

Sustainability Appraisal of the Bromsgrove District Plan

Post Adoption Statement

January 2017



Bromsgrove
District Council

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1. Introduction

1.1 This document provides the Post-Adoption Statement for the Bromsgrove District Plan 2011-2030, which was adopted on 25th January 2017 by Bromsgrove District Council.

1.2 The District Plan is the main basis for making decisions on planning applications within the administrative area of Bromsgrove District. The District Plan provides a general policy framework and suggests sites for development to meet the housing and employment needs of the District and, where justified, unmet needs arising from outside of the District.

1.3 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was undertaken whilst developing the District Plan. The purpose of the SA was to ensure that the environmental, social and economic issues were considered throughout the development of the District Plan with the aim of improving sustainability through its implementation.

1.4 The purpose of the Post-Adoption Statement is to satisfy the legislative requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004).

1.5 BDC have previously produced the following key SA/HRA documents in the process of developing the District Plan:

1. Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2004/ 2007
2. Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Documents Appraisal of Issues and Options Interim Report 2005
3. Bromsgrove Issues and Options Consultation SA update 2007
4. Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2008/ 2011
5. Sustainability Appraisal for Draft Core Strategy 2008
6. Sustainability Appraisal for Draft Core Strategy 2010
7. Sustainability Appraisal of Strategic Site Options 2010
8. Sustainability Appraisal for Draft Bromsgrove Town Centre Area Action Plan
9. Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report 2012/ 2015
10. Sustainability Appraisal for the Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Housing Growth Study 2013
11. Area Assessment Sustainability Appraisals 2013 (suite of documents)
12. Sustainability Appraisal of Bromsgrove District Plan Proposed Submission Version 2013
13. Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report 2013
14. Sustainability Appraisal Of Different Growth Levels 2014
15. Updated Bromsgrove District Plan Sustainability Appraisal (March 2015)
16. Updated Bromsgrove District Plan Sustainability Appraisal (May 2015)
17. Bromsgrove District Plan – Proposed Main Modifications Screening Matrix 2016

1.6 BDC took the findings and recommendations of the SA at each stage into account in preparing the District Plan before its Adoption.

1.7 Also taken into account were the findings of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 Sustainability Appraisal (March/May 2015) as this informed the cross boundary site selection process.

1.8 Most of the SA work was carried out by the Strategic Planning Team at Bromsgrove District Council, apart from the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Documents Appraisal of Issues and Options Interim Report 2005 (Hyder Consulting UK Ltd). The Updated Bromsgrove District Plan Sustainability Appraisal (May 2015), whilst being carried in house, was verified by private consultants Amec Foster Wheeler.

2. Legislative background

2.1 European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment ('the SEA Directive') states that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is mandatory for plans prepared for town and country planning and land use purposes.

2.2 The SEA Directive is transposed into UK law through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004), which requires the Sustainability Appraisal of local development plan documents.

2.3 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations (2012) states that a Sustainability Appraisal report must be completed for Local Plan documents in accordance with section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004).

2.4 In accordance with these regulations, a Sustainability Appraisal was prepared for the District Plan under the following requirements:

- Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations 2004 implementing the European SEA Directive.
- Paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012).

2.5 Article 9 of the SEA Directive requires that when a plan or programme is adopted, the Council makes available a statement summarising:
"how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report prepared pursuant to Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Article 8 and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with."

2.6 This requirement in European law has been transposed into UK law through Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004), which requires the responsible authority to produce a statement

containing the following information as soon as reasonably practical after the adoption of a plan or programme:

- 1) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;
- 2) how the environmental report has been taken into account;
- 3) how opinions expressed in response to:
 - i. the invitation referred to in regulation 13(2)(d);
 - ii. action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with regulation 13(4), have been taken into account;
- 4) how the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account;
- 5) the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- 6) the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme (Regulation 16).

3. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the District Plan

3.1 The Sustainability Appraisal process involves assessing the performance of a plan or a programme against a series of sustainability objectives to test whether it is likely to result in significant environmental effects. These sustainability objectives and associated questions guide the evaluation of proposed policies and sites through a sustainability framework.

3.2 The sustainability framework for the District Plan was developed during the scoping stage for the Sustainability Appraisal by considering the following:

- The environmental objectives of other plans, programmes and objectives on a local, national and international scale;
- the characteristics of Bromsgrove District and;
- the key environmental problems within Bromsgrove District

3.3 This ensured that both the wider environmental considerations and the specific environmental problems in Bromsgrove District were integrated into the sustainability framework and therefore the District Plan, since each policy and allocation was tested using the sustainability framework.

3.4 The key sustainability issues and problems and how they are reflected in the sustainability framework is set out in Appendix A below.

3.5 The sustainability framework for the District Plan considers each of the environmental topics set out in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004), as shown in Table 1.2 Page 7 of the Sustainability Appraisal for the Bromsgrove District Plan dated 18 May 2015. The full range of environmental considerations was therefore integrated into the District Plan.

3.6 The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England (formerly known as English Heritage) were consulted as statutory consultees during the development

of the sustainability framework and during the SA Scoping stages, this ensured that the sustainability framework addressed the key environmental considerations of other organisations.

4. How the environmental report has been taken into account

4.1 The SA must be an integral part of producing the Plan being appraised. The section below describes the process by which the SA influenced the development of the District Plan.

4.2 The SA identified relevant sustainability objectives for the District and provided an objective assessment of the likely significant effects of the policies and site allocations throughout the preparation of the District Plan.

4.3 At each stage the SA recommends a series of mitigation measures to reduce or avoid the potential adverse effects and maximise the potential beneficial effects arising from the implementation of the District Plan and these changes have been incorporated into the final District Plan.

4.4 The SA has informed the selection of preferred options through an objective appraisal of a range of reasonable options and alternatives against the framework of sustainability objectives for the District. The types of options considered fall into the following categories:

- Alternatives to the development strategy
- Alternative locations for development
- Alternative levels of growth
- 'Do nothing' option

4.5 Appendix B provides details of the key stages of SA consultation during the preparation of the Plan and how this has been taken into account.

5. How the SA and Consultation Representations have been taken into account.

5.1 The SEA Directive requires the opinions expressed by consultees to be taken into account during the preparation of the plan before its adoption. Consultation is therefore an important aspect of plan making and SA and this is summarised in Appendix B.

5.2 Appendix B demonstrates that there was consultation of every key stage of the Plan's preparation and that this included consultation on the associated SA documents. SA scoping included statutory consultation with environmental bodies (Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England/English Heritage in accordance with Regulation 13 (2) SEA Regulations) and public consultation. A summary of consultee comments on the 2005, 2008 and 2012 SA Scoping reports is contained in Appendix 7, 8 and 9 Pages 172 -186 of the 2012 Scoping Report. The Consultation Statements prepared in 2008, 2011 and 2013 summarise responses to consultation and, where appropriate, detail how these changes have been incorporated into the plan making process.

5.3 Regulation 22 (1) (c) (v) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012 sets out details of the publication of the BDP, how consultation was carried out and summarises all of the responses received. It was not appropriate to prepare Officer responses at this stage of the process as the Plan had already been submitted and this was the version the Inspector would be basing the Examination in Public on. All of these documents are available on the website.

5.4 All representations on the SA were collated and summarised at each stage of plan preparation and Officer responses were made addressing the comments of consultees. This ensured that the SA and consultation responses were considered in an iterative and ongoing way throughout the plan making process. There was no requirement for any transboundary consultations with other member States as the BDP is not likely to have any significant effects on the environment of another member State.

5.5 During the Redditch Examination hearing sessions in September 2014 clarifications were requested by the Inspector concerning the cross boundary site selection process carried out as part of the Housing Growth Development Study and accompanying SA in January 2013. An Addendum to the HGDS and SA (the HGDS Addendum) was produced in November 2014.

5.6 On publication of external Hearing Statements for the cross boundary hearing sessions some queries were raised concerning the SA process. A further revision to the Redditch SA was produced by AMEC Foster Wheeler on behalf of Redditch Borough Council in March 2015. This was consulted on and republished in May 2015. The BDP SA was also updated at this time (in house but verified by AMEC Foster Wheeler) to ensure alignment continued with the Redditch SA. Both the updated BDPSA and the BORLP4SA May 2015 contained quality assurance checklists that demonstrated how the SA's complied with the SEA Directive (page 57 of the BDPSA)

5.7 A table showing all the responses to the SA consultation carried out between March and April 2015 was published on the Councils' websites. This included a summary of the response, officers' comments and proposed action (OED/33A). Corresponding amendments were also made to both SA's as a result of this consultation (OED/ 33B –Redditch and OED/34 Bromsgrove). The Sustainability Appraisal of the Bromsgrove District Plan May 2015 details changes made as a result of the consultation at the beginning of the Document.

5.8 At the Examination hearing sessions in June 2015 it was confirmed that the BDPSA did not in itself contain a detailed assessment of growth options for Redditch within the BDP area, and that it referred instead to the BORLP4 SA. The Inspector accepted this as a suitably pragmatic approach and saw no benefit in duplicating the exercise and the BDP SA (as updated) provided appropriate cross-references to the relevant documentation.

5.9 During the final cross-boundary hearing sessions concerns were re-expressed regarding various SA issues and at the final joint examination session on 24 March 2016 the Inspector requested a Legal Opinion commissioned by the Councils on whether the SA's complied with the SEA Directive. This Opinion confirmed legal

compliance and was published on the Councils' websites on 20 April 2016 (Reference ED/50-Legal Opinion on behalf of the Councils on SEA, April 2016).

5.10 A screening of the proposed Main Modifications to the BDP following Examination found that no significant environment effects were likely and therefore further SA is not required. This screening is available as a separate document.

6. The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives

6.1 This is explained in detail in the document the Sustainability Appraisal of the Bromsgrove District Plan May 2015 (page 89 under the title '*Evolution of the BDP and Reasonable Alternatives considered*'). This covers reasonable alternatives for both Bromsgrove's needs and those arising from cross-boundary agreement.

6.2 At each stage of the evolution of the BDP, reasonable alternative options have been identified and appraised, with detailed explanation given on the reasons for choosing the proposed option, taking account of consultee representations, planning considerations and sustainability analysis. The Submission BDP and accompanying SA set out detailed consideration of all the policies and potential housing sites and ensures that all reasonable alternatives were explicitly tested against one another. Particular attention was paid to the need to provide for development in Bromsgrove District to meet the needs of Redditch, and detailed evaluation of options relating to such strategic provision was undertaken and appraised.

6.3 The SA report identifies a number of likely effects associated with strategic sites and policy options and the likelihood and scale of these effects. Mitigation or remedial measures have also been proposed that maximise any predicted beneficial effects of the proposed options or approaches and that minimise any predicted adverse effects.

7. The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme (regulation 16)

7.1 The significant environmental effects of the plan are summarised on page 177 of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Bromsgrove District Plan May 2015 whereby mitigation measures are also identified. These will be monitored as set out in this document on pages 48/49 which states:

'Once the BDP is adopted its effects will continue to be monitored against the identified sustainability indicators to measure how well the plan has contributed to sustainability (alongside monitoring the indicators for the Plan). Appendix D identifies the SA Objectives and indicators developed by Bromsgrove DC. The data collected will form the baseline to which future effects will be compared and the results will help inform the preparation of the District Plan Review (following the Green Belt Review). The policies contained in the Plan will be monitored through the Councils Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) which is normally published around Dec/Jan annually and which oversees and reports on the progress of the Plan.'

7.2 Monitoring indicators are set out in the BDP Appendix V page 146 of the Proposed Submission version of the Plan September 2013.

Appendix A - key sustainability issues and the sustainability framework

Topic	Baseline and trends	Key sustainability issues	How this is reflected in the sustainability framework
Social			
Rising older population	Bromsgrove has an above average older population with corresponding resultant impacts on service provision, housing needs and workforce availability. 2011 Census approximately 20% of population were aged 65-plus. This number is projected to increase by around 11,300 by 2030 (compared to 800 in the 0-17 age group)	Provision of appropriate housing ie tenures and types, services and facilities.	SO1 Provide decent affordable housing for all, of the right quality and tenure and for local needs in clean, safe and pleasant local environment
Barriers to housing and services in rural areas	Bromsgrove District ¹ has consistently demonstrated higher house prices than the national average and Worcestershire. However the housing market is also experiencing issues around supply since the recession in 2008. The District has many small settlements with limited or without their own services. Many local facilities and transport options are considered unviable due to dispersed population. Some households are unable to afford to purchase or rent on the open market in Bromsgrove District with house price increases far outstripping earnings increases ²	Range of house types including affordable housing	SO1 Provide decent affordable housing for all, of the right quality and tenure and for local needs in clean, safe and pleasant local environment SO3 Improve the vitality and viability of Town Centres, 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
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.	Support local centres and villages	SO3 Improve the vitality and viability of Town Centres, 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
Under-provision of affordable housing	Limited affordable housing for local people leading to social exclusion and harm to community life and networks	Provision of affordable housing Social cohesion	SO1 Provide decent affordable housing for all, of the right quality and tenure and for local needs in clean, safe and pleasant local environment
An increase in young residents leaving in search of work and housing	Young people that cannot afford to live in the District and those who work outside the District are moving away.	Provision of affordable housing	SO1 Provide decent affordable housing for all, of the right quality and tenure and for local needs in clean, safe and pleasant local environment
Keeping the sense of community 'alive'	19 parishes in District, only a handful have expressed interest in pursuing Neighbourhood Plans. In 2011 32,755 votes were cast in district elections, representing a 44.7 per cent turnout	Community Engagement and Consultation.	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
Reducing fear of crime	Bromsgrove is a safe place to live and fear of crime has reduced since surveys were carried out in 2005.	High quality designed environments.	SO4 Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
Housing to meet local needs	The Strategic Housing Market Assessment provides evidence for the housing figures appropriate for Bromsgrove District	Provide range of house types and tenures to meet needs	SO1 Provide decent affordable housing for all, of the right quality and tenure and for local needs in clean, safe and pleasant local environment
Possible cross boundary growth in the District	The Strategic Housing Market Assessment provides evidence for the housing figures appropriate for Redditch Borough. The Strategic Housing Market Assessment commissioned by Birmingham City Council also provides evidence for the housing figures in the City (also informed by GBSLEP Joint strategic housing study).	Making best use of land	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
Environmental			
Implications of redeveloping brownfield land	High density development within existing settlements can have negative impact on local environments and brownfield sites can be biodiversity-rich. However supply of brownfield land is	Making best use of land	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

¹ AMION report Housing Needs Assessment 29.8.14 Appendix B House Prices [ED/14]

² AMION report Housing Needs Assessment 29.8.14 Appendix B Affordability [ED/14]

Topic	Baseline and trends	Key sustainability issues	How this is reflected in the sustainability framework
	running out in the District, placing more pressure on greenfield land and ultimately the potential release of Green Belt land.		where this is not detrimental to open space and biodiversity interest
Large identified greenfield sites for future development needs	A number of large greenfield sites were removed from the Green Belt or not confirmed as Green Belt through the Bromsgrove District Local Plan (2004) and designated as Areas of Development Restraint (ADRs). ADRs were reserved for future development beyond the life of the Local Plan	Efficient use of land	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
Commuting out of the District	District population earn higher than average salaries but they earn then outside the District.	Increase employment opportunities within District.	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.
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 for example costs to businesses and poor air quality. 2011 census showed that the number of people travelling to work by car (49.9%) is higher than the national average (36.9%) Only 12.5% of households in Bromsgrove do not own a car or van compared to 16.6% in Worcestershire and 25.8% in England. Rural areas are served by infrequent bus services.	Sustainable transport modes. Sustainable/mixed use development.	SO5 Increase sustainable travel choices and move towards more sustainable travel patterns
Air quality	Although the District benefits from excellent strategic road connections, it does experience localised air quality problems caused by high traffic volumes. Bromsgrove has 4 declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).	Sustainable transport modes Air quality monitoring Health	SO5 Increase sustainable travel choices and move towards more sustainable travel patterns SO2 To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health
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. 6 out of 14 SSSI's are described as 'favourable'. As the more densely populated areas such as Bromsgrove Town, Catshill and Hagley are highly sensitive in terms of protection of groundwater and appropriate measures will need to be taken to ensure underlying aquifers are protected. Bromsgrove has 2 listed buildings, 5 scheduled Ancient monuments, a conservation area and Registered Historic Park and Garden on the National 'Heritage at risk' register. Large portions of evidence in the form of archaeological deposits and structures above and below ground have already been destroyed by previous development especially in the 1960's. The District has many locally important buildings that do not qualify for national	Protection of certain land from development and appropriate consideration of settings. Landscape protection and enhancement. Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity Protection of Heritage Assets Health improvement	EV1 To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity EV4 Conserve, protect and enhance the architectural, cultural and historic environment, heritage and seek well-designed, high quality built environment in new development proposals EV3 Safeguard and strengthen landscape and townscape character and quality

Topic	Baseline and trends	Key sustainability issues	How this is reflected in the sustainability framework
	listing but nevertheless are important to the distinctive character of Bromsgrove.		
Responding to climate change	<p>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 winters.</p> <p>No major rivers run through the District. Flood risk is concentrated in a few places with the risk of major flooding being minimal.</p> <p>Increasing human demand for water, coupled with the effects of climate change mean the future of our water supply is not secure. Bromsgrove falls within the Severn River Basin District and assessment of main water resources in the River Basin management Plan indicates that the main aquifers have poor quantitative status and no change in status is forecast by 2015. The existing abstraction has also led to negative environmental impacts in several areas in the District.</p> <p>In Bromsgrove the highest CO2 emissions correlate with the M5 and M42 motorway corridors whilst in other predominantly rural areas emissions are low.</p>	<p>Climate change</p> <p>Flood risk management</p> <p>Water Efficiency</p> <p>Air quality monitoring</p>	<p>EV5 To manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy, 1) Prevention, 2) Preparing for reuse, 3) Recycling, 4) Other recovery, 5) Disposal</p> <p>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.</p> <p>EV7 Promote resource efficiency and energy generated from renewable energy and low carbon sources.</p> <p>EV8 Protect and enhance the quality of water, soil and air</p> <p>EV9 Reduce causes of and adapt to the impacts of climate change.</p>
Economic			
Changing economy	<p>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.</p> <p>2011 census 3.1% unemployed (West Midlands 5.1% and 4.4% nationally)</p>	<p>Support and encouragement for existing and new businesses.</p> <p>Supporting farming and rural diversification.</p> <p>Homeworking.</p> <p>Lifelong education and learning skills</p> <p>Infrastructure</p>	<p>EC1 Develop a knowledge driven economy, the infrastructure and skills base whilst ensuring all share the benefits, urban and rural.</p> <p>EC2 Promote and support the development of new technologies of high value and low impact especially resource efficient technologies and environmental technology initiatives.</p> <p>EC3 To raise the skills levels and qualifications of workforce and quality of education opportunities for all.</p>
The revival of the town centre as well as regeneration at Longbridge	<p>The Town Centre is perceived as 'run down' and has a high vacancy rate. The Town Centre Health check indicates that the vacancy rate has decreased year on year until 2013 where there has been a consecutive increase in 2013 and 2014 albeit vacancy rates are still lower than 2009.</p> <p>The MG Rover plant in Longbridge was closed down in 2005</p>	<p>Regeneration of Town Centre and Longbridge</p>	<p>SO3 Improve the vitality and viability of Town Centres, 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</p>

Appendix B - Key Stages in the BDP SA process

Document	Summary
Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Documents Appraisal of Issues and Options Interim Report 2005	Consultation of the Issues and Options was undertaken in 2005. Each core issue presented had a set of alternative options presented as possible solutions to the issues. The key issues and options identified were Locations for Growth; Housing for Everyone; Rural Life; the Local Economy and Creating Jobs; Shopping and Bromsgrove Town Centre; Learning, Leisure and Improving Health; Our natural Environment; Getting Around and Preserving the Past. Each of the options was assessed in the Sustainability Report carried out by Hyder Consulting UK Ltd and makes key recommendations whereby some options were amended and/or other options being combined. Those progressed had the least negative effects on environmental factors and most positive effects on social and economic factors as well as reflecting the overall Plan Strategy and being capable of delivery over the Plan Period.
Bromsgrove Issues and Options Consultation SA update 2007	A further Issues and Options Consultation was carried out in 2007. This consultation was carried out as further key issues and options had been identified in the intervening period, including new housing growth; climate change and renewable energy; flooding; waste and recycling and biodiversity. Issues around new housing growth had changed in the intervening period due to the revised context of the RSS. The above report was updated and again those options with the greatest support, the least negative impacts on sustainability factors as well as reflecting the overall Plan Strategy and capable of delivery were progressed and included in policies within the Plan
Sustainability Appraisal for Draft Core Strategy 2008	This SA appraised all of the proposed policies which included general policies to guide development and raised the issue of cross boundary growth. There were 4 agencies/businesses that responded to this SA consultation, some were supportive and some recommended changes or pointed out minor typos. Changes were made to the Plan where appropriate on the basis of these responses.
Sustainability Appraisal of Strategic Site Options 2010	In order to better understand the implications of the Strategic Sites options, a Sustainability Appraisal of each of the 7 broad areas identified in this document was undertaken. The assessment helped to determine which areas could deliver the most sustainable form of development for Bromsgrove Town.
Sustainability Appraisal for Draft Core Strategy 2011 (DCS2)	This updated version of the Core Strategy also appraised the policies but did not include mention of cross boundary growth to reflect the aspirations of the Redditch Plan. Again 4 agencies/individuals responded to the SA consultation at this stage. Changes were made to the Plan as Appropriate or further discussions were held with relevant services and/or additional evidence gathered.
Sustainability Appraisal for Draft Bromsgrove Town Centre Area Action Plan	An SA of the draft TCAAP was undertaken and consulted upon in 2011. This AAP was not progressed but many of the policies proposed were incorporated in the BDP in policy BDP 17 Town Centre Regeneration.
Sustainability Appraisal for the Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Housing Growth Study 2013	This document accompanied the HGDS consulted on in 2013. It compared strategic objectives against SA objectives, area assessment principles against SA objectives, SA of broad options and SA of alternative growth options.
Area Assessment Sustainability Appraisals 2013	This suite of documents identifies sites around all of the large settlements in Bromsgrove District and identifies which of these sites performs best in sustainability terms. This influenced the selection of development sites in the BDP.
Sustainability Appraisal of Bromsgrove District Plan Proposed Submission Version 2013	This SA, inter alia, carried out a SA of all the policies of the BDP. It identified key strengths, weaknesses and made recommendations for mitigation. This SA accompanied the BDP at proposed Submission stage in September 2013.
Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report 2013	The European Habitats Directive (European Communities, 1992) requires an assessment to be made of the possible effects of certain plans on the integrity of 'European Sites' before the plan is adopted. 'European sites' - comprise: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), for habitats; Special Protection Areas (SPAs), for birds); and also Sites designated under the Ramsar Convention as wetlands of international importance. The screening assessment concluded that the implementation of the Bromsgrove District Plan will have no 'likely significant effects' on any Natura 2000 site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Therefore Stage II Appropriate Assessment would not be required.
Sustainability Appraisal Of Different Growth Levels 2014	Different growth levels were assessed throughout the evolution of the Bromsgrove District Plan. Each level of growth was assessed individually and the sustainability outcomes compared. Overall, it was considered that the growth level of 7,000 performs best due to its beneficial performance against social and economic objectives. It has been identified that lower levels of growth (2,100 and 4,000) would deliver much more limited social and economic benefits whilst the highest growth figures (9,600 and 10,500) would potentially cause significant environmental harm. It was therefore recommended that the figure of 7,000 was incorporated into the Bromsgrove District Plan.
Updated Bromsgrove District Plan Sustainability Appraisal (March and May 2015)	A final SA report was produced in May 2015 as part of the iterative process of SA, incorporating some changes made during consultation in March 2015 version of the Bromsgrove SA. This was produced to make clear legal compliancy and ensure alignment with the Redditch SA was maintained.
Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 Sustainability Appraisal (March/May 2015)	This document informed the cross boundary site selection process.
Bromsgrove District Plan – Proposed Main Modifications Screening Matrix 2016	SA screening of the Inspector's proposed Main Modifications was carried out. Council did not consider that the Main modifications proposed by the Inspector (nor minor ones proposed by the Council) would lead to significant changes and therefore did not require further consultation or SA work