The Conservation Area Management Plans aim to provide a clear strategy for the management of Conservation Area in a way that will protect and enhance its character and appearance.	Conservation Area Character Appraisals or draft appraisals have been produced for Alvechurch, Belbroughton, Beoley, Bromsgrove Town, Dodford, Hagley, Hewell Grance and St Johns. Among these, draft management plans are available for Belbroughton and Bromsgrove Town.	Protection and enhancement of the historic environment may impact on the viability of developments.
Local Air Quality Management Areas Progress Report	Provide an update on monitoring data within Bromsgrove District, an assessment of any new developments which might have an impact on air quality.	Concentration of nitrogen dioxide at relevant locations outside the Worcester Road AQMA was above the annual mean objective and the area has previously been identified and a Detailed Assessment is already underway. No further areas required detailed assessment. No new local developments have	High emissions from the two motorways causing local congestion, air quality and noise pollution issues. Reliance on private motor vehicles in rural areas Potential waste management facilities may impact on air quality

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		<p>been identified that may have an impact on air quality within the District. A small residential development currently being constructed on Worcester Road may have an impact on the air quality and is contained within the Detailed Assessment study area. Sainsbury's Superstore will have the potential to have significant air quality impacts and will need to be considered in the 2012 Updating and Screening Assessment.</p>	
Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire (Bromsgrove)	The vision for the Strategy is to "make Bromsgrove District the place to live, do business and to visit."	<p>The top three priorities are:  Economic growth – regeneration of the town centre, effectively market Bromsgrove District, encourage business growth  Balanced communities – reduce alcohol misuse and smoking, encourage healthy diet and exercise and improve perception of mental health issues, deliver accessible, localised and sustainable services for vulnerable neighbourhoods via the Trunk, provide positive activities for young people, reduce the fear of becoming a victim of domestic burglary, maintain safe clean streets</p>	<p>91% of land in the Green Belt  To meet housing needs  High dependence of cars in the rural areas  Economic downturn impacts on the viability of development</p>

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
		<p>by tackling night time economy and reducing graffiti</p> <p>Environment – reduce CO2 emissions through improved energy efficiency in housing and businesses, explore improving biodiversity and nature in key strategic sites, and how land use influences carbon emissions/ carbon sinks, ensure shared priorities are delivered in a cohesive way e.g. environmentally sustainable town centre.</p>	
Playing Pitch Strategy for Bromsgrove (prepared by PMP)	To determine the number of pitches required for each activity based on demand in an actual or predicted set of circumstances in Bromsgrove	The Strategy recommends protecting existing provision, improving access to provision and enhancing the quality of existing pitches.	Economic downturn impacts of the viability of development
Bromsgrove District Biodiversity Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protection of the Districts rich biodiversity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protect and enhance species at risk in the District including, Otters, Water Vole, Great Crested Newt, Bats, Slow Worm and White Clawed Crayfish.</li> <li>▪ Assessment of all sites prior to allocation for development.</li> <li>▪ Sustainable water usage.</li> <li>▪ Enhance woodlands within the District.</li> <li>▪ Encourage organic use of land.</li> </ul>	<p>Lack of internal ecological expertise</p> <p>91% of land in the Green Belt</p> <p>To meet housing needs</p> <p>Economic downturn impacts of the viability of development</p>

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify and co-ordinate wildlife corridors.</li> <li>▪ Retain and manage existing Green Spaces.</li> <li>▪ Designate and manage Local Nature Reserves.</li> <li>▪ Support wildlife-friendly building design.</li> <li>▪ Develop wildlife areas within cemeteries.</li> </ul>	
Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 3 (Bromsgrove)	The Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 3 has a section on North East Worcestershire Transport Challenges. Due to limited funding, schemes which can be proven to deliver benefits in excess of their costs to the economy, environment and quality of life will be focused.	<p>In the Bromsgrove Urban Package, the proposed transport schemes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bromsgrove New Station Scheme</li> <li>▪ Bromsgrove Eastern Bypass Enhancement Scheme (including AQMA Remediation)</li> <li>▪ Bromsgrove Town Centre Public Realm Enhancement Scheme</li> <li>▪ Bromsgrove Traffic and Parking Management Study</li> <li>▪ Bromsgrove Minor Transport Improvement Scheme</li> </ul>	Economic downturn impacts on viability of development
Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership Plan	The vision of the Bromsgrove Community Safety Partnership is “to improve the quality of life to make Bromsgrove a safer place to live, work and visit.”	<p>Bromsgrove priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Youth related anti-social behaviour</li> <li>▪ Environmental issues such as graffiti, littering and damage to equipment and facilities in public areas</li> <li>▪ Acquisitive crime</li> </ul>	Balance between privacy and natural surveillance



Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
Climate Change Strategy for Bromsgrove and Redditch	To provide a policy framework which the two Authorities can reduce both their own and their communities carbon footprints, mitigate against future climate change and identify how best to adapt for the risks and opportunities that future climate change will bring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Violent crime</li> </ul> <p>The strategic priorities and actions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mitigating against climate change by reducing carbon emissions - improve home energy efficiency, improve business energy efficiency, increase renewable energy capacity, encourage efficient use of water, increase the amount of waste recycled and decrease the amount of waste disposed of, transport, green economy, sustainable new development, open space land use and biodiversity;</li> <li>▪ Adapting to climate change</li> </ul>	Economic downturn impacts on viability of development. Some developers only interested in meeting the minimum requirement
Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy	<p>The local aims identified are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ to comply with the requirements of Part 2A of the Environment Protection Act 1990</li> <li>▪ To remove unacceptable risk to human health, controlled waters and the wider environment</li> <li>▪ To prevent damage to property and designated historical sites</li> </ul>	Planning to take into account of contaminated lands in the District.	Economic downturn impacts on viability of development

Name of Plan	Key aims of Document	Key objectives, targets and indicators relevant to the local planning process and Sustainability Appraisal	Potential Conflicts and Challenges
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To provide a clear and concise strategy to the public and other interested parties.</li> <li>▪ To protect the biodiversity of the District</li> <li>▪ To seek to bring brownfield land into beneficial use</li> </ul>		
Bromsgrove Arts and Event Strategy	The vision for the arts is “For the arts to matter for all the people in Worcestershire”	<p>The relevant priorities and objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To develop art forms in Worcestershire – supporting quality provision and developing the range and choice of provision</li> <li>▪ To develop physical spaces for the arts in Worcestershire – maximising the use of existing spaces, promoting wider use of non-arts spaces for arts activity, exploring the development of a landmark project for the benefit of all in Worcestershire.</li> </ul>	Economic downturn impacts on the viability of development

The matrix on the following page assesses the compatibility of the Strategic Objectives against each other.

Key to the Strategic Objectives

**Strategic Objectives**

- S1) Regenerate the Town Centre to create a thriving and vibrant centre providing facilities to meet the needs of Bromsgrove residents
- S2) Focus new development in sustainable locations in the District such as on the edge of Bromsgrove Town in the first instance
- S3) Support the vitality and viability of local centres and villages across the District
- S4) Provide a range of housing types and tenures to meet the needs of the local population for example the special needs of the elderly and the provision of affordable housing
- S5) Provide support and encouragement for economic growth of existing and new business for example, in knowledge based industries and high tech manufacturing, whilst also supporting farming and rural diversification and investing in lifelong education and learning skills
- S6) Encourage more sustainable and healthy modes of travel and a modal shift in transport, for example encouraging walking and cycling and promoting a more integrated, sustainable and reliable public transport network across the District
- S7) Improve quality of life, sense of well being and reduce fear of crime by promoting active, healthy lifestyles for example by providing safe and accessible health, education, cultural and leisure facilities to meet the needs of Bromsgrove's residents
- S8) Protect and enhance the unique character, quality and appearance of the historic and natural environment, throughout the District
- S9) Safeguard and enhance the District's natural resources such as soil, water and air quality; minimise waste and increase recycling including re-use of land, buildings and building materials
- S10) Ensure the District is equipped to adapt to and mitigate against the impacts of climate change, for example, by managing and reducing flood risk by ensuring water and energy efficiency and by encouraging new developments to be low or zero carbon
- S11) Promote high quality design of new developments and use of sustainable building materials and techniques
- S12) Foster local community pride, cohesion and involvement in the plan making process

### Strategic Objectives Compatibility Matrix

Objectives are compatible      +  
 Possible conflict                    -  
 Compatibility unknown            ?  
 No impact on each other        0

Strategic Objectives												
<b>S1</b>	<b>S1</b>											
<b>S2</b>	+	<b>S2</b>										
<b>S3</b>	+	+	<b>S3</b>									
<b>S4</b>	+	-	0	<b>S4</b>								
<b>S5</b>	+	0	+	+	<b>S5</b>							
<b>S6</b>	+	+	+	0	-	<b>S6</b>						
<b>S7</b>	+	+	+	+	+	+	<b>S7</b>					
<b>S8</b>	+	?	+	0	-	0	0	<b>S8</b>				
<b>S9</b>	+	?	+	0	?	+	?	+	<b>S9</b>			
<b>S10</b>	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	<b>S10</b>		
<b>S11</b>	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	<b>S11</b>	
<b>S12</b>	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	<b>S12</b>

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	NPPF	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	Panel Report of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Strategic Housing Market Assessment	Opportunity to target housing to the needs of existing local communities.

<b>Key Issues and problems</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
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, an increase in young residents leaving in search of work and housing	Housing Needs Survey	Opportunity to target housing to the needs of existing local communities.
Implications of redeveloping brownfield sites	NPPF	Balance between making best use of brownfield land, ensuring existing green corridors are maintained and ensuring people have 'space to live'.
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.

Key Issues and problems	Source	Opportunities
Changing economy	County Economic Summary (Monthly)	Opportunity to redevelop economy and make Bromsgrove a place businesses want to come.
Degradation of the Natural and Historic Environment	Biodiversity Action Reporting System Conservation Areas Appraisals Buildings at Risk	Opportunity to promote design of developments that are sensitive to the historic environment, landscape character, water management and developments that contribute to the green infrastructure networks, promote heritage-led regeneration opportunities, enhance local biodiversity through appropriate mitigation and compensation measures, etc.
Responding to Climate Change	Climate Change Statistics from DECC	Opportunity to reduce the causes of and adapt to the impacts of climate change through promoting developments in sustainable locations, encouraging developments to follow the waste and water management hierarchies and adopt the SUDS management train concept and enhancing the sustainable transport network.
The revival of the town centre as well as regeneration at Longbridge	The Town Centre Health Check	Promote integrated use to address the local social, economic and environment issues in the areas.
Keeping the sense of community 'alive'	The Quality of Life Survey 2008	Ensure essential facilities to local people are not lost and that new developments encourage social interactions.

Key Issues and problems	Source	Opportunities
Possible cross boundary growth in the District	Strategic Housing Market Assessment	Opportunities to deliver multiple benefits green space Ensure sites are used to meet local needs.



SEA Directive Topics	SA Objectives	Key Indicators
Population	SO1 - Provide decent affordable housing for all, of the right quality and tenure and for local needs in clean safe and pleasant local environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meeting of affordable housing requirements in housing needs survey</li> <li>▪ Number of affordable housing delivered by levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes standard</li> </ul>
Human Health	SO2 - To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Percentage of population describing their health as good.</li> <li>▪ Percentage of residents with limiting long term illness.</li> <li>▪ Life expectancy</li> <li>▪ Number of new homes within 800m of a GP surgery</li> <li>▪ Number of new homes achieving Lifetime Homes Standard</li> <li>▪ Number of new homes within 800m of Public Rights of Way</li> </ul>
Population Human Health	SO3 - Improve the vitality and viability of Town Centre, other centres and communities and quality of and equitable access to local services and facilities regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, socio-economic status or educational attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of parks and areas of recreational space</li> <li>▪ Number of sports pitches per 1000 population</li> <li>▪ Number of new homes within 800m of a Post Office, shops and a primary school in rural areas</li> <li>▪ Number of new homes within 800m of a bus stop/ railway station with frequent bus service (e.g. at least 6 buses a day) to a local/ district/ town centre?</li> </ul>

SEA Directive Topics	SA Objectives	Key Indicators
Population Human Health	SO4 - Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of recorded crimes per 1000 population</li> <li>▪ % of population who fear crime</li> <li>▪ Types of crime recorded</li> <li>▪ Number of recorded Anti social behaviour</li> </ul>
Human Health Climate Factors Material Assets	SO5 - Increase sustainable travel choices and move towards more sustainable travel patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People's usual method of travel to work by mode and % (walk, cycle, bus, train, car)</li> <li>▪ Number of new homes within 800m of a bus stop/ railway station with frequent bus service (e.g. at least six buses a day)</li> </ul>
Population Human Health	SO6 - To provide 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Satisfaction with provision of local authority services for example, to be measured by the number of complaints</li> </ul>
Biodiversity Fauna Flora Soil	EV1 - To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ % of SSSI's in favourable condition</li> <li>▪ Number of Local Sites (wildlife and geological)</li> <li>▪ Number of applications that contribute towards the Biodiversity Action Plan and Geological Action Plan</li> <li>▪ Number of applications granted permission contrary to the advice of Natural England, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, or Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust</li> <li>▪ Number of applications participated in the Biodiversity Offsetting scheme/ equivalent</li> </ul>

SEA Directive Topics	SA Objectives	Key Indicators
Material Assets	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 and biodiversity interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ % of District covered by Green Belt</li> <li>▪ Major applications granted permissions in the Green Belt</li> <li>▪ % of development on brownfield land / buildings</li> <li>▪ Number of developments granted permission on land that has a high possibility of being the best and most versatile agricultural land.</li> </ul>
Landscape	EV3 - Safeguard and strengthen landscape and townscape character and quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of applications that achieve landscape gain in accordance to the Landscape Character Assessment</li> </ul>
Cultural Heritage	EV4 - Conserve, protect and enhance the architectural, cultural and historic environment, heritage and seek well designed, high quality built environment in new development proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Total number of listed buildings</li> <li>▪ Total number of Conservation areas</li> <li>▪ Number and % of Listed Buildings 'at risk' (all grades)</li> <li>▪ Number and % of Scheduled Monuments 'at risk'</li> <li>▪ Number and % of Registered Parks and Gardens 'at risk'</li> <li>▪ Number and % of Conservation Areas 'at risk'</li> <li>▪ Number and % of Places of Worship 'at risk'</li> <li>▪ Number of historic buildings repaired and brought back into use</li> <li>▪ Area of highly sensitive historic landscape characterisation type(s) which have been altered and their character eroded</li> <li>▪ Number of major development projects that</li> </ul>

SEA Directive Topics	SA Objectives	Key Indicators
		<p>enhance the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of major development projects that detract from the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape character</li> <li>▪ Improvements in the management of historic and archaeological sites and features</li> <li>▪ Number of planning applications received for work in conservation areas and on listed buildings</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>
Climate Factors Material Assets	EV5 - To manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy 1) Prevention, 2) Preparing for reuse, 3) Recycling, 4) Other recovery, 5) Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ % of waste disposal to landfill</li> <li>▪ % of waste recycled per annum</li> <li>▪ Household waste collection per annum</li> </ul>
Water Climate Factor	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 other areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of Environment Agency, the Lead Local Flood Authority or Internal Drainage Board</li> <li>▪ Number of applications approved by the SuDS Approval Body</li> </ul>
Climate Factors Material Assets Air	EV7 - Promote resource efficiency and energy generated from renewable energy and low carbon sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local CO2 emission estimates per capita</li> <li>▪ Number of new homes by levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes and number of non-domestic buildings by grades of BREEAM</li> <li>▪ Number of renewable energy applications granted permission and their capacity</li> </ul>

SEA Directive Topics	SA Objectives	Key Indicators
Soil Water Air	EV8 - Protect and enhance the quality of water, soil and air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of applications approved by the SuDS Approval Body % of watercourses within the District that meet the targets set in the Water Framework Directive</li> <li>▪ % of contaminated land in District</li> <li>▪ No of AQMAs in District</li> </ul>
Climate Factors	EV9 - Reduce causes of and adapt to the impacts of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of homes by levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes and number of non-domestic buildings by grades of BREEAM.</li> <li>▪ Number of developments incorporating on site renewable energy</li> <li>▪ Local CO2 emission estimates per capita</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>
Population	EC1 - Develop a knowledge driven economy, the infrastructure and skills base whilst ensuring all share the benefits, urban and rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Proportion of population educated to degree standard or higher</li> <li>▪ Qualifications at age 19</li> <li>▪ 16 year olds with no qualifications</li> <li>▪ % of working age unemployed by ward</li> <li>▪ Number of VAT registered businesses</li> <li>▪ Survival rates for VAT registered businesses</li> <li>▪ Number of wards with SOA's in the bottom 25% for education, skills and training deprivation</li> </ul>

SEA Directive Topics	SA Objectives	Key Indicators
Climate Factors Material Assets	EC2 - Promote and support the development of new technologies of high value and low impact especially resource efficient technologies and environmental technology initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ % employment by industry sector</li> </ul>
Population	EC3 - To raise the skills levels and qualifications of workforce and quality of education opportunities for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Proportion of population educated to degree standard or higher</li> <li>▪ Qualifications at age 19</li> <li>▪ 16 year olds with no qualifications</li> <li>▪ Number of wards with SOA's in the bottom 25% for education, skills and training deprivation</li> </ul>

The first three tables below assess the compatibility of Sustainability Appraisal Objectives against each other. The following three assess the compatibility of the Sustainability Objectives against the Bromsgrove District Plan Objectives. The Social Objectives are SO1 to SO9, the Environmental Objectives EV1 to EV8 and the Economic Objectives EC1 to EC4.

#### Key to Social Sustainability Objectives

- SO1 Provide decent affordable housing for all, of the right quality and tenure and for local needs, in clean, safe and pleasant local environment.
- SO2 To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health
- SO3 Improve the vitality and viability of Town Centre, other centres and communities and the quality of and equitable access to local services and facilities regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, socio economic status or educational attainment
- SO4 Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti- social behaviour
- SO5 Increase sustainable travel choices and move towards more sustainable travel patterns
- SO6 To provide 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 To conserve and enhance 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 and biodiversity interest.
- EV3 Safeguard and strengthen landscape and townscape character and quality
- EV4 Conserve, protect and enhance the architectural, cultural and historic environment, heritage and seek well designed, high quality built environment in new development proposals

- EV5 To manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy, 1) Prevention ,2) Preparing for Reuse, 3) Recycling, 4) Other 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 surface water flooding in all other areas.
- EV7 Promote resource efficiency and energy generated from renewable energy and low carbon sources
- EV8 Protect and enhance the quality of water, soil and air
- 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 To raise the skills levels and qualifications of workforce and quality of education opportunities for all.



### Sustainability Objectives Compatibility Matrix

Objectives are compatible +  
 Possible conflict -  
 Compatibility unknown ?  
 No impact on each other 0

<b>SA</b>																		
<b>SO1</b>	<b>SO1</b>																	
<b>SO2</b>	+	<b>SO2</b>																
<b>SO3</b>	?	+	<b>SO3</b>															
<b>SO4</b>	+	?	+	<b>SO4</b>														
<b>SO5</b>	?	+	+	?	<b>SO5</b>													
<b>SO6</b>	?	?	+	+	?	<b>SO6</b>												
<b>EV1</b>	-	?	?	?	-	?	<b>EV1</b>											
<b>EV2</b>	-	?	?	/	+	?	+	<b>EV2</b>										
<b>EV3</b>	-	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	<b>EV3</b>									
<b>EV4</b>	-	+	?	-	+	+	?	+	+	<b>EV4</b>								
<b>EV5</b>	-	+	?	-	?	0	?	?	?	?	<b>EV5</b>							
<b>EV6</b>	-	+	?	?	?	0	+	+	?	?	?	<b>EV6</b>						
<b>EV7</b>	-	+	?	?	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	?	<b>EV7</b>					
<b>EV8</b>	-	+	?	?	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	<b>EV8</b>				
<b>EV9</b>	-	?	+	?	+	?	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	<b>EV9</b>			
<b>EC1</b>	?	?	+	+	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	?	?	<b>EC1</b>		
<b>EC2</b>	?	+	?	?	?	+	-	?	-	-	?	+	+	+	+	+	<b>EC2</b>	
<b>EC3</b>	?	+	+	+	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	<b>EC3</b>

## **Key to the Strategic Objectives**

### **Strategic Objectives**

- S1) Regenerate the Town Centre to create a thriving and vibrant centre providing facilities to meet the needs of Bromsgrove residents
- S2) Focus new development in sustainable locations in the District such as on the edge of Bromsgrove Town in the first instance
- S3) Support the vitality and viability of local centres and villages across the District
- S4) Provide a range of housing types and tenures to meet the needs of the local population for example the special needs of the elderly and the provision of affordable housing
- S5) Provide support and encouragement for economic growth of existing and new business for example, in knowledge based industries and high tech manufacturing, whilst also supporting farming and rural diversification and investing in lifelong education and learning skills
- S6) Encourage more sustainable and healthy modes of travel and a modal shift in transport, for example encouraging walking and cycling and promoting a more integrated, sustainable and reliable public transport network across the District
- S7) Improve quality of life, sense of well being and reduce fear of crime by promoting active, healthy lifestyles for example by providing safe and accessible health, education, cultural and leisure facilities to meet the needs of Bromsgrove's residents
- S8) Protect and enhance the unique character, quality and appearance of the historic and natural environment, throughout the District
- S9) Safeguard and enhance the District's natural resources such as soil, water and air quality; minimise waste and increase recycling including re-use of land, buildings and building materials
- S10) Ensure the District is equipped to adapt to and mitigate against the impacts of climate change, for example, by managing and reducing flood risk, by ensuring water and energy efficiency and by encouraging new developments to be low or zero carbon
- S11) Promote high quality design of new developments and use of sustainable building materials and techniques
- S12) Foster local community pride, cohesion and involvement in the plan making process

### Sustainability Objectives and Strategic Objectives Compatibility Matrix

Objectives are compatible +  
 Possible conflict -  
 Compatibility unknown ?  
 No impact on each other 0

Objectives		S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	S9	S10	S11	S12
SA	Strategic												
	SO1	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
	SO2	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	+	+
	SO3	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0
	SO4	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+
	SO5	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0
	SO6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
	EV1	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	0
	EV2	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0
	EV3	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	0
	EV4	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
	EV5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0
	EV6	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0
	EV7	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	0
	EV8	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	0
	EV9	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	0
	EC1	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+
	EC2	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	0
	EC3	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0

**Appendix 7**

**Summary of Consultee Comments (2005)**

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Key Comments</b>	<b>Corresponding Actions</b>
<p><b>Educational Services (Worcestershire County Council)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain the indicator ‘ Bromsgrove Schools PFI project.’</li> <li>• Crown Meadow and Alvechurch Meadow schools and Meadows and Parkside schools are not being combined but they will be accommodated in interconnecting buildings.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indicator has been clarified</li> <li>• Text has been clarified.</li> <li>• Reference to the requirement has been included.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Philip Woodhams – Town Planning Consultant (representing Billingham and Kite Ltd)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In relation to S4 (housing) there is an indicator for number of homes built but no corresponding target.</li> <li>• The baseline information should include a calculation of local housing need and the migrant need.</li> <li>• PPG 6 has been replaced by PPS 6.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The policy relating to affordable housing provision conflicts with government policy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targets and indicators have been clarified.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Reference to PPG 6 updated.</li> <li>• Sites no longer designated as Green Belt. Emphasis on balancing needs.</li> <li>• The section on housing and the SA objectives, indicators and targets has been reviewed.</li> <li>• This was not the intention. Policy reworded to clarify.</li> </ul>

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queries the potential policy option ‘ Ensure housing is only provided where it matches employment growth.’</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Identifies the publication of the interim SA guidance by the ODPM.</li> <li>• 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?</li> <li>• The baseline should include a ‘dimensioning’ of local housing need.</li> <li>• Indication that the LDF will increase provision of housing to meet findings of needs survey, may exceed government thresholds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The policy will be considered and assessed further at the next stage of issues and options development</li> <li>• SA objectives have been reviewed, particularly those used for housing in line with other comments.</li> <li>• The ODPM guidance has been reviewed and the scoping report updated where relevant.</li> <li>• Using the RSS figures the Council is still facing a significant housing oversupply situation over the RSS plan period to 2021.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Text amended to increase ‘appropriate’ provision</li> </ul>
<b>The Countryside Agency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comments at this stage. However, the CA wants to be consulted at later stages of the plan development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CA will continue to be consulted.</li> </ul>
<b>English Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council’s and the County Council’s historic environment staff should be involved in the SA and the plan development.</li> <li>• Would prefer the term ‘historic environment’ rather than ‘historic built environment.’</li> <li>• Include details of Registered Parks and Gardens</li> <li>• Local lists of buildings of historic and or architectural interest should be included.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involvement of relevant historic environment staff will continue throughout the development of the LDF.</li> <li>• Text amended.</li> <li>• Baseline updated.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The summary should refer to archaeological features and remains and should ensure it makes reference to aspects of industrial heritage.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The importance of non-designated historic assets to the character, distinctiveness and sense of identity of the District must be recognised.</li> <li>• The actual condition of the historic resources should be discussed i.e. identify any buildings on the English Heritage National Buildings at Risk Register.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• A potential cumulative effect is the impact of relatively small changes on the character and appearance of an historic area of landscape.</li> <li>• A new BVPI on Conservation areas has been introduced.</li> <li>• List of potential historic environment indicators provided.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text amended.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Condition data currently unavailable. Text updated.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• This has been included as a potential cumulative effect.</li> <li>• Such targets would be disproportionately detailed for the SA/SEA. However, a conservation area indicator has now been included.</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (DCMS, 2001) needs to be included.</li> <li>• Relevant Conservation Area Appraisals should be included in the local plans and strategies section.</li> <li>• Suggested some amendments to the social and environmental LDF objectives.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Included in the national policy documents section.</li> <li>• The information presented in the Conservation Area appraisals is too detailed for the SA.</li> <li>• The LDF objectives have been reviewed and amended in line with English Heritage and other consultee comments.</li> <li>• The SA objectives have been updated and a new objective included relating to protecting and enhancing landscape and townscape character.</li> <li>• All assumptions, uncertainties and data gaps are acknowledged.</li> </ul>

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Key Comments</b>	<b>Corresponding Actions</b>
<b>English Nature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified typing errors in the document and inconsistencies.</li> <li>• Further aim of CROW Act to be added</li> <li>• Biodiversity indicators should be included for the condition of SSSIs and the maintenance of the network of green space.</li> <li>• There should be an indicator for green belt.</li> <li>• There should be a water indicator for water consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All noted errors have been corrected where appropriate.</li> <li>• Aim added to PPP table</li> <li>• All indicators have been reviewed in light of consultee comments.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment Agency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasised the need to ensure that flood risk issues are incorporated into the SA.</li> <li>• Emphasised need to ensure contaminated land issues are incorporated into the SA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The water SA objectives have been modified to ensure that flood risk issues are considered.</li> <li>• The soil SA objectives have been modified to ensure that contamination issues are considered.</li> </ul>
<b>Worcestershire Wildlife Trust</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More information should be included about Special Wildlife Sites, BAP habitats and protected species.</li> <li>• The Water Framework Directive needs to be considered.</li> <li>• The Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands needs to be considered.</li> <li>• Biodiversity enhancement should be an SA objective.</li> <li>• An objective promoting the re-linking of features of biodiversity importance would be beneficial.</li> <li>• A key sustainability issues is the degradation of the natural environment as a result of poor planning decisions and damaging land use practices.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline information updated.</li> <li>• The WFD has now been reviewed as part of the PPP analysis.</li> <li>• The Biodiversity Strategy has been reviewed and included.</li> <li>• All of the objectives have been reviewed, although it is considered that this objective is incorporated within the general biodiversity objective.</li> <li>• Environmental degradation has been included within the list of sustainability issues.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>





Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
<b>Environment Agency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of statement “Flooding is not seen at the moment to be a significant issue in the District”</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Climate change should be mentioned in relation to flooding</li> <li>• States an SFRA is required</li>   <li>• Environmental Objectives page 46 should state that it is necessary to enhance as well as protect</li> <li>• Draws attention to concerns regarding water abstraction</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<p>Statement removed</p> <p>Text amended</p> <p>Climate change mentioned in relation to flooding An SFRA is being carried out. This was mentioned in original report, therefore no amendment to report but copy of letter given to consultants.</p> <p>Text amended to include the word “enhance”</p> <p>Text amended</p> <p>PPS23 is referred to</p>
<b>Natural England</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional plans, policies and programmes could be included:  <b>International:</b>            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  <b>National:</b>            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</li> </ul>	<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>

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
	<p><b>Regional:</b> West Midlands Waste Strategy</p> <p><b>County:</b> Worcestershire Sustainability Action Plan</p> <p><b>Local:</b> Worcestershire County Council Sustainability Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It appears that the tables under section 3 and numbered incorrectly</li> <li>• Provided updated information on state of SSSI's</li> <li>• Suggested slight rewording of SA objective from conserve and enhance to preserve, enhance and recreate the District's Biodiversity and Geodiversity</li> </ul>	<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 Report amended to include slight rewording</p>
<p><b>English Heritage</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council's and the County Council's historic environment staff should be involved in the SA and the plan development.</li> <li>• Additional plans, policies and programmes could be included: <b>International:</b> European Landscape Convention <b>National:</b> Heritage Protection White paper Heritage Protection Bill Planning( Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act</li> <li>• In appendix 2 the analysis of PPG15 could usefully be expanded</li> <li>• Links to the historic environment in PPS1, PPS3, PPS7 and PPS22 should be highlighted</li> <li>• <b>To note:</b></li> <li>• the West Midlands Regional Historic Forum is developing a Regional Historic Environment Strategy</li> <li>• other community based planning initiatives such as Parish plans, Town and Village design statements could be highlighted</li> <li>• For subsidiary scoping reports it may be relevant to include relevant Conservation Area Appraisals and Management</li> </ul>	<p>Involvement of relevant historic environment staff will continue throughout the development of the LDF.</p> <p>Added</p> <p>Added Added Added</p> <p>Added Text amended</p> <p>Text amended</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>The information presented in the Conservation Area appraisals</p>

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
	<p>Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LDF objectives in appendix 3 contains some overlap</li> <li>• Omission of objective relating to safeguarding and enhancing the District's landscape.</li> <li>• EV2 Landscape -refers to Countryside Quality Counts initiative by Natural England</li> <li>• EV10 possible indicators are highlighted</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Sustainability objectives 2, 3 and 4 suggested text changes</li> <li>• Menu of questions offered to support environmental, social and economic objectives</li> </ul>	<p>is too detailed for the SA.</p> <p>Text amended where overlap occurs</p> <p>This aspect is included in objective 1.</p> <p>This has been noted as a potential future data source. The indicators have been reviewed and updated as appropriate Text amended</p> <p>Text amended</p> <p>Noted</p>

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
<b>English Heritage</b>	To include English Heritage's published guidance on Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA)/ Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in the Scoping Report once it is updated and published in the autumn.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Guidance to be included after publication</li> </ul>
	Page 4: Planning Act (2008) removed the requirement for the sustainability appraisal of supplementary planning documents, although not necessarily SEA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reference to Supplementary Planning Documents in the paragraph deleted.</li> </ul>
	A recent European ruling on SEA in relation to the type and stage of plans which may be subject to the Directive e.g. Article in Planning on European ruling should be kept under review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Noted.</li> </ul>
	Scoping Reports should be tailored to the type, purpose, and level of plan under consideration. This accords with the NPPF (para 158) which requires that local plans are based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospect of the area. This approach may also enable certain topics to be scoped in or out for particular plans or geographical areas. All such decisions, however, should be clearly justified and open to review if new information or issues are identified at a later stage. It is unclear whether the current consultation will serve as an overarching SEA/SA which can then be further refined for particular planning documents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The SA Scoping aims to serve the Bromsgrove District Plan and the Bromsgrove Town Centre Area Action Plan.</li> </ul>
	The review is drawn very widely to include reviews and guidance documents. There is an opportunity to consolidate and more tightly focus its content. The format to the analysis set out in Appendix 2 is helpful.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The SA Scoping aims to serve the Bromsgrove District Plan and the Bromsgrove Town Centre Area Action Plan. The two documents cover a wide range of topics in the District and Town Centre and hence a wide range of documents is included.</li> </ul>
	Under International treaty or strategies section, to add 'The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)' and 'The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention)'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reference to the two conventions added as suggested.</li> </ul>
	Under national policies and strategies, to delete 'Heritage Protection Bill', 'Heritage Protection White Paper' and 'Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (2001)' and to add 'PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment Practice Guide', 'National Policy Statements for Energy', 'National Policy Statements for Transport', and 'National Policy Statements for Water, Waste Water, and Waste'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Information deleted and added as suggested.</li> </ul>

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
	Under Sub-national/ Regional strategies, to add 'Putting the Historic Environment to Work: A Strategy for the West Midlands'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Document included as suggested.</li> </ul>
	Under County strategies, to add Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Framework. To add the County Council's Farmstead Assessment Guidance and Site Assessment Guidance when it's completed by the autumn.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GI Framework included as suggested.</li> <li>▪ Assessments to be included after publication.</li> </ul>
	Under Local strategies, to add Conservation Areas Character Appraisals, Management Plans, relevant SPDs, Neighbourhood Plans and other community-led plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conservation Areas Character Appraisals and Management Plans included. <b>SPGs will be revised in the future and affected by the local planning process and hence do not form part of the local strategies that will affect the planning process itself.</b></li> </ul>
	<p>The baseline description for the historic environment in Appendix 1 provides a good review of the historic evolution of the District. Additional suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The contribution of the setting of a heritage asset to its significance should usefully be recognised.</li> <li>▪ Further information on the Historic Environment Character Assessment should be added to support of its use in the appraisal process.</li> <li>▪ Headline result from the County Council's Historic Farmsteads mapping report should be included.</li> <li>▪ The historic character of the wider landscape should also be recognised and outlined drawing on the county wide Historic Landscape Characterisation.</li> </ul>	<p>A brief summary of the Historic Environment Character Assessment is included in the Historic Environment of the Baseline Characterisation in Appendix 1.</p> <p>The Historic Farmsteads mapping report and Historic Landscape Characterisation will be added to Appendix 1 after publication.</p>
	<p>The summary of sustainability issues includes a general reference to the degradation of the historic environment as a result of development pressures and damaging land practices. To help deepen this analysis using the collated baseline and to assist in identifying possible policy options, the following examples of environmental problems, issues and opportunities can be outlined which typically affect the historic environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Heritage assets at risk from neglect, decay, or development pressures</li> <li>▪ Areas where, on current trends, there is likely to be further significant loss or erosion of landscape/ townscape character or quality</li> <li>▪ Areas where development has had or is likely to have significant impact (direct or indirect) upon the historic environment and/or people's enjoyment of it</li> <li>▪ Traffic congestion, air quality, noise pollution and other problems affecting the historic environment</li> <li>▪ Conserving and enhancing designated and non-designated heritage assets and the contribution made by their settings</li> <li>▪ Conserving specific types of heritage assets, such as the maritime, industrial, or</li> </ul>	<p>Relevant specific issues - neglect/decay of heritage assets at risk, traffic congestion, air quality, noise pollution, loss/erosion of landscape/ townscape character or quality, climate change - included under the 'summary of sustainability issues - degradation of the natural and historic environment' in Section 5.</p> <p>Relevant policy options - contribute to the green infrastructure networks, promote heritage-led regeneration opportunities - included in the Issues and Options table and the Sustainability Issues table in Section 5 and Appendix 4.</p>

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
	<p>rural heritage of a place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accommodating change and growth whilst sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and the valued character of a place</li> <li>▪ Integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation measures into the historic environment appropriately.</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ developing a stronger sense of place, local distinctiveness and community engagement</li> <li>▪ Promoting the innovative reuse of the existing building stock for social, cultural and or economic purposes</li> <li>▪ Climate change resilience</li> <li>▪ Improving awareness, involvement, and understanding of, and access to, the historic environment</li> <li>▪ Delivering heritage-led regeneration opportunities</li> <li>▪ Supporting the vitality and viability of town centre regeneration</li> <li>▪ Promote heritage based tourism</li> <li>▪ Contributing to GI networks</li> <li>▪ Encouraging traditional building and craft skills development</li> <li>▪ Using the historic environment as an educational resources</li> </ul>	
	<p>Acknowledge that the proposed framework is based on the agreed Worcestershire SEA/SA Framework. However, there may be opportunities to tailor the framework to the particular issues and opportunities of the District. For example, the regeneration of Bromsgrove Town Centre and the regeneration of Longbridge could be reflected in the economic objectives. To meet the requirements of the SEA Directive to assess impacts on cultural heritage, English Heritage considered a specific objective on the historic environment is needed, for example 'conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings'. By doing so, the appraisal does not mask adverse impacts by blending several topics together in one objective. To this end and following on EH's response in 2008, it was recommended that the headline indicator EV4 is amended to provide this clear focus and reflect the latest terminology of the NPPF. The consideration of design quality and new development could be added as a separate objective, particularly given the emphasis placed on quality design in the NPPF, or alternatively combined with EV7 as climate change is already covered by EV9. A possible approach could be: <i>Achieve high quality and sustainable design for buildings, spaces and the public realm sensitive to the locality.</i></p>	<p>No Change. Points raised are covered in existing objectives. For example, the purpose of regeneration is to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits and these are covered by the SA objectives. EV4 as it is now is an objective that covers only the historic environment.</p>
	<p>Suggest 'local distinctiveness' is specifically mentioned in EV3</p>	<p>No change, as different things contribute to local distinctiveness, not just landscape character. Also a distinctive landscape character type that appears in</p>

Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
		the District could also be found in other Districts but still need to be protected and enhanced.
	It's important to test the compatibility of the objectives, as measures relating to EV7 can harm the natural and historic environment if inappropriately sited or designed.	The Sustainability Objectives Compatibility Matrix in Appendix 6 tests the compatibility of the objectives.
	<p>Suggest reviewing the suggested range of possible indicators below to better tailor the supporting indicators to the District, which may vary at different stages of the assessment process and in relation to the particular development plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of listed buildings</li> <li>Number and % of listed buildings at risk</li> <li>Number of schedule monuments</li> <li>Number of schedule monuments at risk</li> <li>Number of registered parks and gardens</li> <li>Number of registered parks and gardens at risk</li> <li>Number of registered battlefields</li> <li>Places of worship at risk</li> <li>Marine wrecks at risk</li> <li>Number of conservation areas and % of local authority area covered by designation</li> <li>% of conservation areas in the local authority area with an up-to-date character appraisal</li> <li>% of conservation areas with published management proposals</li> <li>Number and % of conservation area at risk</li> <li>Number of locally listed heritage assets</li> <li>Number and % of locally listed heritage assets at risk</li> <li>Number of historic buildings repaired and brought back into use</li> <li>% of local authority area covered by historic characterisation studies</li> <li>Area of highly sensitive historic landscape characterisation type(s) which have been altered and their character eroded</li> <li>Number of major development projects that enhance the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape character</li> <li>Number of major development projects that detract from the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape character</li> <li>Improvements in the management of historic and archaeological sites and features</li> <li>% change in visits to historic sites</li> <li>% of planning applications where archaeological investigations were required prior to approval.</li> <li>% of planning applications where archaeological mitigation strategies (were developed and implemented)</li> </ul>	<p>The following impact indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number and % of Scheduled Monuments 'at risk'</li> <li>▪ Number and % of Registered Parks and Gardens 'at risk'</li> <li>▪ Number and % of Conservation Areas 'at risk'</li> <li>▪ Number and % of Places of Worship 'at risk'</li> <li>▪ Number of historic buildings repaired and brought back into use</li> <li>▪ Area of highly sensitive historic landscape characterisation type(s) which have been altered and their character eroded</li> <li>▪ Number of major development projects that enhance the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape character</li> <li>▪ Number of major development projects that detract from the significance of heritage assets or historic landscape character</li> <li>▪ Improvements in the management of historic and archaeological sites and features</li> </ul> <p>added to EV4.</p>



Consultee	Key Comments	Corresponding Actions
	<p>Number and extent of street/ public realm audits</p> <p>State of the environment indicators can inform the baseline analysis such as looking at the comparative range, condition of heritage assets, but may not always be suitable for the assessment or monitoring the significant effects of a plan.</p> <p>At these stages, the priority is to devise indicators which will clearly demonstrate the impact(s) of the plan on the historic environment. All proposed indicators for monitoring the significant effects of a plan should be set out in the SA Report and finalised in the adopted plan. English Heritage also recommends that SEA/SA monitoring is linked to the production of AMR.</p>	
<b>Environment Agency</b>	To add 'Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice (GP3)' to the list of relevant plans, policies, etc. Document is available at: <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/publications/40741.aspx">http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/publications/40741.aspx</a>	Document added to the list of relevant plans, policies.
	Welcome the references to the protection and enhancement of water quality. Limited reference to groundwater within the 'baseline characterisation' and would like to see an expanded section on groundwater. Maps including the geology, aquifers and Source Protection Zones are provided.	Text added to include information and maps on groundwater in Appendix 1.
	The 'Environmental Analysis' refers to shortfalls in water supply from existing abstraction, need to clarify that it is the result of long term groundwater abstraction. Environmental impacts include low dry weather flows within surface watercourses.	Text added for clarifications in Appendix 1.
	Support the inclusion of objectives S9 and S10. Add a comma after flood risk in the last sentence of objective S10 or additional wording, i.e. by ensuring development is located in areas of lowest flood risk and designed to manage and reduce flood risk.	Comma added after flood risk to strategic objective S10.
	EV2 refers to 'previously developed land and reuse of vacant buildings where this is not detrimental to...', the water environment' should be included in considering the potential for contaminated land and/or groundwater vulnerability, etc.	No change. The main purpose of EV2 is to ensure efficient use of land and hence it is not considered appropriate to add more information to the objective.
	Support EV5 but it should refer to the new waste hierarchy set out in the revised Water Framework Directive i.e. 1) Prevention 2) Preparing for reuse 3) Recycling 4) Other recovery 5) Disposal	Revised as suggested.
	To include a reference to flood risk betterment in EV6	No change. Flood risk betterment is already implied in EV6.
	To include water resources and quality in considering the environmental characterisation for the District in EV8.	No change. EV7 promotes resource efficiency which covers water resources..
<b>Natural England</b>	Suggest to add indicators as more robust measure of success: EV1 – The number (or %) of new developments incorporating ecological enhancement	No change. Existing indicators measure applications

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Key Comments</b>	<b>Corresponding Actions</b>
	<p>measures per year</p> <p>EV9 – The number (or %) of new developments incorporating creation of green infrastructure per year or the area (ha) of newly created green infrastructure through development per year.</p>	<p>that contribute towards BAP and participated in Biodiversity Offsetting scheme/ equivalent.</p> <p>Given the multi-functionality nature of green infrastructure, it is difficult to measure the area newly created through development, as many spaces in a development are multi-functional.</p>