Core Strategy

Special Edition

Local Development Framework

Building Bromsgrove's Future

Help us to plan the future of Bromsgrove

Background

Bromsgrove District Council is preparing a Local Development Framework which will guide future growth and development in the District up to 2026. It will affect everyone who lives, works in or visits the District and therefore **it is important you tell us the things that affect you !**

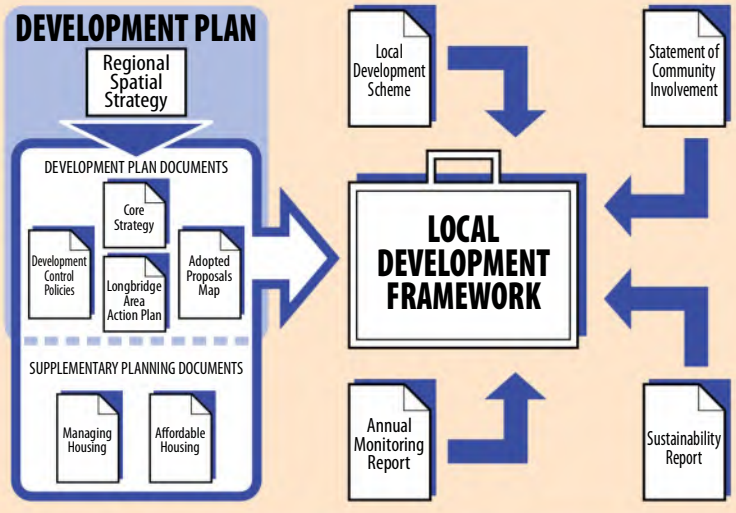
An initial consultation exercise was held in June 2005 when a wide range of issues were explored, ranging from where new development should be located, to the future role of Bromsgrove Town Centre and future transport options.

Part 1 of this special edition provides a summary of the responses received to this consultation, which should be read together with the original document.

Since this time new issues have arisen which we now need your views on and these are contained within **Part 2** of this leaflet. These issues are briefly explained and some options that could be used to tackle these issues are set out for you to consider. These options are put forward to promote discussion. If you have an alternative option or a different issue please let us know.

If you wish to comment further on the original issues discussed in the phase 1 consultation your views are still welcome.

What is the Local Development Framework ?



The Local Development Framework (LDF) will be a collection of policy documents setting out the Council's planning policies up to 2026.

The Statement of Community Involvement, which was adopted in September 2006, sets out how people can get involved in the whole planning process.

One of the key components of the LDF is the Core Strategy. It will contain the Council's vision and strategy for the District and will set out core policies to achieve this vision. Policies in the Core Strategy will not allocate sites or contain detailed criteria to assess development proposals. Other documents produced as part of the Local Development Framework will provide detail as necessary and will need to conform with the Core Strategy. The examination of issues and options is an important part of the process of preparing the Core Strategy, as the findings will influence the final selection of future policies.

Initial Response

Part 1

This part of the newsletter provides a summary of the responses that were received as part of the first round of consultation. For details of the exact wording of options that were consulted upon please refer to the main Issues and Options document dated June 2005.

A - Location of Growth

"when new housing or employment is needed, where should it go?"

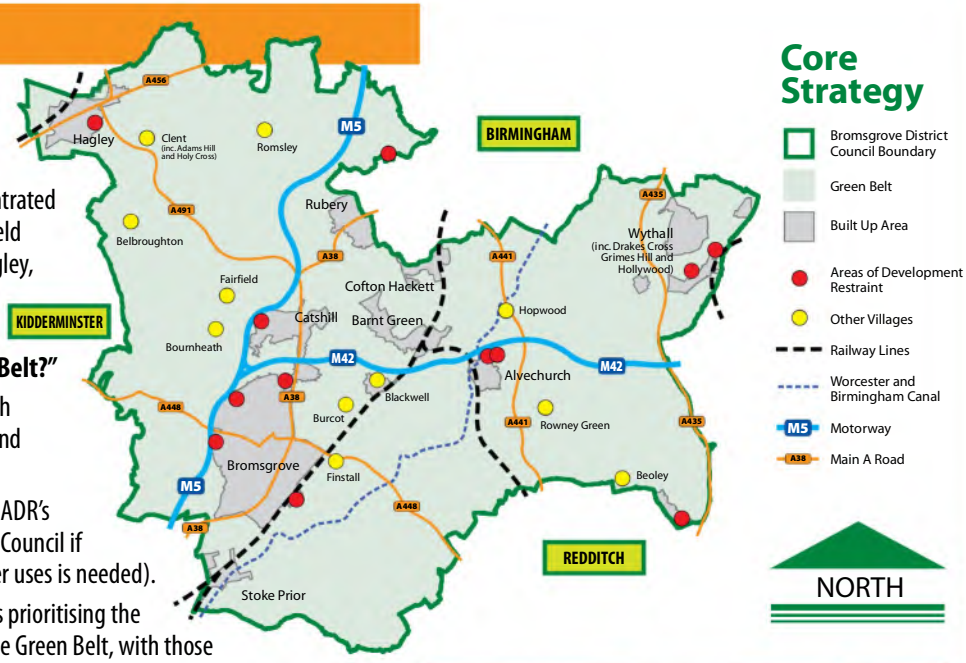
- Many people considered that new housing and employment growth should be concentrated in Bromsgrove Town, with limited brownfield development in other settlements (i.e. Hagley, Alvechurch, Wythall).

"What should we do with existing designated sites removed from the Green Belt?"

- Strong support was given to deciding which ADR sites(s) to release only after housing and employment land allocations are known.

  (ADR - Area of Development Restraint. The ADR's form a bank of land that is available to the Council if land for new housing, employment or other uses is needed).

- Strong support was also expressed towards prioritising the release of existing designated sites from the Green Belt, with those around Bromsgrove being released first.



"What should we do with previously developed sites in the green belt when existing uses become redundant?"

Most people were in favour of allowing reuse of the existing ground floor area for the most appropriate use.

B - Housing for Everyone

"In the future what type of housing will be required in Bromsgrove?"

- Although no clear consensus was shown with regards to the future type of housing required in Bromsgrove, it was suggested that a policy should be produced that would seek a mix of all dwelling sizes and types appropriate to each site.

"How should we ensure further affordable housing provision?"

- The majority of people favoured allowing limited general housing on brownfield sites, with a high level of affordable housing provision to ensure mixed developments.
- It was argued that development of affordable housing should be spread throughout the District.
- ADR's are appropriate locations for schemes including affordable housing and should be given priority in areas of identified need, to be used in preference to taking further land out of the Green Belt to provide for housing.

"More affordable housing needs to be provided in the District. Where should it be located?"

- Support was given to locating affordable housing on brownfield sites in Bromsgrove Town and spreading the distribution across the District.

"In future should we continue to allow a modest but steady supply of housing or keep the restriction (on new general housing) going and allow only affordable housing?"

- It was suggested that the Council should provide a modest and regular supply of housing in order to provide support for local facilities and the local economy.
- Such provision should allow for the provision of affordable housing and other special needs housing such as sheltered housing, care homes, etc.

C - Rural Life

"How should we ensure our villages contain a range of essential services?"

- Identifying mixed-use village centres for local services was considered to be the most sustainable way to ensuring that the villages contain a range of essential services.
- The location of key services in the main settlements and improving transport links was also supported.

"Should we allow villages to expand?"

- When determining village growth most people considered that the characteristics of the village and its supporting infrastructure should be considered before allowing new development.
- Allowing a wider mix of housing in rural locations to ensure essential facilities are maintained (or become viable) is seen as an important consideration.
- There was support for allowing key settlements, including large villages with a full range of facilities, to expand in order to support local facilities and to cater for the needs of the local population, particularly where these populations have access to higher order centres, via public transport, including rail.

"How should we support businesses in rural areas?"

- Encouragement for businesses in rural areas, by allowing limited extension of any existing businesses within villages with adequate infrastructure was supported.
- Farming is considered to be at the core of rural areas and needs to be assisted whenever possible.
- Rural diversification such as tourism and recreational uses, should be encouraged, in order to ensure the survival of these areas

"Accessibility is an issue in rural areas, how can we improve access to services?"

- Ensuring villages have a range of facilities, and improving transport links connecting the main service centres like Bromsgrove Town, were equally supported.
- It was also suggested that the higher order settlements should be allowed to expand naturally to ensure facilities are both maintained and enhanced, thereby increasing accessibility of these facilities to local residents. This would help to cut down the use of private vehicles and help to sustain rural transport and services.

D - The Local Economy and Creating Jobs

"Bromsgrove has a high incidence of commuting out of the District to work. Should we concentrate the local economy on service industries to support the growing commuter population and encourage tourists or should we try to diversify our economy and attract new high technology industries?"

- It was recognised that the attraction of industries with higher paid jobs in Bromsgrove District will help to reduce the daily flow of population to other employment centres outside of the District.

"If required where should new employment land be generally located?"

- The majority of people were in favour of small areas of employment within main settlements to support starter business and small-scale local firms.
- Support was expressed for redeveloping and extending existing sites to southeast and south of Bromsgrove.
- Support was given to opportunities for the reuse and adaptation of vacant or underused buildings within the main settlements to help promote new business growth as well as support wider regeneration objectives. This will also serve to conserve and enhance wider regeneration objectives, and the character and distinctiveness of the District's settlements.

"How should our rural economy be developed?"

- Strong support was shown towards encouraging new business to locate in main settlements, whilst continuing to support existing business in the rural areas.
- Support was also expressed in encouraging the reuse of rural buildings to provide small-scale office accommodation.

"Occasionally large employment sites become available for re-use. How does the Council best look to re-use these sites?"

- Support was expressed towards promoting a mix of employment generating activities and reuse for non-employment uses.
- Slightly less importance was expressed for retaining sites for traditional employment uses only.
- It was suggested that favourable consideration should be given to housing or mixed-use developments, on land currently allocated for industrial or commercial use, (or redundant buildings previously in industrial/commercial use) where the need for this employment use no longer exists.
- If housing growth in Bromsgrove is restricted, whilst economic growth is encouraged, for example as part of the Central Technology Belt, this may result in increased house prices and maintain long commuting distances.

E - Shopping and Bromsgrove Town Centre

"What should be the future role of Bromsgrove Town Centre?

- The majority of people favoured the idea to promote modest expansion of Bromsgrove Town Centre to serve local needs.
- It was argued that Bromsgrove Town Centre should continue to be the main centre in the hierarchy within the District, offering a wide range of shopping, tourist and leisure facilities to support local people as well as the wider population.

"What uses should we try and provide for in Bromsgrove Town Centre?"

- Strong support was expressed towards a mix of uses including shopping and leisure, with retail being the main use.
- Retaining and enhancing the distinctive character of Bromsgrove town centre should be a key consideration in determining its future role and planning.
- It was argued that it was unrealistic to think that Bromsgrove can compete with other established centres. Whilst shopping will continue to be an important activity, any proposals for the town centre should include policies fostering a mix of uses including leisure uses as a means of stimulating the evening economy and residential development to support the regeneration of Bromsgrove town centre.
- Develop town trails to encourage people into town centre as part of a leisure experience.

"How should we ensure the viability of other local shopping centres?"

- A clear consensus was expressed for a mix of uses with shopping being the main use in other local centres e.g. Alvechurch, Barnt Green, Catshill and Hagley.
- It was considered that new housing would support the viability of other local shopping centres.

F - Learning, Leisure & Improving Health

"We need to protect existing open spaces for the benefit of the whole community and seek, where appropriate, to improve or provide new areas of open space"

- The majority of support was expressed towards targeting wards and parishes in the District where underprovision existed.
- Improving larger areas and providing a large number of small accessible areas are also considered to be important, as a mix of different types of open and green space would help to provide for a variety of needs.
- It was highlighted that there is a need to provide a mix of strategically placed large parks, as well as pocket parks in deprived areas.
- It was considered that a lack of open space would be detrimental to people's health and a lack of activity for children may lead to anti-social behaviour.

"Where should health facilities be located?"

- Most people opted for safeguarding key accessible sites for future health service provision.
- In relation to health, an issue was raised on the need for people to have an easily accessible GP, which was often not the case for many people who live in rural areas.
- Key sites for future health service provision should be safeguarded and an assessment of current facilities undertaken to make sure they are being used and correctly located.

G - A Safe and Well Designed Environment

"Planning has a role to play in ensuring safer communities. How can we do this?"

- Most people favoured the promotion of designing out crime initiatives.
- Bromsgrove is generally perceived as a safe place to live but fear of crime still exists.
- It was suggested that night clubs and similar establishments that remain open later than normal licensing hours, should be located in town centres or other areas where noise and rowdiness at closing time will not disturb residents.
- With regards to street lighting, there were concerns that too much lighting would cause light pollution. It was pointed out that quite often the wrong kind and too much lighting are provided in rural areas.

"Planning is key to better designed buildings, streets and towns. How can we promote better design?"

- English Heritage welcomed the prominence given to the importance of promoting good design in all new development in terms of its contribution to sustainable development and protecting local distinctiveness.
- It was suggested that young people should become more involved in the planning system and planning for their area, as they may then become proud of their area and less likely to vandalise and cause crime.

H - Our Natural Environment

"We need to protect our rural environment, especially the Green Belt as a rich source of natural biodiversity"

- Preservation of the natural environment is considered to be important. Wherever it is feasible, it should be preserved in conjunction with social and economic objectives, but occasionally it will be necessary to resolve a conflict in favour of development. Where this happens, improvements should be sought elsewhere.
- The planning system is expected to balance environmental, social and economic objectives rather than give priority to environmental protection, other than in particular locations such as an NNR or an SSSI.

"We need to protect our existing watercourses and reduce harm caused by flooding, especially flooding resulting from development and an increase in run-off"

- Most people are in favour of requiring all new developments to have sustainable drainage systems (SUDs).
- If the requirement for all new developments to have sustainable drainage systems is pursued, the burden of maintenance could fall upon owners of the development, including householders.
- It has been argued that land in flood plains should be used as public open space, or remain in agricultural use. Floodplains flood naturally and should be allowed to do so. Interference with the natural means of disposing of heavy rain should not be permitted.

I - Getting Around

"Reducing the need to travel is a key part of ensuring access for all of the community"

- The greatest support was expressed for ensuring better access to everyday facilities.
- The promotion of local centres with key facilities would help to reduce the need to travel.

"It is recognised that the car often provides the most convenient and comfortable door to door means of travel and for many rural residents there is at present little real alternative"

- Equal weighting was given to ensuring better access to major service centres like Bromsgrove Town, and seeking the retention of essential rural facilities.
- The location of services in larger village centres was given less support.
- It has been suggested that in order to meet the needs of local residents in rural areas and try and reduce dependence on the private car, it is important to seek the retention of essential rural facilities.
- A specific issue raised regarding transport in rural areas was access to employment for example, young people in rural areas can find it difficult to access employment because of poor transport links.

"As part of a development proposal, measures to encourage and facilitate the use of public transport can be investigated"

- The majority of people favoured the idea of targeting key public transport interchanges for new development. Support was also expressed for improving facilities at public transport sites.
- There was support for employers to draw up green travel plans outlining ways in which employees could use public transport, cycling, or walking to get to work.
- It was also suggested that transport problems for the disabled and those with mobility difficulties should be addressed, by providing access to trains at the station, wheelchair accessible taxis and help fund community transport.
- Other issues raised included the distance from the train station to the town centres and the poor quality of Bromsgrove Bus Station.

"Cycling and walking are the most sustainable modes of travel for short journeys. For longer journeys the motorcycle is seen as a more sustainable alternative than car use"

- Support was expressed for ensuring better linkages between new developments and enhancing existing facilities within and between settlements.

J - Preserving the Past

"The District has 10 Conservation areas. Do we need more or should we enhance the existing areas first?"

- The majority of people considered that action should be prioritised where the threat to the historic environment is greatest.

"The District has many locally important buildings that are unsuitable for full national listing. We need to ensure these locally important buildings are protected"

- Most people were in favour of ensuring policy encourages viable reuse of locally important buildings.
- English Heritage supports the general aim to protect locally important buildings which are unsuitable for full statutory listing.

New Issues

Part 2

A - New Housing Growth

Introduction

Ensuring the supply of the right type of housing in sustainable locations is a major challenge facing Bromsgrove. The District is facing an oversupply of housing with the result that no general housing is being allowed at the present time.

As household needs change there is a predicted increase in the number of households with a corresponding decrease in household size. The phase 2 revision of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy sets out a range of potential provision to respond to trends. Therefore, we need to plan for a range of size, type and tenure of dwellings in order to meet projected demand.

National Context

PPS3 Housing sets out the Government's strategic housing policy objectives. The key policy goal is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent home, which they can afford, in a community where they want to live. To achieve this the Government is seeking:

- To achieve a wide choice of high quality homes, both affordable and market housing, to address the requirements of the community.
- To widen opportunities for home ownership and ensure high quality housing for those who cannot afford market housing in particular those who are vulnerable or in need.
- To improve affordability across the housing market, including by increasing the supply of housing.
- To create sustainable, inclusive, mixed communities in all areas, both urban and rural.

Local Planning Authorities should plan for a mix of housing on the basis of the different types of households that are likely to require housing over the plan period.

Regional Context

The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) is undergoing a partial revision and phase 2 of this revision seeks to establish potential housing figures until 2026. These figures show a potential of between 3800 and 7200 new dwellings which may be required to be built up until 2026. Furthermore, some of Redditch's housing needs may have to be met in adjoining districts, one of which being Bromsgrove.

Local Context

Bromsgrove has been operating a housing moratorium since July 2003, due to an oversupply of new housing based on the Worcestershire County Structure Plan figures.
The oversupply position still exists in relation to the current RSS and Bromsgrove has sufficient new dwellings completed or with planning permission to meet the current phasing targets up to 2016.

Whatever target is therefore identified through the phase 2 revision of the RSS, the District will already have significantly completed the requirement up to 2026.

Where do you think this potential new growth should be accommodated?

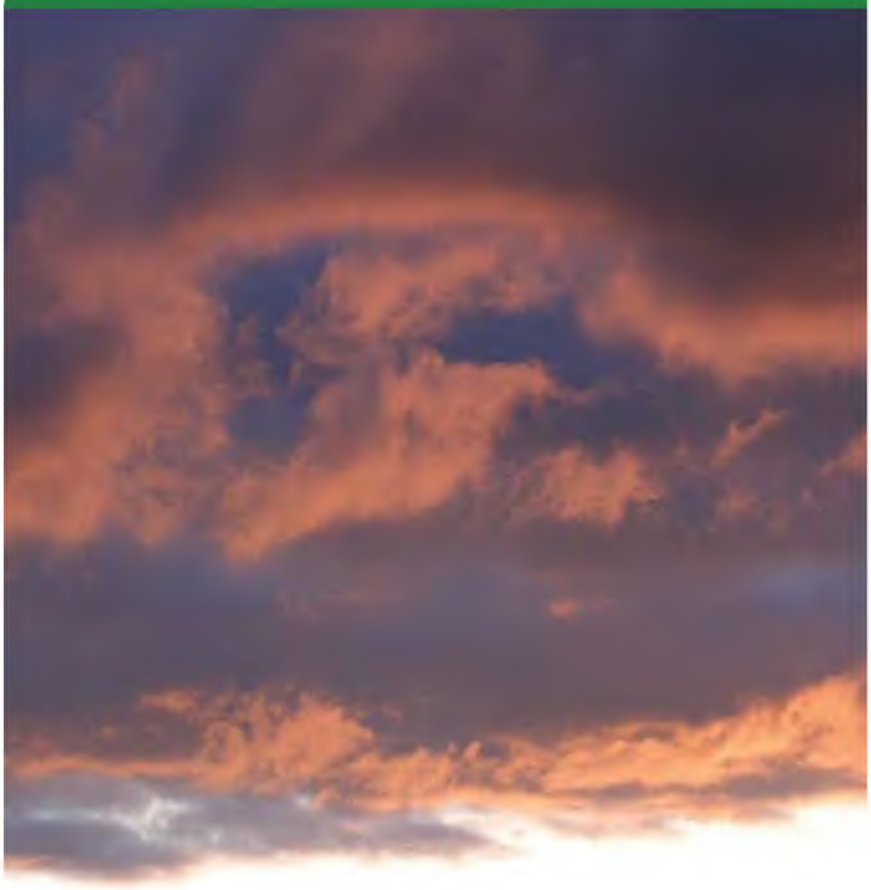
Option 1:
All new development should be concentrated within the existing ADR's and through the development of suitable brownfield sites (even if this means higher density development, including "living over the shop").

Option 2:
In addition to the ADR's a limited amount of new greenfield sites should be released adjacent to existing settlements, so that the aims of sustainability are fulfilled and the impact on existing infrastructure is minimised.

Option 3:
Growth should be apportioned in respect of the size of each settlement on both brownfield and Greenfield sites, including growth in Bromsgrove town.

Option 4:
Sufficient green belt land should be released to cater for both locally generated and in migration housing needs.

B - The Natural Environment



Introduction

A healthy natural environment is vital to our existence. We need clean air to breathe, water to drink and food to eat in order to survive. The planet functions in a delicate balance, with all of its components interacting in complex ways which we are only just beginning to understand.

Our actions can be damaging to this natural balance. Urbanisation, industrialisation and the intensification of agriculture impact on the natural environment and put it under increasing pressure. More and more of our species are becoming increasingly threatened or facing extinction. We suffer from the effects of pollution. There is now virtual scientific consensus that climate change is real and is happening. Coupled with the fact that our supplies of fossil fuels are rapidly running out, fuel prices are rising and our landfill sites are filling fast, it makes sense to find a cleaner, greener way to live.

Our growing understanding has led to increasing efforts to live in a way which, while allowing continued economic and social development, reduces our impact on the natural environment. This is the concept of sustainable development. By thinking about the way in which we do things and becoming more sustainable, we can meet our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

The policies we write and planning decisions we make have an important role to play in the sustainability of our societies. We need to know your views on the natural environment aspects of sustainability, so that we can reflect these in our policies.

Climate Change and Renewable Energy

National Context

The Government believes that climate change is the greatest long term challenge facing the world today. Therefore addressing the climate challenge is the Government's principle concern for sustainable development. Planning Policy Statement 1 'Planning and Climate Change' states that new development should contribute to global sustainability and be resilient to the effects of climate change.

The increased development of renewable energy resources is vital to the delivery of the Government's commitments on both climate change and renewable energy, and this is recognised in Planning Policy Statement 22 'Renewable Energy'. The 2003 Energy White Paper sets the direction for our energy policy, giving the following targets:

- A reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of some 60% from 1990 levels by about 2050.
- Renewables to supply 10% of UK electricity by 2010.
- Renewables to supply around 20% of UK electricity by 2020.

Renewable energy is one way in which we can reduce the future effects of climate change. Planning Policy Statement 22 'Renewable Energy' provides a positive framework for renewable energy within the planning system.

Regional Context

The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) published in 2004 provides the overarching planning policy framework for the region. Conserving the quality of the environment and prudent use of natural resources are key elements in the achievement of sustainable development. Policies EN1 Energy Generation and EN2 Energy Conservation are of particular relevance in this respect.

Although climate change has been considered in phase 2 of the revision, it will be specifically examined in phase 3.

The RSS will also guide the amount of new commercial and industrial floorspace. This sector is typically a major contributor to CO2 emissions, so energy usage needs to be minimised and use of renewables maximised.

The West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy (RES) sets the targets for the region in terms of energy generation and emissions reductions.

Local Context

The existing Local Plan does not contain any specific policies which positively tackle the impact of climate change.

Bromsgrove, together with National Government must look to reduce its impact on natural resources by recycling more, by saving energy and by generating more sustainable or low carbon energy.

Flood Risk

National Context

Planning Policy Statement 25 'Development and Flood Risk' sets out the Government's policy on flood risk management, which seeks to avoid, reduce and manage flood risk. The aims of planning policy on development and flood risk are to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and to direct development away from areas at highest risk. It is recommended that Regional Planning bodies and Local Planning Authorities should prepare and implement planning strategies that help to deliver sustainable development by appraising risk, managing risk and reducing risk.

Regional Context

Policy QE9 The Water Environment of the RSS, is of particular relevance in this respect. It states that the implications of climate change for the severity of floods is uncertain but the most realistic approach is to accept that flooding is an inevitable process. A Regional Flood Risk Assessment has been commissioned in order to identify where flooding issues are likely to be of regional significance, assess their implications for the distribution of development and where appropriate set out appropriate policies and measures to address them.

Local Context

The existing Local Plan does not contain any specific policies which seek to address the impact of climate change on the issue of flooding. Although no major rivers flow through the District, there are a number of small watercourses that do occasionally result in localised flooding. The majority of flooding incidences in the District, especially in urban areas, is caused by water run off, rather than overflowing watercourses. It is intended to carry out a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) of the District in the near future and one of the areas examined will be the potential increase in flood risk to existing development due to increased run off from any future developments. The Assessment will also consider those parts of the District where land management could influence the nature of flood risk downstream of the District boundary. Flood risk will need to be assessed against other land-use priorities, such as Areas of Development Restraint, strategically important brownfield sites, including the measures that can be used to address flood risk when developing these sites.

Waste and Recycling

National Context

More sustainable waste management aims to move the management of waste up the waste hierarchy of reduction, reuse, recycling and composting. By using waste as a source of energy and only disposing as a last resort, the Government aims to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impact of waste. Planning Policy Statement 10 states that the overall objective of Government policy on waste is to protect human health and the environment, by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible.

Regional Context

Policies WD1 Targets for Waste Management in the Region and WD2 The Need for Waste Management Facilities- by Sub Region of the RSS are of particular relevance in relation to waste and recycling. The Region must play its part in delivering the targets set out in the National Waste Strategy. The Regional Waste Strategy for the West Midlands aims to maintain Regional self-sufficiency and incorporates challenging Government targets for different forms of waste management. This includes increased quantities of waste being treated further up the waste hierarchy.

Local Context

The existing Local Plan contains policies on the provision of recycling facilities Policy ES 12 and Landfill Policy ES16. In April 2004 Bromsgrove launched its new waste and recycling collection system to approximately 37000 households. In 2005/6 over 40% of household waste throughout Bromsgrove District was recycled. This means that for each house in the District nearly half a tonne of rubbish was recycled.

Biodiversity

National Context

Planning Policy Statement 9: 'Biodiversity and Geological Conservation' sets out the Government's policy on the role of the planning system in the conservation of biodiversity. This makes it clear that our policies and planning decisions should prevent harm to biodiversity, and ideally enhance, restore or add to biodiversity interests.

Regional Context

The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Chapter 8 refers to the Quality of the Environment and contains policies which protect biodiversity. Policy QE7: 'Protecting, managing and enhancing the Region's Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Resources' is of particular relevance. This encourages the maintenance and enhancement of the Region's biodiversity resources. The RSS is currently under revision and biodiversity is expected to be considered in phase 3 of this.

Local Context

The existing Bromsgrove District Local Plan (adopted in 2004) chapter 'Nature Conservation' contains current policies for biodiversity.
Policies C9 to C11 provide protection for designated sites, locally important sites and protected species and habitats. Policy C12 sets out rules for the protection of major wildlife corridors. C16 requires consideration of landscape and wildlife in the building of infrastructure. The existing Local Plan only contains policies for the protection of biodiversity and does not provide positive biodiversity gain.

Options

B1 - Climate Change and Renewable Energy

Burning fossil fuels to provide energy for our homes, offices, industries and transport needs is releasing carbon into the atmosphere far faster than the natural rate, leading to the greenhouse effect and climate change.

For the UK climate change is likely to mean more extreme weather events, including hotter and drier summers and increased heavy rainfall. Permanent changes to the natural environment are inevitable and the way our society functions could be threatened.

We need to start planning for development that will help to slow the rate of climate change, but also that is resilient to the effects which are already underway. One way to reduce the effects in the future is through the use of renewable or low carbon energy. This includes using energy from the sun, wind and water, and from burning materials from plants or animals (biomass) in the place of fossil fuels.

Option 1:
New developments to obtain a set percentage of their energy from a renewable/low carbon source (in line with National and Regional targets).

Option 2:
New developments to achieve a set percentage which is above National/Regional targets of their energy from a renewable/low carbon source.

Option 3:
Include a presumption in favour of applications for renewable energy technologies in the local area.

B2 - Flooding

With continuing climate change the UK can expect changing rainfall patterns and more extreme weather events. This is likely to include wetter winters and more intense downpours, leading to an increased risk of flooding. We need to start planning for development that will help to adapt to and mitigate the effects of flooding.

Option 1:
Development on the flood plain should be avoided.

Option 2:
Development which increases the risk of flooding elsewhere within the District and beyond the District's boundaries should be avoided.

Option 3:
Development should be designed to reduce the impact of flooding and prevent increases in flood risk through for instance, the inclusion of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS), water harvesting and innovative design solutions.

Option 4:
The inclusion of flood water storage areas should be encouraged. For example, future flood risk can be minimised by providing balancing ponds and naturalising water courses.

B3 - Waste and Recycling

Each year the UK generates around 100 million tonnes of waste from households, commerce and industry. Most of this ends up on landfill sites where it biodegrades, releasing green house gases, while valuable energy is used in extracting and processing new raw materials. We need to plan for developments which make waste reduction and recycling easier.

Option 1:
New developments should include space for recycling (ie green bins) and encourage water harvesting methods (for example, water butts) in their proposals.

Option 2:
New developments should include space for recycling (ie green bins), encourage water harvesting methods, consider including community composting facilities and use of 'grey water' schemes where appropriate.

Option 3:
New developments should use a set percentage of recycled or sustainably produced materials in their construction (where appropriate).

B4 - Biodiversity

The term biodiversity encompasses the whole variety of life on earth. It covers what we know as wildlife, but also includes the components on which our wildlife depends; their habitats and the interconnections which make up an ecosystem.

Biodiversity is our life support system, providing our food, clothing, building materials and medicines, purifying our air and water and fertilising our soils. Without these functions we could not survive. The natural world provides us with space to relax away from the work and home environment, having a positive effect on our quality of life.

Despite these benefits our actions are putting biodiversity under increasing pressure. Urbanisation, industrialisation and agricultural intensification have pushed our biodiversity to the margins of our existence. Our actions are also having an indirect effect through climate change. With increased temperatures and greater seasonal variations in rainfall, habitats will be unavoidably altered.
Landscape scale conservation and wildlife corridors are of utmost importance if species are to be able to move to adapt.
We need to start planning for development which prevents negative effects and brings about positive benefits for biodiversity.

Option 1:
Where possible all development should provide some positive benefit for biodiversity and the natural environment.

Option 2:
Developments which would cause unnecessary harm to biodiversity and the natural environment should be resisted wherever possible.

Option 3:
Prioritise protection of biodiversity and the natural environment highly, but weigh this against social and economic objectives when considering development proposals.

Option 4:
Consider the impacts from development in a wider environmental context, paying attention to potential effects on the ability of biodiversity to adapt to climate change.

Next Steps

Following this consultation stage about the issues that should be addressed and the options available, we will assess all the comments received, together with other sources of evidence and information.

A further period of consultation will be carried out on the Preferred Options that the District Council proposes. We hope to reach this stage later in 2007.

This will lead to the preparation of the Core Strategy itself which will finalise the vision, objectives and key policies that will set the direction for planning and influence other decisions of this Council over the next 20 years. It is planned that this will be submitted to the Government in 2008.

A formal period for making representations is provided and an Examination in Public will be held. Any new issues raised at this late stage are unlikely to be taken into account, please let us know the issues that affect you now!

Have Your Say

The more people who get involved now, the better we will be able to plan for the future. We need your responses by 24th August 2007.
Please fill in the questionnaire or if you prefer you may make your comments in writing, which you can do in the following ways:

E-mail: **planningpolicy@bromsgrove.gov.uk**

Facsimile: **01527 881313**

Write to us at: **Bromsgrove District Council**
The Council House
Burcot Lane
Bromsgrove
Worcestershire B60 1AA

Or visit our website for further information:
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/planningpolicy

Notes

Issues and Options

Local Development Framework

Building Bromsgrove's Future

This brochure can be provided in large print, braille, CD, audio tape and computer disc

Need help with English? Ethnic Access Link Tel: 01905 25121

'Potrzebujesz pomocy z Angielskim - skontaktuj się z Ethnic Access Tel: 01905 25121'

Potrebujete pomôct's angličtinou? Kontaktujte etnickú prístupovú linku na telefónom čísle 01905 25121

„Aveți nevoie de ajutor cu engleza? Contactați Ethnic Access la numărul de telefon: 01905 25121."

क्या अंग्रेजी में सहायता चाहिए? ऐथनिक ऐक्सेस लिंक [Ethnic Access Link] से फ़ोनः 01905 25121 पर संपर्क करें

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Bromsgrove District Council

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BUILDING **PRIDE**

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