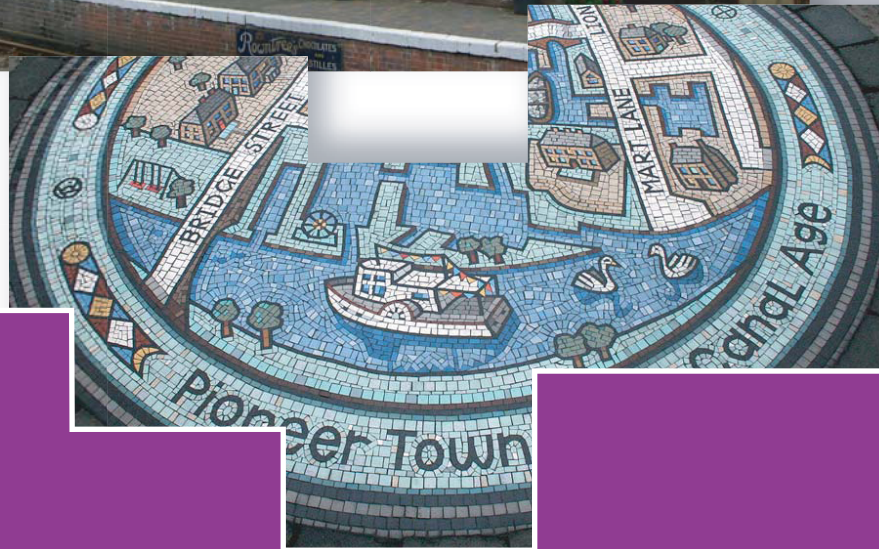
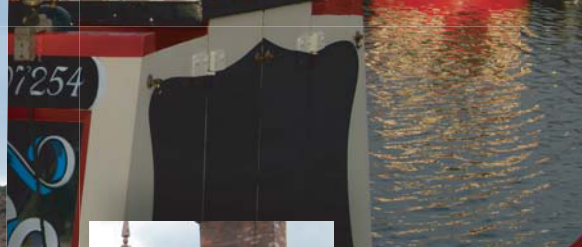
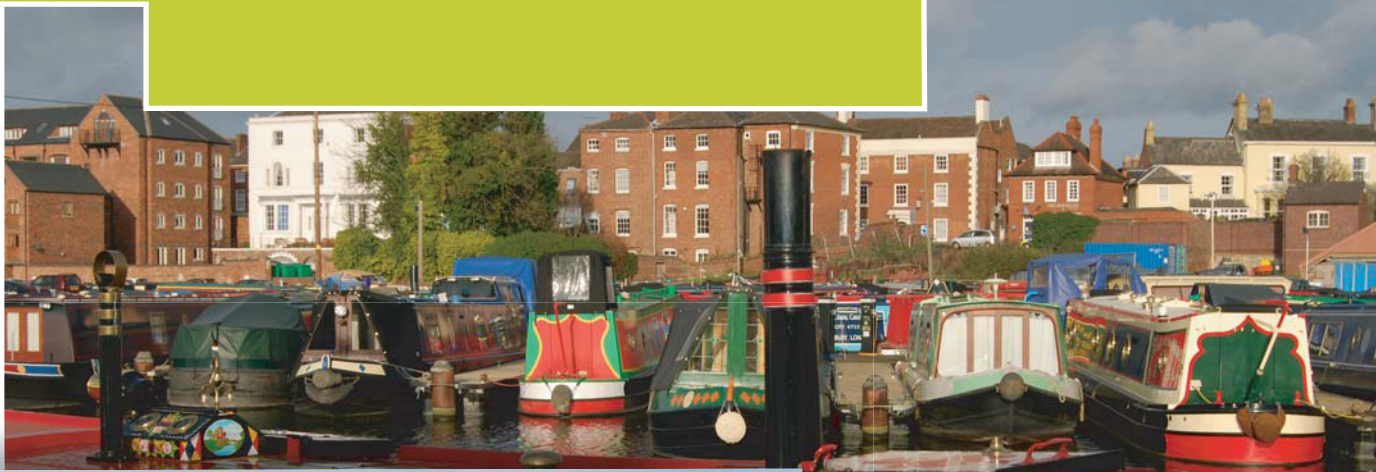


Wyre Forest District Council

SITE ALLOCATIONS AND POLICIES PLAN

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL UPDATE
FEBRUARY 2013



Wyre Forest District Council

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Wyre Forest District Council



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1 Introduction

1.1 As part of the Examination in Public process, the District Council has asked the Inspector to consider a number of main modifications to the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan in response to representations raised at the Publication stage. These main modifications have been developed through Statements of Common Ground and through the hearing sessions held in January/February 2013. The full table of main modifications can be viewed using the links to the Examination Library on the District Council's web-site.

1.2 The main modifications cover a number of issues. Some of the main modifications are considered to be significant enough to require additional Sustainability Appraisal (SA) work to be undertaken. These are modifications which introduce new land uses to sites or which significantly change the meaning of an existing policy or introduce a new policy. Where multiple changes have been made to a policy the complete policy will be reconsidered as a whole incorporating all amendments.

1.3 In addition to the main modifications, a number of minor amendments have been proposed by the District Council. These minor amendments focus on improving the clarity of the document and correcting typographical errors and it is not therefore necessary to undertake any further Sustainability Appraisal work as a result of these changes.

1.4 This report tests the main modifications which require SA against the SA framework and sets out the results of this testing and the implications for the wider SA of the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan. This report draws on the methodology from the July 2012 Final Sustainability Appraisal Report and these reports should be read alongside each other.

1.5 The District Council undertook a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) screening exercise to ascertain whether a full HRA was needed for the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan. This exercise concluded that further work was not necessary. The proposed main modifications are not considered to be significant enough to necessitate any further work in relation to HRA.

2 Sustainability Appraisal of Main Modifications

2.1 This section presents an overview of the performance of the main modifications against the SA framework. The full results of the testing can be found at Appendix A to this report. Any changes to the SA are shown in bold italic text.

2.2 The testing tables set out at Appendix 2 do not raise any new negative sustainability issues. A number of the changes have led to policies performing more favourably against the SA framework. Some of the changes have led to new positive effects being identified. The effects of the changes are summarised below.

- Amending policies SAL.DPL1 and SAL.DPL2 to allow a wider range of housing in Bewdley and the rural areas will further assist the delivery of a choice of housing types and tenure to meet a range of needs.
- Amending policy SAL.GPB1 to allow for the development of waste facilities on sites allocated for employment uses will help to manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy. Amendments to SAL.GPB1 to set out detailed guidance in relation to live/work units will help to widen housing choice, reduce the need to travel and assist economic diversification.
- The amendment of policy SAL.GPB3 to raise the threshold of local retail from 250m² to 280m² has no sustainability implications.
- Changes to policy SAL.CC2 to remove the requirement for no overall reduction in car-parking spaces could help to achieve sustainability objectives and promote high quality design by allowing schemes to be considered more holistically.
- Changes to policy SAL.CC2 will help to improve water quality.
- Changes to policy SAL.RS1 and SAL.RS2 in relation to affordable and local needs housing have no impact on the SA testing.
- Changes to policy SAL.RS2 will help to safeguard mineral reserves.
- Changes to policy SAL.PDS1 will help to deliver a safe and secure environment and, a prosperous economy for the District.

3 Conclusion

3.1 The changes set out as part of the Proposed Main Modifications do not lead to any adverse sustainability effects. The changes either have no effect on the outcome of the Sustainability Appraisal or they have a positive effect. The changes proposed do not require any further HRA work to be undertaken.

A Policy Testing Tables

Table A.0.1

SA Objective	SAL.DPL1 SALMA02	SAL.DPL2 SALMA03	SAL.GPB1 SALMA07	SAL.GPB3 SALMA08
1	++ The locational criteria for residential sites ensures that they are in areas where facilities and services are easily accessible. Long-term positive effect.	++ Policy focuses rural housing on areas with widest range of services. Long-term positive effect.	N/A	N/A
2	++ The locational criteria for residential sites ensures that they are in areas where facilities and services are easily accessible. Long-term positive effect.	++ Policy focuses rural housing on areas with widest range of services. Long-term positive effect.	N/A	++ Will ensure residents have access to convenience retail facilities. Short-term positive effect
3	++ Allocating sites and providing guidelines for the location of residential development will improve access to housing. Long-term positive effect.	++ Policy will help to deliver affordable housing in rural areas. Long-term positive effect. Policy amendment will help to secure housing to meet all local needs in rural areas.	+ Will help to widen housing choice within the District.	N/A
4	+ Increased housing choice and accessibility in locations with easy access to services and facilities will improve quality of life. Long-term positive effect. Amendment to policy will further increase housing choice.	+ Increased availability of rural affordable housing will improve quality of life. Long-term positive effect.	++ Will increase access to employment opportunities. Long-term positive effect.	N/A
5	+ New residential developments will be required to incorporate 'Secured by Design' principles. Long-term positive effect.	+ New residential developments will be required to incorporate 'Secured by Design' principles. Long-term positive effect.	N/A	N/A

SA Objective	SALDPL1 SALMA02	SALDPL2 SALMA03	SALGPB1 SALMA07	SALGPB3 SALMA08
6	<p>+</p> <p>New residential developments will be required to incorporate recycling facilities. Long-term positive effect.</p>	<p>+</p> <p>New residential developments will be required to incorporate recycling facilities. Long-term positive effect.</p>	<p>+</p> <p>Policy amendment will allow waste recycling and disposal facilities on employment land. Long-term positive effect.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
7	<p>+</p> <p>New residential developments will be required to incorporate an element of renewable energy. Long-term positive effect.</p>	<p>+</p> <p>New residential developments will be required to incorporate an element of renewable energy. Long-term positive effect.</p>	<p>+</p> <p>New commercial units over 10,000 m² will need to provide renewable energy. Long-term positive effect.</p>	<p>X</p> <p>New retail uses under this policy will fall below the threshold for incorporating renewable energy. Long-term negative effect which could be reversed by retro-fitting.</p>
8	<p>++</p> <p>The policy identifies locations which will facilitate travel by sustainable modes. Long-term positive effect.</p>	<p>+</p> <p>Policy seeks to locate rural affordable housing in areas with the best public transport links. Long-term positive effect.</p>	<p>++</p> <p>Will focus employment in accessible locations and therefore reduce the need to travel. Long-term positive effect. Live/work units will further reduce the need to travel.</p>	<p>++</p> <p>Ensuring a range of retail facilities are available across the District will reduce the need to travel. Short-term positive effect.</p>
9	<p>+</p> <p>The locations identified offer opportunities to address AQMAs within the District and also re-use brownfield sites. New residential development will be required to incorporate water efficiency measures. Long-term positive effect.</p>	<p>+</p> <p>Policy amendments will help to safeguard and enhance water quality.</p>	<p>+</p> <p>Identified sites are brownfield and located outside of AQMAs. Long-term positive effect.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
10	<p>+</p> <p>Majority of sites do not present flooding issues. A small number of the sites identified have raised issues in relation to flood risk. These will need to be addressed on a site-by-site basis. Long-term positive effect.</p>	<p>+</p> <p>Rural exception sites must be in accordance with the flood risk policy set out within the Adopted Core Strategy. Long-term positive effect.</p>	<p>++</p> <p>No identified sites are within flood zones 2 or 3. Long-term positive effect.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
11	<p>+</p> <p>All new residential development will be required to demonstrate high quality design. Where sites are within Conservation Areas or involve the conversion of Listed Buildings, this must be in accordance with the relevant heritage policies. Long-term positive effect.</p>	<p>+</p> <p>All new residential development will be required to demonstrate high quality design. Where sites are within Conservation Areas or involve the conversion of Listed Buildings, this must be in accordance with the relevant heritage policies. Long-term positive effect.</p>	<p>+/X?</p> <p>Will depend on design, design policy will be applied to all new development to seek high quality design. Possible long-term positive or negative effect.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

SA Objective	SAL.DPL1 SALMA02	SAL.DPL2 SALMA03	SAL.GPB1 SALMA07	SAL.GPB3 SALMA08
12	+ All major new residential developments will be required to contribute to the Green Infrastructure Network. Long-term positive effect.	+ All major new residential developments will be required to contribute to the Green Infrastructure Network. Long-term positive effect.	N/A	N/A
13	+ Where sites are within Conservation Areas or involve the conversion of Listed Buildings, this must be in accordance with the relevant heritage policies. Long-term positive effect.	+ Where sites are within Conservation Areas or involve the conversion of Listed Buildings, this must be in accordance with the relevant heritage policies. Long-term positive effect.	+/X? Will depend on design, design policy will be applied to all new development to seek high quality design. Possible long-term positive or negative effect.	N/A
14	++ New residential development will be focused on brownfield sites, safeguarding greenfield land, particularly the best and most versatile agricultural land. Long-term positive effect.	++ New residential development will be focused on brownfield sites, safeguarding greenfield land, particularly the best and most versatile agricultural land. Long-term positive effect.	+? Sites are previously developed however, Lea Castle is Green Belt therefore policy should restrict redevelopment to existing footprint. Long-term positive effect if development at Lea Castle is restricted to existing footprint.	N/A
15	++ New residential development is focused around Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn. Long-term positive effect.	++ New residential development in the rural areas will be limited to encourage the regeneration of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn. Long-term positive effect.	++ Will promote the regeneration of both Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn. Long-term positive effect.	N/A
16	+ All new residential developments will be required to demonstrate that they have considered the impacts of climate change in accordance with the Adopted Core Strategy policies. Long-term positive effect.	+ All new residential developments will be required to demonstrate that they have considered the impacts of climate change in accordance with the relevant Adopted Core Strategy policies. Long-term positive effect.	N/A	N/A
17	+ Focusing new residential development in existing built-up areas will reduce the spread of noise and light pollution. Long-term positive effect.	++ Limiting new residential development within the rural areas will limit the spread of noise and light pollution. Long-term positive effect.	X? Industrial development may increase noise and light pollution. Possible long-term negative effect which is irreversible.	N/A
18	N/A	N/A	+ Will provide employment and training opportunities. Long-term positive effect.	+ New retail development will provide employment and training opportunities. Long-term positive effect.

SA Objective	SAL.DPL1 SALMA02	SAL.DPL2 SALMA03	SAL.GPB1 SALMA07	SAL.GPB3 SALMA08
19	Communities will have the opportunity to be involved further at planning application level. ++	Communities will have the opportunity to be involved further at planning application level. ++	N/A	Communities will have the opportunity to be involved further at planning application level. ++
20	N/A	N/A	Will enable economic diversification. Long-term positive effect. Live/work units will help to diversify the economy. ++	New retail development will contribute to a diverse economy. Long-term positive effect. +
21	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table A.0.2

SA Objective	SAL.CC2 SALMA09	SAL.CC7 SALMA11/SALMA12	SAL.RS1 SALMA18	SAL.RS2 SALMA19	SAL.PDS1 SALMA20
1	N/A	N/A	+ No GP/healthcare facilities within walking distance. Facilities within Kidderminster can be accessed by bus or train both within 10 minutes walk. Long-term positive effect which could be reversed through relocation of medical facilities.	XX No healthcare facilities within walking distance. Bus stop within 5 minute walk but service is only 2 hourly. Long-term negative effect which could be reversed through relocation of medical facilities.	X GP within 20 minutes walk of part of site. Services in Kidderminster accessible by bus. Bus stop approx 15 minutes walk, half hourly service. It should be noted that the loss of existing facilities at the site has not been considered because the site has already ceased operating. Long-term negative effect which could be reversed through relocation of medical facilities.
2	N/A	N/A	+ Local shop within 5 minutes walk. Bus and rail services to Kidderminster within 10 minutes walk. Long-term positive effect which could be reversed through changes to service provision and public transport.	X Village shop within 5 minutes walk. Poor public transport access to higher order services. Long-term negative effect which could be reversed through changes to service provision and public transport.	XX Remote from facilities, Cookley village facilities within 20 minutes walk of part of site, poor public transport connections. Long-term negative effect which could be reversed through changes to service provision and public transport.

SA Objective	SAL.CC2 SALMA09	SAL.CC7 SALMA11/SALMA12	SAL.RS1 SALMA18	SAL.RS2 SALMA19	SAL.PDS1 SALMA20
3	N/A	N/A	+ Site would be required to provide affordable housing in accordance with the Core Strategy policy. Long-term positive effect.	+ Site would be required to provide affordable housing in accordance with the Core Strategy policy. Long-term positive effect.	+ Site would be required to provide affordable housing in accordance with the Core Strategy policy although an off-site contribution may be more appropriate because of the site's location. Long-term positive effect.
4	N/A	N/A	++ Open space and play facilities within 10 minutes walk. Primary school within 10 minutes walk. Secondary school accessible by bus. Employment opportunities accessible by train or bus. Long-term positive effect which could be altered by changes in play and education provision.	XX No formal open space or play area within walking distance. No school in walking distance, school bus service from the village. Employment opportunities accessible by bus. Long-term negative effect which could be altered by changes in play and education provision.	X Nearest facilities are at Cookley which is within 20 minutes walk of part of site. Primary school 25 minutes walk. Secondary school 45 minutes walk or accessible by bus. Employment opportunities accessible by bus. Long-term negative effect which could be altered by changes in play and education provision.
5	+ Well integrated car-parking can reduce the anti-social behaviour and crime which can be associated with large surface level car-parks in the evening. Long-term positive effect.	N/A	+ Would prevent anti-social behaviour currently associated with the site. Long-term positive effect.	N/A	+ Site currently suffers from anti-social behaviour, amendments proposed would ensure the deliverability of the site which would help to create a safe and secure environment.
6	N/A	N/A	+ Any development of the site will need to include waste minimisation measures in accordance with the Core Strategy. Long-term positive effect.	+ Any development of the site will need to include waste minimisation measures in accordance with the Core Strategy. Long-term positive effect.	+ Any development of the site will need to include waste minimisation measures in accordance with the Core Strategy. Long-term positive effect.
7	X Car-parking provision can encourage car use	N/A	++ Development would be required to meet the standards set out within the Core Strategy. Could reach higher standards as it is a large	+ Development would be required to meet the standards set out within the Core Strategy. Long-term positive effect.	+ Development would be required to meet the standards set out within the Core Strategy. Long-term positive effect.

SA Objective	SAL.CC2 SALMA09	SAL.CC7 SALMA11/SALMA12	SAL.RS1 SALMA18	SAL.RS2 SALMA19	SAL.PDS1 SALMA20
	and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Short-term negative effect which could be reversed.		greenfield site could allow economies of scale to be achieved. Long-term positive effect.		
8	X Car-parking provision can act as an incentive for car travel and detract from sustainable modes. Short-term negative effect which could be reversed.	N/A	+ Reasonably well located for access to services and facilities by public transport. Long-term positive effect which could be reversed through changes to public transport provision.	X Relatively poorly located for accessing services on foot or by public transport. Mitigation would be sought in the form of improved bus services. Long-term negative effect which could be reversed through changes to public transport provision.	XX Poorly located for access to services and facilities by public transport. Mitigation would be sought. Long-term negative effect which could be reversed through changes to public transport provision.
9	N/A	++ Policy amendment will help to improve water quality.	+? Site is not within an AQMA. The Water Cycle Strategy identifies some constraints relating to sewerage infrastructure which would need to be addressed. Long-term positive effect if issues can be overcome.	? Site is not within an AQMA. The Water Cycle Strategy identifies some significant constraints relating to sewerage infrastructure and wastewater treatment which would need to be addressed. Long-term positive effect if issues can be overcome.	+? Site is not within an AQMA. The Water Cycle Strategy identified some issues relating to sewerage infrastructure which would need to be addressed. Long-term positive effect if issues can be overcome.
10	N/A	+ Will reduce flood risk within the District. Long-term positive effect.	? Site is not within the floodplain. The Water Cycle Strategy identifies that some infrastructure upgrading would be required. Possible long-term positive effect if issues can be overcome.	+? Site is not within the floodplain. However the Water Cycle Strategy identifies that additional run-off into Dick Brook could pose a risk to existing properties. Mitigation measures would need to be put in place. Long-term positive effect if issues can be overcome.	++ Site is not within the floodplain. Long-term positive effect.

SA Objective	SAL.CC2 SALMA09	SAL.CC7 SALMA11/SALMA12	SAL.RS1 SALMA18	SAL.RS2 SALMA19	SAL.PDS1 SALMA20
11	+ Integrating car-parking effectively will have a positive impact on the townscape. Long-term positive effect. <i>The policy amendment could support this objective by looking at schemes holistically rather than requiring no reduction in spaces.</i>	N/A	+ Would bring an overgrown derelict site back into use, opportunity to improve the townscape. Mitigation will be required to secure this benefit. Long-term positive effect.	+ Potential to improve streetscene at crossroads. Mitigation will be required to secure this benefit. Long-term benefit.	? No adverse impact if only existing footprint is developed.
12	N/A	+ Could provide opportunities for green infrastructure and biodiversity. Long-term positive effect.	X Potential negative impacts from loss of tree cover and run-off flowing into adjacent streams and pools which form part of a Special Wildlife Site. Long-term significant effect which is irreversible. Mitigation would be required in the form of a contribution to the green infrastructure network.	X Potential adverse impact as a result of loss of scrubland. Long-term significant adverse effect which is irreversible. Mitigation would be required in the form of a contribution to the green infrastructure network.	? No adverse impact if only existing footprint is redeveloped.
13	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
14	N/A	N/A	X Site is greenfield and grade 2-3 agricultural land although the site currently has a large area of hard standing and a number of derelict greenhouses. Site is in the Green Belt Long-term significant effect which is irreversible.	++ Site is brownfield. Policy amendment will help to safeguard mineral reserves.	+?/X Site is brownfield assuming that only footprint of existing buildings is redeveloped. Site is in the Green Belt

SA Objective	SAL.CC2 SALMA09	SAL.CC7 SALMA11/SALMA12	SAL.RS1 SALMA18	SAL.RS2 SALMA19	SAL.PDS1 SALMA20
15	N/A	N/A	0 Development which includes a high proportion of affordable housing to meet locally identified needs supported by some market housing would not have a serious detrimental impact on the regeneration of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn.	0 Small-scale housing would not have a major detrimental impact on the regeneration of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn.	+ A mixed use development here could provide executive housing helping to attract businesses to Kidderminster. The mix of uses could also have a positive effect on the economy of Kidderminster.
16	N/A	+ SUDS will help to mitigate against flooding caused by climate change. Long-term positive effect.	+? Development would be required to meet the standards set out within the Core Strategy as a minimum. However the Water Cycle Strategy identifies some issues relating to the implementation of SUDS on the site which would need to be overcome. Long-term positive effect if issues are overcome.	+ Development would be required to meet the standards set out within the Core Strategy as a minimum.	+ Development would be required to meet the standards set out within the Core Strategy as a minimum. Long-term positive effect.
17	N/A	N/A	X Would increase noise and light levels in the area. Long-term significant effect which is irreversible.	X Would increase noise and light levels in the area. Long-term significant adverse effect which is irreversible.	X Is likely to increase noise within the area. Long-term significant effect which would be irreversible.
18	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
19	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	++ Securing employment development on this site will diversify the economy. Long-term positive effect.
21	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A