Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework

Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan

Development Plan Document

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

April 2008

Forward Planning Section
Planning, Health & Environment Division
Wyre Forest District Council
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SEA Directive requirements and Where they are met:

SEA Directive Requirement	Where it is Met
(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Section 6 and Appendix A
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Section 7 and Appendix B
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Section 7 and Appendix B
(d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	Appendix B and Section 8
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	Appendix A and Section 9
(f) the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;	Full SA Report
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	Full SA Report
(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Full SA Report
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	Full SA Report
(j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Full SA Report

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process forms an integral part of producing the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan (KCAAP) Development Plan Document. Details of the SA process are outlined at Section 4 in this scoping report. This SA Scoping Report sets out a series of questions for stakeholders in the KCAAP production process. The purpose of the questions is to establish whether the right information is being focussed on and to ascertain whether there are any further issues, which need to be addressed in the full SA Report.

1.2   A summary of the questions asked throughout the report is set out below. Please refer to Section 12.5 for details of how to comment.

Q.1   Do you consider there to be any other relevant plans, policies, programmes or objectives that may affect or influence the KCAAP Development Plan Document other than those identified in Appendix A of this report?

Q.2   Are you aware of any relevant baseline data, which is not set out in Appendix B of this report?

Q.3   Are you aware of any inaccuracies in the data set out in Appendix B of this report?

Q.4   Are you aware of any other sustainability issues, for which evidence can be provided, that should be considered in the SA Report?

Q.5   Do you consider that the SA objectives are suitable, or do you consider that any should be added or removed?

2.   BACKGROUND

2.1   The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act introduced the requirement for local authorities to produce Local Development Frameworks (LDFs). These are a series of documents that set out the planning policy for an area. Area Action Plans are not a compulsory part of the LDF. However, the District Council has chosen to produce an AAP for Kidderminster Central because it is envisaged that Kidderminster Town Centre will continue to be a focus of major change. The on-going renaissance of Kidderminster is a key issue to be addressed through the LDF and the Kidderminster Central AAP will provide a spatial dimension to the Kidderminster Economic Regeneration Strategy. The AAP will cover Central Kidderminster, including the Town Centre, Horsefair and Comberton Hill.

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Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework
Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD - Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (April 2008)

3. THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (SA) PROCESS

3.1   A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required under Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; it forms an integral part of the process of producing the Local Development Documents (LDDs) that make up the LDF. The SA Process for DPDs, including the KCAAP, helps Local Planning Authorities to assess the degree to which the plans and proposals contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development. This understanding assists in the preparation of planning policy. It is intended that the SA process will be carried out internally as an integral part of the plan preparation process.

3.2   The key areas of emphasis for SA include:

- Collecting and presenting baseline information to establish an accurate picture of the economic, social and environmental trends within the District.
- Predicting the significant adverse effects of the proposals and addressing them during the preparation process.
- Identifying reasonable options and their effects.
- Mitigating any negative effects that may arise.
- Involving the public and authorities with social, environmental and economic responsibilities in the assessment process.
- Monitoring the actual effects of the proposals during their implementation.

3.3   Guidance on SA is contained within the following documents:

- Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks (ODPM November 2005).
- SEA Directive 42/2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (ODPM).
- ODPM Interim Advice Note on Frequently Asked Questions (April 2005).
- The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004).

4. PURPOSE OF THE SA SCOPING REPORT

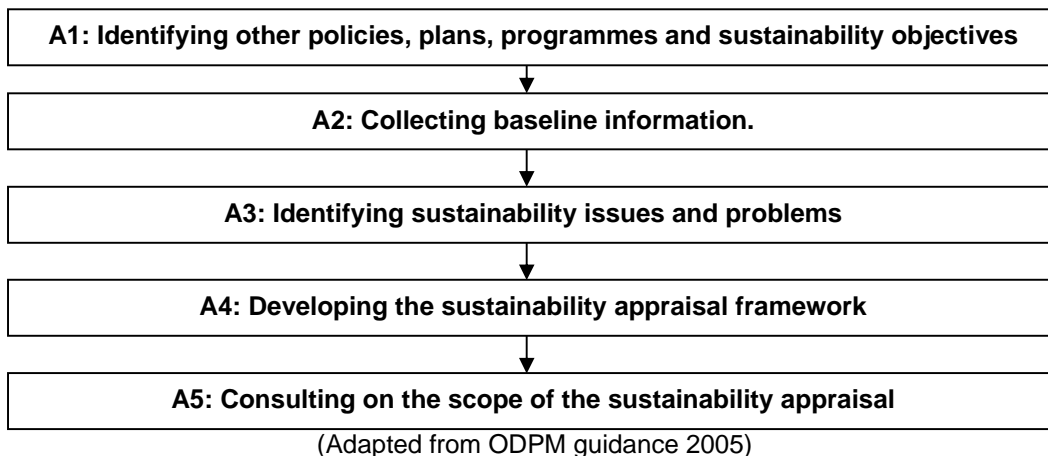4.1   The Scoping Report forms the first stage (Stage A) in the SA process for assessing the sustainability implications of the KCAAP. Stage A of the process is undertaken during the pre-production stage of the AAP. The purpose of this report is as follows:

- To scope other policies, plans, programmes and objectives to provide information on the KCAAP's relationship with other plans and programmes and the environmental

protection objectives as established at intentional and national level, which are relevant to the KCAAP.

- To collect relevant baseline information to identify the sustainability issues and problems within the District and cross boundary issues. Any issues identified need, where possible, to be linked to evidence by reference to the baseline information and the identification of historical or likely future trends.

- To develop the SA framework (objectives, targets and indicators) for assessing the sustainability of the KCAAP aims and objectives. This provides a way of checking whether the KCAAP aims and objectives are the best possible ones for sustainability and can be seen as a methodological yardstick against which the social, economic and environmental effects of a plan can be tested.

- To consult the statutory environmental consultation bodies (The Environment Agency; and Natural England (which incorporates The Countryside Agency, English Nature, and English Heritage) on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information to be included in the SA report. This is necessary to meet the requirements of the SEA directive, and it means that gaps or inaccuracies in the data can be addressed early in the process.

The areas that this Scoping Report covers are summarised below in the key stage diagram:

A1: Identifying other policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives

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A2: Collecting baseline information.

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A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems

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A4: Developing the sustainability appraisal framework

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A5: Consulting on the scope of the sustainability appraisal

(Adapted from ODPM guidance 2005)

5. SEA DIRECTIVE REQUIREMENTS

5.1   The SEA Directive requires that the Scoping Report should provide information on the following:

- The relationship of the KCAAP to other relevant plans and programmes.

- Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme and the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected.

- Any existing environmental problems, which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.

- The authorities which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programmes shall be consulted when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which will be included in the environmental report.

5.2   As part of the evidence base for the LDF, the District has undertaken a level one Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) in order to identify and map areas at risk from flooding. The SFRA looks at flooding from all sources. The SFRA report is available on the District Council's website.   In order to further understand the implications of the District's watercourses on land use planning, a level two SFRA and a Water Cycle Study will be undertaken. These reports will also be available on the District Council's web-site later this year. Under Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, LPAs are required to undertake an Appropriate Assessment where the LDF is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. A Screening Report produced alongside the Core Strategy Preferred Options has demonstrated that there are no such sites within the District and the proposed scale of development is unlikely to have any significant impact on sites within neighboring authorities.

6.   A1: IDENTIFYING RELEVANT PLANS, POLICES, PROGRAMMES AND SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

6.1   The SEA Directive requires local authorities to review other plans, policies and programmes in order to establish the environmental protection objectives at international and national level, which are relevant to the KCAAP. The SA process should also set out how these objectives have been taken into account during the preparation of the document.

6.2   Information on these relationships will help to address constraints and identify potential synergies with other policies from international down to the local level and to ensure that the SA process is not undertaken in isolation.

6.3   The table below sets out a summary list of plans, policies and programmes that have been reviewed as part of the SA scoping process. A detailed analysis of their objectives and how these might be incorporated into the SA Framework is included at Appendix A of this Scoping Report.

NAME OF PLAN, POLICY, PROGRAMME OR OBJECTIVE
INTERNATIONAL
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development
Rio Declaration on Environment & Development
Aarhus Convention
Kyoto Protocol
The EU Sustainable Development Strategy (updated 2005)
European Habitats Directive (1992)
European Birds Directive (1979)
European Air Quality Directive (2000)
European Water Framework Directive (2000)
European Sixth Environmental Action Plan (2001 – 2010)
European Landscape Convention
NATIONAL
Working with the Grain of Nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2002)
UK Waste Strategy (DEFRA, 2000)
Waste Strategy for England 2007 (DEFRA)
The Eddington Transport Study (2006)
Barker Review of Land Use Planning (DCLG, 2006)
Strong and Prosperous Communities – the Local Government White Paper (October 2006)
UK Strategy for Sustainable Development (2005)
Urban White Paper 2000
Sustainable Communities Plan (2003)
Transport 10 Year Plan (2000)
UK Climate Change Programme (1994)
Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change (November 2006)
Energy White Paper
The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000
Diversity and Equality in Planning 2005
Untapped Potential – Identifying and Delivering residential Development on Previously Developed Land (CPRE, 2007)
Waterways for Tomorrow (DEFRA, 2000)
Planning a Future for the Inland Waterways (IWAAC, 2001)
The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (DCMS, 2001)
Heritage Protection White Paper (DCMS, March 2007)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
Code for Sustainable Homes – A step change in sustainable home building practice (DCLG, 2006)
Planning for a Sustainable Future: The Planning White Paper (DCLG, 2007)
PPS 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)

NAME OF PLAN, POLICY, PROGRAMME OR OBJECTIVE
PPS: Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to PPS1 (DCLG 2007)
PPS 3 – Housing (2006)
PPG 4 – Industrial, Commercial Development & Small Firms (1992)
Draft PPS4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development
PPS 6 – Planning for Town Centres (2005)
PPG 8 – Telecommunications (1991)
PPS 9 – Biodiversity & Geological Conservation (2005)
PPS 10 – Planning for Sustainable Waste Management
PPS 11 – Regional Spatial Strategies (2004)
PPS 12 – Local Development Frameworks (2004)
Draft Replacement PPS12: Streamlining Local Development Frameworks: Consultation (2007)
PPG 13 – Transport (2001)
PPG 14 – Development on unstable land (1990)
PPG 15 – Planning and the historic environment (1994)
PPG 16 – Archaeology and Planning (1990)
PPG 17 – Planning for Open Space, Sport & Recreation (2002)
PPG 19 – Outdoor Advertisement Control
PPS 22 – Renewable Energy (2004)
PPS 23 – Planning & Pollution Control (2004)
PPG 24 – Planning & Noise (2001)
PPS 25 - Development & Flood Risk (2006)
Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism (DCLG, 2006)
Physical Activity and the Environment National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (January 2008)
Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society (DCLG, 2008)
REGIONAL
Regional Sustainable Development Framework (2008)
West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2004 – 2021)
West Midlands Housing Strategy 2006 – 2021
West Midlands Regional Transport Strategy 2004 – 2021
Black Country Sub-Regional Study RSS1
West Midlands RSS Revision Phase Two – Submission Document(2007)
West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy (December 2007)
West Midlands Regional Innovation Strategy
West Midlands Cultural Strategy 2001 – 2006
West Midlands Visitor Economy Strategy
West Midlands Energy Strategy
West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework
West Midlands Regional Biodiversity Strategy
West Midlands Regional Water Resources Strategy
Severn Trent Water Resources Plan 2005 - 2010
Choosing Health: Draft Regional Health and Well-Being Strategy (WMRA, 2007)
Fluvial Severn Flood Risk Management Strategy (2006)
South Housing market Area: Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2007)
South Housing Market Area: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2007)
COUNTY
Worcestershire Local Area Agreement (2006)
Partnership Towards Excellence: A Community Strategy for Worcestershire
Partnership Towards Excellence – The Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire SECOND EDITION 2008 – 2013 (Draft 2007)
Worcestershire County Structure Plan (1996 – 2011)
Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2 (2006 – 2011)
Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan

NAME OF PLAN, POLICY, PROGRAMME OR OBJECTIVE
Worcestershire Supporting People Strategy
Worcestershire County Council Tourism Strategy
A Cultural Strategy for Worcestershire
Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan 1997
Worcestershire Countryside Access & Recreation Strategy. (2003 – 2013)
Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy
Planning for Water in Worcestershire – Draft Technical Research Paper (2008)
Planning for Renewable Energy in Worcestershire - Draft Technical Research paper (2008)
DISTRICT
Wyre Forest Community Strategy (2008)
Wyre Forest Adopted Local Plan (2004)
Wyre Forest Housing Strategy (2004)
Wyre Forest Cycle Strategy (2002)
Wyre Forest Design Supplementary Planning Guidance. (2004)
Wyre Forest Community Safety Strategy
Wyre Forest Air Quality Strategy (2005)
Wyre Forest Housing Needs Survey (2003)
Wyre Forest Housing Stock Condition Survey (2007)
Wyre Forest Sustainability Strategy (2004-2007)
Wyre Forest Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (2001)

> **Q.1 Do you consider there to be any other relevant plans, policies, programmes or objectives that may affect or influence the Kidderminster Central AAP Development Plan Document other than those identified in Appendix A of this report?**

7. A2: BASELINE DATA COLLECTION

7.1 The collection of relevant baseline information provides a basis for identifying sustainability problems and for predicting and monitoring the effects of the KCAAP. Data collection should focus on the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the District.

7.2 The SEA Directive requires the identification of:

''*Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme and the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected.''* (Annex 1 (b)(c))

''*any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.''* (Annex 1 (d))

7.3 The table below shows those areas covered by the baseline data collection. These areas were deemed to be the most relevant to the KCAAP Development Plan Document. A detailed record of baseline data collection is set out at Appendix B to this Scoping Report.

Summary of Baseline Areas Covered
DATA, THEMES AND AREAS
COMMUNITIES THAT ARE SAFE AND FEEL SAFE
Crime; IMD 2007; Drug and Alcohol Misuse
A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW
Sites of Special Scientific Interest; Special Wildlife Sites; Protected Species; Tree Preservation; Water Resources; Flooding; Flood Defences; Recycling; Conservation Areas; Listed Buildings; Locally Listed Buildings; Brownfield Land Availability; Average Density of New Development; Air Quality Management Areas; Light Pollution;
ECONOMIC SUCCESS THAT IS SHARED BY ALL
Unemployment; Levels of Economic Activity; Estimated Average Earnings per Household; Benefits - Percentage of People Claiming JSA; Rental Levels; Employment By Industrial Sector 2001; Employment Areas in Kidderminster; Primary and Secondary Shopping Areas; Major Stores within the Kidderminster; Retail Yields; Retail Rents; Kidderminster Travel to Work Area; People Working from Home; Car Ownership; Public Transport within Kidderminster - Rail; Road Links; Car-Parking
IMPROVED HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
Health Status; Ward Health Profiles (IMD); Well-Being and Access to Facilities (IMD); Community Facilities; Adult and Community Learning; Open Space Provision; Leisure Facilities; Museums and Cultural Sites/Learning Opportunity Sites; Pensionable Households; Housing provision; Average Rent Levels; Average House Prices; Affordable Housing; Barriers to Housing and Services.
MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
Qualifications – GCSE; Qualifications – Higher Level; Further Education; IMD Education
STRONGER COMMUNITIES
Population and Households; Population Density, Population Age, Structure and Change; Ethnic Minorities.

> **Q.2 Are you aware of any relevant baseline data, which is not set out in Appendix B of this report?**

> **Q.3 Are you aware of any inaccuracies in the data set out in Appendix B of this report?**

8. A3: IDENTIFICATION OF MAIN SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

8.1 To help focus the SA the identification of sustainability issues is an opportunity to define key issues for the Core Strategy and to develop sustainable objectives and options. The collation of baseline data at Appendix B has identified a number of sustainability issues and trends that are current within the Wyre Forest District. These are set out below. The table

shows that there are a number of issues, which the production of the KCAAP Development Plan Document could help to address.

IDENTIFIED SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE	SUMMARY AND SCORE
Importance of safeguarding the District's Local Centres in order to serve their resident populations.	The Wyre Forest District Retail Update 2005 demonstrates that a reasonable spread of local centres and that they serve their resident populations by providing a range of services. The Horsefair and Comberton Hill local centres fall within the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan area.
A high concentration of fuel poverty within the District, particularly in the most deprived ward	15% of households are estimated to be living in fuel poverty in Wyre Forest, compared to 13.3% across the county. In the most deprived ward, this figure is 27.3% the highest in the County. (Source: Affordable Warmth for Worcestershire).
Lack of affordable housing choice across the District.	The Land Registry Residential property Price Report (2003), demonstrates that average house prices and rental across the District are high. Historically affordable housing developments have been difficult to achieve within the District.
Variation in levels of health between the District's Wards	The 2001 Census shows that the number of people with a limiting long-term illness ranges from 12.6% in Aggborough and Spennells ward to 22.9% in Wolverley ward. 2004 IMD Health rankings range from 27,136 in Bewdley to 3,818 in Oldington and Foley Park. Greenhill and Broadwaters have poor scores. Scores are generally highest in rural areas.
Need to bring empty homes within the District back into use.	There are 1,800 empty homes in the District, representing 1.94% of the total housing stock. (www.emptyhomes.com, 2005)
The need to reduce crime in the District.	Crime in the District fell between April 03 and Dec 03, during this time it was substantially below the national level. However, between January and March 04 crime increased and was level with the national figure. Crime is concentrated in the urban parts of the District.
The need to reduce drug and alcohol misuse within the District.	In 2003 Wyre Forest had the second highest number of drug offences in Worcestershire and the third highest number of alcohol related offences. These were concentrated in Kidderminster and Stourport town centres.
Need to reduce noise pollution complaints in the District	Noise complaints increased by 17.3% from 392 to 460 in the 12 months to 31/3/2006 (WFDC Database).
The need to improve the condition of SSSI Habitats, particularly marsh land and heathland areas.	English Nature surveys reveal that the majority of SSSIs within the District fall within the unfavourable/recovering category (36%). The Puxton Marsh SSSI is adjacent to the AAP area.
The need to conserve and enhance the rich variety of habitat types within the District.	The Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan (1999) identified a wide variety of Habitats, including marshes, wet woodland, canals and rivers.
The need to protect the variety of protected species from adverse development.	The Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan (1999) identifies a wide variety of protected species, including European Otters, Water Voles and bats. Protected species have been identified within the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan Area.

IDENTIFIED SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE	SUMMARY AND SCORE
Significant residential and urban areas at risk from flooding.	The Environment Agency's designated flood zones show that Kidderminster is affected from fluvial flooding from the River Stour.
Declining air quality within the urban areas of the District.	The Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan area contains an Air Quality Management Area, the Horsefair, Kidderminster. The Wyre Forest Air Quality Strategy also identifies a borderline air quality area in Kidderminster Town Centre which is within the area covered by the AAP.
To safeguard and enhance the distinctive historic environment of the District.	The District has 16 designated Conservation Areas in both urban and rural areas. Three of these Conservation Areas fall within the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan area.
Low uptake of figures for domestic micro-generation/renewable energy.	DTI Renewable Energy Consumption figures.
Need to improve energy efficiency in new and existing housing stock.	The Housing Stock Condition Survey 2001 shows that 8.1% of properties in the District are classified as having a poor energy efficiency rating and 82.8% of homes in the District have an energy rating that is below Standard.
Need to conserve water resources and use them in a more sustainable way.	Much of the District's water comes from groundwater abstraction and there is no scope for any further abstraction.
Need to reduce the total volume of waste produced and increase recycling.	The volume of waste increased substantially between 1999 and 2003. In 2003, 14,000 tonnes of waste were produced, of this, 3110.12 tonnes were recycled.
Need to focus new development on brownfield sites to preserve Greenfield land and reduce the need to travel.	At April 2006, 90% of houses under construction, with planning permission or with an allocation in the Local Plan were on brownfield sites.
Need to develop at densities greater than 30 dph in order to reduce the need to travel and preserve Greenfield land.	During 2005/06 75% of dwellings were built at densities greater than 30 dph. Densities are higher in Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn than in Bewdley and the rural areas.
Need to reduce CO_2 emissions within the District.	The Wyre Forest District emitted an estimated 670,000 tonnes of CO_2 in 2003. The joint largest sources were transport and industrial consumption, each emitting 241,000 tonnes (Defra).
Need to adapt to the present and future changes in climate that the District is experiencing.	The climate of the UK is expected to become warmer, with a 40% reduction in summer soil moisture expected by 2080. Heavier winter rainfall is also predicted to become more frequent. (ww.ukcip.org.uk)
Need to increase the generation and use of renewable energy in the District.	Currently there is very little renewable energy in the District; as a result the District is heavily reliant upon fossil fuels for its energy requirements (DTI).
Potential impact of the Wyre Forest Schools Review on access to educational facilities and impact on travel patterns/increased journey times.	Following a WCC review of the educational needs in Wyre Forest, 45 schools closed at the end of the academic year 2006/7 and 30 new schools opened in September 2007. The impacts on travel within Kidderminster and the wider District are still emerging.
Rapidly increasing growth in rail usage at Kidderminster Station.	WCC's LTP2 includes usage figures for the District's stations, which show substantial increases in growth at Kidderminster (61%). This can be attributed to improved services and the increased frequency of off-peak services.

IDENTIFIED SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE	SUMMARY AND SCORE
Importance of safeguarding and enhancing the bus priority route network and the need to enhance public transport infrastructure.	WCC statistics demonstrate that there have been significant reductions bus passengers over the past 5 years. There is continued downgrading of bus services across the District in both urban and rural areas.
Need to provide safe cycle route networks to increase cycling levels within the District.	2001 Census statistics demonstrate that only 2.19% of the District's working population cycles to work. WCC Cycle Counter Data implies that there has been a steady increase in cycling where new routes have been introduced.
Need to retain and enhance short stay parking facilities within the town centre.	District Council Car Park data shows that Kidderminster is well-served by public car-parks, which are well used.
Noticeably higher unemployment forming a corridor between Kidderminster and Stourport.	Generally low levels of unemployment, 1-2% in the majority of wards. Higher in urban areas with high concentrations in Oldington and Foley Park and Broadwaters wards where unemployment is above 6% Worcestershire County Economic Survey, 2006).

> **Q.4   Are you aware of any other sustainability issues, for which evidence can be provided, that should be considered in the SA Report?**

9.   A4: DEVELOPING THE SA FRAMEWORK

9.1   The SA Framework will be the primary means of assessing the KCAAP Policies and Objectives in terms of their sustainability. An SA Framework consists of sustainability objectives which are separate from the KCAAP Objectives, though they may in some cases overlap.

9.2   ODPM set out in 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks' (November 2005) the following advice on developing a SA Framework:

- SA Objectives can be derived from sustainability objectives identified in other plans and programmes or from a review of baseline information and sustainability issues.
- SA Objectives may be expressed in the form of targets.
- SA Objectives need to address the full scope of sustainability issues.
- SA Objectives may overlap with the DPD Objectives.

9.3   The West Midlands Regional Sustainable Development Framework (WMRSDF) sets out 29
       Objectives for Sustainable Development in the Region. These reflect key regional priorities
       around society, the environment, resources and the economy. The WMRSDF
       recommends that the objectives are incorporated into the appraisal of LDDs. These
       objectives have therefore been used as a basis for developing the SA Objectives for
       apprising the KCAAP DPD.

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

9.5   The SA Objectives developed by WCC are to be used to form the basis of the Joint SA
       Framework, supplemented with decision making questions and prioritised according to the
       DPD/SPD under preparation. The Objectives are set out in the table below along with the
       decision making criteria that would relate to the KCAAP DPD. The indicators will be
       developed and consulted on alongside the Issues and Options paper, as part of the Initial
       SA Report.

SA OBJECTIVE	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	DRAFT INDICATOR (S)
Improved Health and Well-being		
1. To improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce inequalities in health.	1. Will it improve access to health care facilities?	IMD health profiles.
	2. Will it help to improve quality of life for local residents?	Life expectancy.
2. To improve the quality of, and accessibility to, cultural services and local services and facilities.	1. Will proposals enhance the provision of local services and facilities?	Map of households within 800m of key facilities, i.e. schools, post offices, GP, local shop.
	2. Will it enhance accessibility to services by public transport?	Amount of new/existing residential development within 30 minutes travel time of a GP and/or hospital,
	3. Will it enhance accessibility to the District's countryside by sustainable modes of transport?	Bus routes, cycle ways and footpaths leading to the District's countryside.
	4. Will it enhance accessibility to the District's countryside by sustainable modes of transport?	Bus routes, cycle ways and footpaths leading to the District's countryside.
3. To provide decent, affordable housing for all, of the right quality and	1. Will it provide opportunities to increase affordable housing levels?	Number of affordable completions. % of housing completions which are

SA OBJECTIVE	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	DRAFT INDICATOR (S)
type, tenure and affordability for local needs, in clean, safe and pleasant local environment.		affordable.
	2. Will it provide affordable access to a range of housing tenures and sizes?	% of housing completions by size. % of housing completions by tenure.
	3. Does it seek to provide high quality, well-designed residential environments?	Number of residential applications refused as a result of poor quality design.
	4. Does it provide opportunities for the construction of sustainable homes?	% of housing completion reaching each CSH level.
4. To enhance the quality of life for all residents within the District.	1. Does it seek to enhance the prospects and quality of life of disadvantaged communities?	Life expectancy.
	2. Does it provide fair access to all members of the community, regardless of social class?	Households within a 10 minute walk of key local facilities.
	3. Does it promote opportunities for easy access to the District's greenspace?	Hectares of greenspace per head of population.
Communities that are Safe and Fell Safe		
5. To encourage pride and social responsibility in the local community and reduce crime.	1. Does it offer the opportunity to enhance civic pride?	
	2. Do proposals offer the opportunity for community involvement?	Number of consultation responses received on planning applications.
	3. Does it promote the principles of 'Secured By Design'?	Number of new developments incorporating 'Secured by Design' principles.
A Better Environment for Today and Tomorrow		
6. To manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycling and composting, recovery, disposal.	1. Are opportunities to increase recycling incorporated into proposals?	New developments incorporating recycling facilities.
	2. Will it reduce household waste?	Volume of household waste collected.
7. Reduce contributions to climate change and promote energy efficiency and energy generated from renewable and low-carbon sources.	1. Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases?	
	2. Will it use sustainable construction methods?	% of new developments using sustainable construction methods.
	3. Will it encourage opportunities for the production of renewable energy?	Number of new developments incorporating on-site renewable energy generation.
	4. Will it promote greater energy efficiency?	Average energy rating of new housing.
8. To reduce the need to travel and move towards more sustainable travel modes.	1. Will it reduce the need to travel?	% of development within existing urban areas and settlement boundaries.
	2. Will it provide opportunities to increase sustainable modes of travel?	Number of bus/train services serving the District. Length of cycle ways and footpaths through the District.
	3. Does it focus development in existing centres, and make use of existing infrastructure to reduce the need to travel?	% of development within existing urban areas and settlement boundaries.
9. Protect the use of water, soil and air, whilst maintaining or improving their quality.	1. Will it provide opportunities to reduce the District's Air Quality Monitoring Areas and other areas of concern?	Number of AQMAs and areas of air quality concern within the District.
	2. Will it improve air quality across the District?	Number of AQMAs and areas of air quality concern within the District.

SA OBJECTIVE	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	DRAFT INDICATOR (S)
	3. Will it provide opportunities to improve water quality?	Water pollution levels (rivers and brooks).
	4. Will it encourage measures to improve water efficiency in new development, refurbishment and redevelopment?	% of new developments incorporating rain-water harvesting/water efficiency measures. Water usage in new developments (water meter readings).
10. Ensure development does not occur in high-risk flood prone areas and does not adversely contribute to fluvial flood risks or contribute to surface water flooding in all other areas.	1. Does it protect the floodplain from development?	% new developments located in the floodplain (Environment Agency Flood Zones 2 and 3).
	2. Does it take account of all types of flooding?	Non-fluvial flooding incidents.
	3. Does it reduce the risk of flooding in existing developed areas?	
	4. Does it promote Sustainable Drainage Systems?	% of new developments incorporating SUDS.
11. Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.	1. Will it achieve high quality sustainable design for buildings, spaces and the public realm which is sensitive to the locality?	Number of applications refused as a result of poor quality/out of character design.
	2. Will it enhance the District's Conservation Areas?	Number of applications refused in conservation areas.
	3. Does this preserve and enhance the historic character of the landscape and townscape?	Number of planning permissions granted in conservation areas. Number of Listed Building consents granted.
12. To conserve and enhance the District's biodiversity and geodiversity.	1. Will it help to safeguard the District's biodiversity and geodiversity?	Number of applications refused/amended/conditioned because of their potential impact on biodiversity/geodiversity.
	2. Will it provide opportunities to enhance local biodiversity/ geodiversity?	Condition of SSSIs, SWSs and RIGS.
	3. Will it protect sites designated for nature conservation?	Number of sites designated for nature conservation lost.
	4. Will it help to achieve targets set out in the Biodiversity Action Plan?	Achievement of BAP targets.
13. Conserve and enhance the historic and built environment through considerate siting and design and through respecting architectural, cultural and archaeological heritage.	1. Will it preserve, protect and enhance conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological remains, historic parks and gardens and their settings, and other features and areas of historic and cultural value?	Number of demolition consents (Listed Buildings) Number of demolition consents (Conservation Areas)
	2. Will it help to safeguard the District's Listed, Locally Listed and other historic Buildings?	Number of buildings on the national and local BARs.
	3. Does it improve the design quality of the built environment and offer opportunities for sustainable construction?	Number of applications refused as a result of poor quality design. % of dwellings built to Eco-homes 'very good' standard or equivalent CSH level. % of commercial properties built to BREEAM very good standards.
	4) Will it improve and broaden access	Number of designated sites with

SA OBJECTIVE	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	DRAFT INDICATOR (S)
	to, and understanding of, local heritage, historic sites, areas and buildings?	public access.
	5) Will it help to realise the physical, social, economic and environmental value of the historic environment in the regeneration of the District?	Number of historic buildings converted. Number of derelict historic buildings brought back into use.
14. Ensure efficient use of land through the safeguarding of mineral reserves, the best and most versatile agricultural land, and Greenfield land; and maximise the use of previously developed land.	1. Will it safeguard the District's mineral resources?	
	2. Will it protect and enhance the District's open spaces of recreational and amenity value?	Number of hectares of open space of recreational /amenity value in the District. Number of hectares of open space of recreational /amenity space lost to development.
15. To promote the regeneration of Kidderminster.	1. Does it focus development in the town centre of Kidderminster?	% of new development located in Kidderminster.
	2. Does it encourage the re-use of existing buildings and Brownfield sites in Kidderminster?	% of new development located on brown-field land in Kidderminster.
16. Mitigate against the unavoidable negative impacts of climate change.	1. Does it promote development that is adaptable to and suitable for predicted changes in climate?	Number of applications refused as a result of Environment Agency comments.
	2. Does it promote land uses that are suitable for the predicted changes in the District's climate?	Number of applications refused as a result of Environment Agency comments.
17. Reduce noise and light pollution	1. Does it mitigate against noise pollution?	Number of noise pollution complaints.
	2. Does it mitigate against light pollution?	Light pollution maps
**Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People**	
18. To raise the skills level and qualifications of the workforce.	1. Will it provide opportunities to further develop adult and community learning facilities within the District?	% of school leavers with 5 A*-C GCSEs. % of the District's population with a FE/HE qualification.
19. To consult communities in accordance with the SCI, providing opportunities to participate, in and contribute to the decisions that affect their neighbourhood and quality of life.	1. Do proposals incorporate consultation with the local communities?	Number of consultations carried out in accordance with the SCI.
	2. Are proposals transparent and open to the public?	Number of consultation responses received.
	3. Will it offer people the chance to directly affect decisions in their locality?	Number of consultation responses received.
	4. Does it promote community engagement?	% of residents consulted submitting responses.
**Economic Success that is Shared by All**	
20. Create and maintain a diverse, knowledge-driven economy.	1. Will it help enhance the District's economy?	Number of VAT registered businesses within the area.
	2. Will it provide opportunities for businesses to develop and enhance their competitiveness?	Survival rates for VAT registered businesses in the area.
	3. Will it support sustainable tourism?	
	4. Will it support the shopping hierarchy?	% of new retail development located in the town centre.
21. Promote and support the development of new	1. Does it encourage innovative and environmentally friendly technologies?	Number of VAT registered businesses in this sector.

SA OBJECTIVE	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA	DRAFT INDICATOR (S)
technologies, of high value and low impact, especially resource efficient technologies and environmental technology initiatives.		

> **Q.5   Do you consider that the SA objectives are suitable, or do you consider that any should be added or removed?**

9.6   These objectives will form the basis of the SA Framework for assessing the sustainability of the KCAAP's Objectives.

10.   EMERGING KIDDERMINSTER CENTRAL AREA ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES

10.1   The KCAAP will provide a detailed planning framework for the area covering Kidderminster Town Centre, Comberton Hill and the Horsefair. This is an area where considerable change will occur over the next 18 years, therefore, it is considered necessary to produce a detailed AAP for the area. AAP's are designed to; deliver planned growth areas; stimulate regeneration; protect areas particularly sensitive to change; resolve conflicting objectives in areas subject to development pressure, or; focus on the delivery of area based regeneration initiatives.

10.2   The KCAAP will set the detailed planning framework for the area which it encompasses. The document will play a key role in clarifying the regeneration potential of sites in the area. The document will also look beyond land use to consider key themes including accessibility, the evening economy, 'city living', enhanced public realm and improved synergy between the town centre and nearby communities. The plan will also consider opportunities adjacent to the town centre in neighbourhoods such as the Horsefair that can deliver improved connectivity and accessibility (physically, socially and economically).

10.3   The Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD must be in conformity with the Core Strategy DPD. The Preferred Options for the Core Strategy are currently being developed. The draft objectives for the Core Strategy as set out in the Revised Issues and Options Paper are:

1. To provide a range of high-quality, housing options for residents of all ages to achieve sustainable communities.

2. To diversify and grow the District's economy, emphasising the development of the service sector, high tech industry and sustainable tourism.

3. Continue to develop Kidderminster as the strategic centre for the District and to enhance the unique roles of Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley as market towns.

4. Support the viability of the District's villages and rural areas and assist in opportunities for diversification.

5. Safeguard and enhance the District's unique landscape character, Green Belt and historic environment.

6. Safeguard natural resources, minimise waste and increase recycling, especially the recycling of land and buildings.

7. Protect and enhance the District's rich and varied biodiversity, geodiversity and water resources, including within the three town centres.

8. Ensure the District is equipped to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change by ensuring that future developments are low or zero-carbon and that they do not increase flood risk to new and existing property.

9. Improve the District's air quality, particularly in the town centre areas of Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley.

10. Support the development of an accessible, integrated, sustainable transport network to provide an attractive alternative to the car for all residents and visitors.

11. Help foster community pride and healthy lifestyles in the District through supporting and involving its many local communities in both the urban and rural areas.

12. Maximise community cohesion and safety and ensure new developments positively contribute towards crime reduction, improved healthcare and education across the District for the benefit of all residents.

10.4   The key aims and objectives of the KCAAP are currently being considered. As a general guide the following initial objectives could be further developed and added to throughout the AAP's evolvement:

- To enhance quality of life for the Kidderminster's residents.
- To safeguard and enhance the historic environment of the town.
- To deliver the regeneration of the town centre and its surroundings.
- To protect and enhance biodiversity throughout the town.
- To enhance the economy of Kidderminster, especially the evening economy.

- To promote sustainable transport and reduce the need to travel.
- To widen housing choice in the area and increase the population of the town centre.
- To safeguard and enhance cultural, social and recreational opportunities within Kidderminster.
- To promote opportunities for renewable energy and to address the impacts of climate change.
- To safeguard the town's floodplains and ensure that new development does not add to the risk of flooding.
- To promote access to services for all the District's residents.
- To achieve a balanced housing market within Kidderminster.
- To provide spatial expression to the Regional Spatial Strategy at the local level.
- To consult local residents in ways that meet the requirements of the SCI.

10.5   These emerging KCAAP objectives may be grouped under the District Council's Adopted Sustainable Community Strategy headings as follows:
- A Better Environment for Today and Tomorrow
- Economic Success Shared by All
- Communities that are Safe and Feel Safe

10.6   The Options for the KCAAP are currently being developed. These options are to be presented in an Issues and Options Report, which will be published by the District Council and made available for Consultation during Autumn 2008.

10.7   The Strategic Options for the KCAAP will be appraised against the SA Framework using the appraisal matrix as set out in section 11 of this Scoping Report.

11.   TESTING THE COMPATABILITY OF THE SA OBJECTIVES

11.1   The Matrix set out below shows a preliminary outline of how the SA Objectives might be used to test the sustainability of the KCAAP DPD objectives. This will be used as a basis for a comprehensive assessment matrix in the full SA Report.

SA OBJECTIVE	KIDDERMINSTER CENTRAL AREA ACTION PLAN DPD OBJECTIVES					
	Objective 1	Objective 2	Objective 3	Objective 4	Objective 5	Objective 6

1. To improve the health and wellbeing of the population and reduce inequalities in health.					
2. To improve the quality of, and accessibility to, cultural services and local services and facilities.					
3. To provide decent, affordable housing for all, of the right quality and type, tenure and affordability for local needs, in clean, safe and pleasant local environment.					
4. To enhance the quality of life for all residents within the District.					
5. To encourage pride and social responsibility in the local community and reduce crime.					
6. To manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycling and composting, recovery, disposal..					
7. Reduce contributions to climate change and promote energy efficiency and energy generated from renewable and low-carbon sources.					
8. To reduce the need to travel and move towards more sustainable travel modes.					
9. Protect the use of water, soil and air, whilst maintaining or improving their quality.					
10. Ensure development does not occur in high-risk flood prone areas and does not adversely contribute to fluvial flood risks or contribute to surface water flooding in all other areas.					
11. Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.					
12. To conserve and enhance the District's biodiversity and geodiversity.					
13. Conserve and enhance the historic and built environment through considerate siting and design and through respecting architectural, cultural and archaeological heritage.					

14. Ensure efficient use of land through the safeguarding of mineral reserves, the best and most versatile agricultural land, and Greenfield land; and maximise the use of previously developed land.						
15. To promote the regeneration of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn.						
16. Mitigate against the unavoidable negative impacts of climate change.						
17. Reduce noise and light pollution						
18. To raise the skills level and qualifications of the workforce.						
19. To consult communities in accordance with the SCI, providing opportunities to participate, in and contribute to the decisions that affect their neighbourhood and quality of life.						
20. Create and maintain a diverse, knowledge-driven economy, ensuring all have the benefits, urban and rural.						
21. Promote and support the development of new technologies, of high value and low impact, especially resource efficient technologies and environmental technology initiatives.						

Key:

++   Significant contribution to the achievement of sustainability objectives likely.

+   Contribution to achievement of sustainability objectives likely.

XX   Significant conflict to achievement of sustainability objectives likely.

X   Conflict to achievement of sustainability objectives likely.

0   Neutral effect likely.

+?   Unpredictable effect but likely to be positive.

X?   Unpredictable effect but likely to be negative.

12. A5: CONSULTATION ON THE SA SCOPING REPORT

12.1   The Government has specified that consultation should be based on a preliminary Scoping Report that summarises Stage A of the SA and the emerging outcomes. Consultation must include the four SEA Consultation bodies required by the SEA Directive:

- Natural England (incorporating English Nature, The Countryside Agency and The Rural Development Service)
- Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Worcestershire County Council
- Government Office for the West Midlands
- West Midlands Regional Assembly
- Worcestershire Primary Care Trust
- Wyre Forest Matters Local Strategic Partnership

12.2 The Regulations also specify that the consultation bodies are to be given a period of five weeks to respond from the date when they receive the SA Scoping Report.

12.3 The District Council's Adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) states that SA will be undertaken throughout the stages identified for the preparation of the Core Strategy. This will include the preparation of a Scoping Report, SA during the preparation of the Core Strategy and the production of a SA Report to inform the Preferred Options on the KCAAP DPD at the public participation stage to enable community consultation.

12.4 In order to fulfil these requirements, the District Council has also written to the following consultees, which it considers are likely to have an interest in the SA Scoping Report, to notify them that the Report can be viewed and downloaded from the District Council's website at www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk.
- Bromsgrove District Council
- Wychavon District Council
- Malvern Hills District Council
- South Staffordshire District Council
- Bridgnorth District Council
- South Shropshire District Council
- Staffordshire County Council
- Shropshire County Council
- Dudley MBC
- Highways Agency
- National Playing Fields Association

- The Home Builders Federation
- Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)
- Sport England
- Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
- Wyre Forest Community Housing
- Advantage West Midlands
- British Waterways

12.5   Consultation responses should be based on the questions 1-5, set out in this scoping paper and should be received by the District Council by 5pm on Friday 6th June 2008. Responses can be submitted by e-mail, fax or in writing. Please forward your comments to the following:

Forward Planning Section
Planning, Health and Environment Division
Duke House
Clensmore Street
Kidderminster
Worcestershire
DY10 2JX
Fax: 01562 732556
E-mail: forward.planning@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

If you have any queries relating to this report, please contact the Forward Planning section on 01562 732928.

13.   NEXT STEPS

13.1   SA is a continuous process that takes place in stages throughout the development of a DPD. The process assists in refining the DPD objectives and developing options which meet these, and then ensuring that the preferred option is the most sustainable.

13.2   There are a number of distinct stages in the SA process. These are outlined below together with a methodology for completing each stage.

Stage B: Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Their Effects

13.3   Firstly, the KCAAP objectives will be tested against the SA objectives to ensure that they are in accordance with sustainability principles. This will assist in refining the KCAAP options and developing new ones. Where conflict occurs, a decision will be reached on the District's priorities.

13.4   The KCAAP options will be developed; these will set out to improve the situation that would exist if no plan was in place. The options generated will be sufficiently different to highlight a range of sustainability implications. As each option is refined, a commentary will be prepared on the key sustainability issues and how these options could be improved.   The SA Report will map the development of options and how any adverse effects will be mitigated.

13.5   The SA process involves predicting the social, economic and environmental effects that the KCAAP will have. These predictions will be based on the possible change that will occur in the baseline as a result of implementing the KCAAP. These changes should be compared to the 'no plan' and 'business as usual' scenarios. These predictions will be broad expressions assessing whether the situation will get worse, stay the same or improve as a result of the implementation of the KCAAP.

13.6   An analysis of the importance of the effects will be made. Judgements on the significance of the effects will be based on the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects, this should also consider the impact of any secondary or tertiary effects. As the KCAAP is refined, the key sustainability issues and the reasons for rejecting options will be documented, this will form part of the SA Report.

13.7   The SA will include measures to prevent, reduce or offset any negative impacts that the KCAAP might have. Mitigating measures might include making changes to the KCAAP; refining policies; technical measures to be applied during the implementation period; proposals in EIAs accompanying planning applications; and proposals for changing other plans and programmes.

13.8   The final part of stage B involves monitoring the effects of the KCAAP. At this stage, decisions will be made on what to monitor and how it should be done. Monitoring will enable problems to be identified during the implementation stage, and future predictions to

be made more accurately. It will also provide a baseline for future Local Development Documents.

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

13.9   The SA Report is the output of the SA process and it will publish information on the effects of the KCAAP for public consultation. The SA Report will clearly point out where the requirements as set out in Government guidance have been met

Stage D: Consulting on the Preferred Option of the Core Strategy and the SA Report

13.10   The SA Report will be issued for public consultation along with the KCAAP at the pre-submission stage, in accordance with the District's SCI. The KCAAP at this stage puts forward the preferred option, and the SA Report should demonstrate the sustainability reasons for choosing the preferred option.

13.11   The KCAAP, once completed will be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination along with the SA Report. The Inspector will, at the Examination, test the soundness of the KCAAP using the SA Report to form part of the evidence base. SA information will be made available for any changes in the KCAAP that would have significant sustainability effects which are made as a result of the consultation process following its submission for examination.

13.12   After the Examination, the Inspector will issue a binding report setting out any changes that must be made before the KCAAP is adopted. The SA Report will be amended to take account of these changes. An Adoption Statement will be prepared setting out how the findings of the SA process have been incorporated into the KCAAP. The Adoption Statement will provide information on how monitoring will be carried out during the implementation of the .KCAAP The KCAAP Adoption Statement and SA Report will be published on the Council's website, and made available to the Public and Statutory Bodies in Accordance with Regulation 36 of the Local Development Regulations.

Stage E: Monitoring the Significant Effects of Implementing the DPD

13.13   Monitoring proposals will have been considered at Stage C of the process, and reviewed as a result of consultation responses. Monitoring will highlight the significant effects of the KCAAP, and will provide a source of future baseline information. The KCAAP will be monitored through the Annual Monitoring Report process.

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Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework
Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD - Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (April 2008)

Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework

Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan

Development Plan Document

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

APPENDIX A – RELEVANT PLANS, POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

April 2008

Forward Planning Section
Planning, Health & Environment Division
Wyre Forest District Council
Duke House
Clensmore Street
Kidderminster
Worcestershire
DY10 2JX

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

INTERNATIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development	▪ Collective responsibility to advance and strengthen the pillars of sustainable development – economic, social development and environmental protection at local, national, regional and global levels. ▪ Responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life and to our children. ▪ Increase access to basic requirements - clean water, sanitation, adequate shelter, energy, health care, food security and the protection of biodiversity. ▪ Assist access to financial resources, benefit from the opening of markets, and ensure capacity building.	Pillars of sustainable development are interwoven into the SA Process.
Rio Declaration on Environment & Development	▪ Environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it. ▪ Decrease the disparities in standards of living. ▪ Reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies. ▪ Facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available.	Undertake public consultation on the SA and Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD development to facilitate awareness and participation.
Aarhus Convention	▪ Sets out the obligation to safeguard the Environment for future generations. ▪ Links accountability and environmental protection. ▪ Imposes obligations re: access to information and public participation.	Reflected in the SEA Directive the requirements of which need to be incorporated into the SA Report
Kyoto Protocol	▪ Established to limit emissions of greenhouse gases. ▪ UK committed itself to a 12.5% reduction in its green house gas emissions (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydroflourocarbons, perflourocarbons and sulphur hexaflouride). It has also set out domestic target of a 20% reduction in carbon dioxide by 2010.	Include SA Objective on reducing greenhouse gas emissions within the District.
The EU Sustainable Development Strategy (updated 2005)	▪ Seeks to combat climate change, ensure sustainable transport, address threats to public health and manage natural resources more responsibly and stop biodiversity decline, combat poverty and social exclusion and meet the challenge of an ageing population.	Include SA objectives that work towards sustainable development and combating climate change.
European Habitats Directive (1992)	▪ Promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species at a favourable conservation status.	Include SA Objective on maintaining and enhancing biodiversity within the District.
European Birds Directive	▪ Maintenance of the favourable conservation status of wild bird species.	Include SA Objective on

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

INTERNATIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
(1979)	▪ Identification and classification of Special Protection Areas for rare or vulnerable species. ▪ Establishment of a general scheme of protection for all wild birds.	maintaining and enhancing biodiversity within the District.
European Air Quality Directive (2000)	▪ Introduction of new air quality standards for previously unregulated air pollutants. Including sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, lead and ozone. ▪ Pollutants governed by already existing ambient air quality objectives and benzene, carbon monoxide, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, cadmium, arsenic, nickel and mercury. ▪ Establishes a community wide procedure for exchange of information and data on ambient air quality in the EC.	Include SA Objective on promoting opportunities for sustainable travel to reduce transport emissions.
European Water Framework Directive (2000)	▪ Framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. ▪ Four distinct elements; characterisation and assessment of impacts on river basin districts, environmental monitoring, the setting of environmental objectives and design and implementation of the programme of measures needed to achieve them.	Include SA Objective on preservation and enhancement of the District's water resources.
European Sixth Environmental Action Plan (2001 – 2010)	▪ High level of protection for the environment and human health, for general improvement in the environment and quality of life. ▪ Identifies areas at risk of flooding and possible future flooding problems.	Include SA Objective on seeking opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding within the District.
European Landscape Convention	▪ The aim of the Convention is to achieve a greater unity between members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage, it is concerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment; Noting that the landscape has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity and whose protection, management and planning can contribute to job creation; Aware that the landscape contributes to the formation of local cultures and that it is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and consolidation of the European identity; Acknowledging that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas; Noting that developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques and in regional	Include an SA objective on protecting and enhancing the landscape of the District.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

INTERNATIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
	planning, town planning, transport, infrastructure, tourism and recreation and, at a more general level, changes in the world economy are in many cases accelerating the transformation of landscapes; Wishing to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes and to play an active part in the development of landscapes; Believing that the landscape is a key element of individual and social well-being and that its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone;	

NATIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
Working with the Grain of Nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2002)	▪ Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity by embedding it into all types of public policy. ▪ Sets out different actions to be taken in different areas, including urban areas, agriculture, water and woodland.	Include SA objectives on preserving and enhancing the biodiversity of the region.
UK Waste Strategy (DEFRA, 2000)	▪ Tackling Waste is essential to securing sustainable development. ▪ Sets targets to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, landfill tax escalator will help to achieve this. ▪ Key target: - recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010.	Include SA objectives on reducing consumption and increasing recycling.
Waste Strategy for England 2007 (DEFRA)	▪ Promotes a move towards 'One Planet Living'. Reducing waste is an important contributor to this goal. ▪ Need to break the link between economic growth and waste growth, and use fewer natural resources. Most products should be re-used or their materials recycled. Energy should be recovered from other wastes where possible. For a small amount of residual material, landfill will be necessary. ▪ VISION: Despite major progress since 2000, England's performance on waste still lags behind many European countries. All parts of society will have to share responsibility: • **Producers** will have to make products using more recycled materials and less newly extracted raw materials. They will have to design products that are less wasteful and take responsibility for the	Include an SA objective on reducing waste, increasing recycling and promoting the waste hierarchy.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

	NATIONAL	
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
	environmental impact of their products throughout their life. • R**etailers** will have to reduce packaging, source and market products that are less wasteful, and help their consumers to be less wasteful. • **Consumers** – both business and individual households – will have the opportunity to reduce their own waste, purchase products and services that generate less waste and reduce environmental impacts, and separate their waste for recycling. • **Local authorities** will have to commission or provide convenient recycling services for their residents and commercial customers and advice and information on how to reduce waste. They will also have to work with their communities to plan and invest in new collection and reprocessing facilities. • **The waste management industry** will have to invest in facilities to recycle and recover waste, and provide convenient waste services to their customers to recycle and recover their waste. The Government's key objectives are to: • decouple waste growth (in all sectors) from economic growth and put more emphasis on waste **prevention and re-use**; • meet and exceed the **Landfill Directive diversion targets** for biodegradable municipal waste in 2010, 2013 and 2020; • increase diversion from landfill of **non-municipal waste** and secure better integration of treatment for municipal and non-municipal waste; • secure the **investment in infrastructure** needed to divert waste from landfill and for the management of hazardous waste; and • get the most environmental benefit from that investment, through increased **recycling of resources and recovery of energy** from residual waste using a mix of technologies.	
The Eddington Transport Study (2006)	▪ Sets out the importance of a good transport system to maintaining a strong economy, and the importance of reducing congestion in urban areas. ▪ Transport contributes around a quarter of emissions and is the fastest growing source. There is a need to reduce the emissions from the transport sector in order to tackle global warming.	Include SA objectives on reducing the need to travel, and encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport as alternatives to the private car.
Barker Review of Land Use Planning (DCLG, 2006)	▪ Increase flexibility and responsiveness of the planning system through the quicker delivery of development plan documents and a more positive attitude to development. ▪ Improve the efficiency of the planning process, including major reform of the planning process for major	Develop SA objective on the efficient use of land, prioritising the use of PDL and protecting

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

NATIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
	infrastructure projects, and the streamlining of policies and processes including national planning guidance policy. ▪ Promote more efficient use of land through fiscal incentives to encourage business property to be kept in use and to develop vacant Brownfield sites, and a review of greenbelt policies to ensure that they are still appropriate.	urban green space.
Strong and Prosperous Communities – the Local Government White Paper (October 2006)	▪ Overall vision of revitalised local authorities working with their partners to reshape public services around the citizens and communities that use them. ▪ Requires the preparation of Local Area Agreements. Simplify procedures to enable the co-ordination of consultation on Sustainable Community Strategies, Local Area Agreements and Local Development Frameworks.	The Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan should take full account of the spatial elements of the Community Strategy which are relevant to the area which it covers.
UK Strategy for Sustainable Development (2005)	▪ Living within environmental limits. ▪ Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society. ▪ Achieving a sustainable economy. ▪ Promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly. ▪ Highlights four priority areas for action: Sustainable consumption and production, climate change and energy, protecting our natural resources and enhancing the environment and creating sustainable communities and a fairer world. ▪ For each of these areas, the Strategy identifies indicators through which to review progress. ▪ Includes 20 UK Framework Indicators intended to cover key impacts and outcomes that reflect the priority areas across the UK.	Pillars of sustainable development are interwoven into the SA Process.
Urban White Paper (2000)	▪ People shaping the future of their community ▪ People living in attractive well-kept towns and cities which use space and buildings well. ▪ Good design and planning which makes it practical to live in a more environmentally sustainable way with less noise, pollution and traffic congestion. ▪ Towns and cities able to create and share prosperity investing to help all their citizens reach their full potential. ▪ Good quality services – health, education, housing, transport, finance, shopping, leisure and protection from crime that meets the needs of people and businesses wherever they are.	Develop SA Objective on encouraging urban regeneration

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Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework
Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD - Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (April 2008)
Appendix A – Relevant Plans, Policies, Programmes and Sustainability Objectives

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

NATIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
Sustainable Communities Plan (2003)	▪ Long-term programme of action for delivering sustainable communities in urban and rural areas: - addressing the housing shortage through accelerating the provision of housing, affordable housing and tackling homelessness. ▪ Addressing low demand and abandonment ▪ Decent homes ▪ Liveability – improving local environments ▪ Protecting the countryside.	Develop SA Objective to promote opportunities to improve housing choice and provide affordable housing opportunities.
Transport 10 Year Plan (2000)	▪ Ten-year strategy for investment in the future to create prosperity and a better environment. Approach based on integrated transport, public & private partnership and new projects to deliver a broad package of improvement by 2010. ▪ 50% increase in rail use ▪ 80% increase in rail freight ▪ Traffic congestion reduced below current levels particularly in large urban areas ▪ 10% increase in bus passenger journeys ▪ Safer cycling and walking routes, more 20mph areas and Home Zones for safer roads.	Develop SA Objective to improve transport choice for local residents and to reduce the dependency on the private car as a mode of transport.
UK Climate Change Programme (1994)	▪ Improve business use of energy, stimulate investment and cut costs. ▪ Energy labels, standards, integrated pollution prevention and control, stimulate new more efficient sources of power generation, ▪ Cut emissions from the transport sector, promote better energy efficiency in the domestic sector, improve energy efficiency requirements of the building regulations, ▪ Protecting and enhancing forests, ▪ New targets for improving energy management of public buildings, energy efficiency targets for local authorities, schools and hospitals, developing green travel plans.	Develop SA Objective on protecting and enhancing forests and woodlands in the District.
Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change (November 2006)	▪ The Planning System's chief role will be encouraging buildings and infrastructure to take account of climate change, particularly by limiting development in floodplains. ▪ The Planning System will be a key tool for encouraging both private and public investment in locations that are less vulnerable to climate risks today and in the future.	Develop SA Objective to take account of the effects of climate change and the location of new development in the District.
Energy White Paper	▪ Cut the UK's Carbon Dioxide emissions by some 60% by 2050 with real progress by 2020.	Develop SA Objective to promote

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	▪ To maintain the reliability of energy supplies. ▪ To promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and improve productivity. ▪ To ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated. ▪ Envisages an energy system by 2020 that will be much more diverse, using a much greater mix of energy, especially electricity sources and technologies, therefore affecting the means of supply and the control and management of demand.	opportunities for renewable energy facilities in appropriate circumstances and to improve the energy efficiency of new buildings.
The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000	▪ Extends the public's ability to enjoy the Countryside whilst also providing safeguards for landowners and occupiers. ▪ Creates a new statutory right of access to open country and registered common land. ▪ Modernise the Rights of Way system ▪ Give greater protection to SSSIs. ▪ Provide better management arrangements for AONBs ▪ Strengthen Wildlife Enforcement Legislation.	Develop SA Objective to promote opportunities to access and enjoy the District's countryside in a sustainable manner.
Diversity and Equality in Planning 2005	▪ Early and effective engagement between LPAs and the communities they serve. ▪ Planning staff should understand the mix of people within their area and how it might be changing. Effective data analysis combined with local knowledge can help identify planning needs and monitor progress over time.	Develop SA Objective to promote opportunities to engage with local communities and address diverse local needs.
Untapped Potential – Identifying and Delivering Residential Development on Previously Developed Land (CPRE, 2007)	▪ Housing on PDL can stimulate the renaissance of cities, towns and villages and increase population levels close to services and facilities, thus reducing travel demand and contributing to improved urban vitality. ▪ PPS3 reinforces the Government's commitment to creating mixed and sustainable communities, and nationally there is a target to develop at least 60% of housing on PDL. ▪ The report has five key findings: ▪ Capacity assessments are underestimating actual PDL potential. ▪ The contribution of small sites is underestimated. ▪ Strong density policy helps increase development on PDL. ▪ Rigorous monitoring is key to accurate assessment of supply. ▪ Proactive development of PDL stimulates sustainable urban renaissance.	Ensure that SA objectives are developed to promote residential development on small sites.

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Waterways for Tomorrow (DEFRA, 2000)	▪ This report follows up 'A new Deal for Transport: Better for everyone' by setting out proposals for the future of our inland waterways – the canals and navigable rivers of England and Wales. ▪ The aims for the inland waterways are: to see an improving quality of infrastructure; a better experience for users through more co-operation between navigation authorities; and increased opportunities for all through sustainable development. ▪ The report also encourages the use of waterways for recreation, education, regeneration, and both passenger and freight transport.	Ensure that the District's inland waterways are protected and enhanced.
Planning a Future for the Inland Waterways (IWAAC, 2001)	▪ The report acknowledges that the inland waterways of England and Wales are a national asset. The Government wishes to improve the contribution that they make to quality of life in both rural and urban areas. This contribution spas a wide range of policy objectives and they are set out below. ▪ REGENERATION: Act as a Catalyst for economic and social regeneration; Increase development value and the opportunity for investment; Focus and link regeneration opportunities; Generate long-term economic activity and opportunities for investment; Promote inclusion and quality of life. ▪ SPORT AND RECREATION: Provide an important sport and recreation resource; Contribute to the health and well-being of society; Form corridors linking urban areas to the countryside; Promote accessibility to all members of society; Add value as a national fishery. ▪ TOURISM: Act as a tourism asset in their own right; provide a link between existing/new attractions; Support the holiday industry through water-based activities; Provide world-renowned destinations; Enhance the environment and attract increased visitor activity. ▪ HERITAGE, CULTURE AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: Form a unique heritage, cultural, educational, landscape and environmental asset; Host a wide array of important historic buildings and structures; Contribute to the diversity of the natural environment by sustaining habitats and hosting rare species; Contribute to open space provision; provide a resource for water supply and land drainage. ▪ TRANSPORT: Contribute to integrated transport objectives; Provide transport routes on a local and national scale; Act as a waterborne transport corridor for people and freight; Form important cycling, walking and public access corridors.	Develop an SA objective to protect the District's inland waterways.
The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future (DCMS, 2001)	▪ The report aims to: ▪ Ensure that the full potential of the historic environment as a learning resource is realised; ▪ Ensure that the historic environment is accessible to everybody and is seen as something with which the whole of society can identify and engage;	Develop an SA objective to protect the historic environment.

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	▪ Ensure that the historic environment is protected and sustained for the benefit of our own and future generations; ▪ Ensure that the historic environment's importance as an economic asset is skilfully harnessed.	
Heritage Protection White Paper (DCMS, March 2007)	▪ The White paper sets out changes the changes that are proposed to the heritage system. The most relevant to this scoping exercise is the strengthening of protection for vulnerable sites. Under this section, the main changes include: ▪ World Heritage Site protection will be strengthened by the introduction of greater notification of major developments and strengthened protection against minor works. ▪ Protection will be strengthened for archaeological sites on cultivated land. The Class 1 consent system will be reformed to prevent work on sites where a management strategy had not been agreed. ▪ Designation will now include complex sites of early human activity that do not have structures. ▪ Subject to consultation; locally designated buildings could be protected from demolition and greater controls restored over Conservation Areas.	Develop an SA objective that protects all aspects of the historic environment.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act) 1990	▪ The Act makes provision for the listing of buildings and the designation of Conservation Areas. It seeks to preserve buildings of special architectural or historic interest and areas of special architectural or historical interest, the character or appearance of which should be preserved.	Develop an SA objective which protects the historic environment.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	▪ The Act consolidates and amends the law relating to ancient monuments and makes provision for the investigation, preservation and recording of matters of archaeological or historical interest.	Include an SA objective which protects archaeological remains within the Dsitrict.
Code for Sustainable Homes – A step change in sustainable home building practice (DCLG, 2006)	▪ The Code has been developed to drive the construction of sustainable homes. ▪ It introduces minimum standards for energy and water efficiency and includes new areas of sustainability design such as lifetime homes and the inclusion of composting facilities. ▪ A star system indicates the overall sustainability performance of a home. ▪ The Code promotes reduced greenhouse gas emissions, better adaptation to climate change and a reduced impact on the environment overall.	The SA process will ensure that sustainability is the central consideration in the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD. Develop SA objectives to promote the development of sustainable homes.
Planning for A Sustainable Future: The Planning White	The White Paper sets out our detailed proposals for reform in response to the recommendations made by Kate Barker and by Rod Eddington in respect of planning. Five core principles underpin the proposals:	The SA framework will test DPD objectives against economic,

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Paper (DCLG, 2007)	planning must be responsive, particularly to longer term challenges such as increasing globalisation and climate change, and properly integrate our economic, social and environmental objectives to deliver sustainable development; the planning system should be streamlined, efficient and predictable; there must be full and fair opportunities for public consultation and community engagement; the planning system should be transparent and accountable; and planning should be undertaken at the right level of government – national, regional and local.	social and environmental criteria. Ensure the SA Framework includes an objective on public participation.
PPS 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)	▪ Contributing to sustainable economic development. Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, the quality and character of the countryside and existing communities. ▪ Ensuring high quality development through good and inclusive design and efficient use of resources. ▪ Community involvement to present a shared vision and strategy of how the area should develop to achieve more sustainable patterns of development. ▪ High quality inclusive design in the layout of new developments and individual buildings in terms of function and impact. ▪ Consider people's diverse needs and aim to break down unnecessary barriers and exclusions to benefit the whole community. ▪ Policies should take account of environmental issues such as: ▪ Mitigation of effects and adaptation to climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the use of renewable energy, air quality and pollution, land contamination, protection of groundwater from contamination and noise and light pollution. ▪ Protection of the wider countryside and impact of development on landscape quality, conservation and enhancement of wildlife species and habitats. The promotion of biodiversity. ▪ Need to improve built and natural environment in and around urban areas and rural settlements including the provision of good quality open space, conservation of soil quality, preservation and enhancement of built and archaeological heritage.	The SA process will ensure that sustainability is the central consideration in the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD.
PPS: Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to PPS1 (DCLG 2007)	▪ Sets out the role of planning in addressing climate change. ▪ Planning Authorities should provide a framework that promotes and encourages renewable and low carbon energy generation. ▪ When allocating land for development, sustainability criteria set out within the document should be considered. .	Develop SA objectives on both mitigating, and adapting to climate change and ensure principles set out under 'Selecting land for Development' are represented within the SA Framework..

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NATIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
PPS 3 – Housing (DCLG, 2006)	▪ Ensure wide choice of housing types available (both affordable and market). ▪ Deliver better balance between demand and supply and improve affordability. ▪ Create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities in all areas. ▪ Developments should be attractive, safe and designed and built to a high quality. They should be located in areas with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure. ▪ Housing land assessments and housing market assessments to be carried out by LPAs to inform LDFs and RSS. ▪ High quality housing that is designed and built to a high standard. ▪ A sufficient quantity of housing taking into account need and demand and seeking to improve choice.	Develop SA Objectives to provide a wider choice of housing through improving affordability to create inclusive and mixed communities in all areas of the District.
PPG 4 – Industrial, Commercial Development & Small Firms (1992)	▪ Encourage continued economic development in a way, which is compatible with government environmental objectives. New developments can be encouraged in locations: ▪ Which minimise the length and number of trips, especially by motor vehicles. ▪ That can be served by more energy efficient modes of transport. ▪ That won't add unacceptably to congestion. ▪ Where development that requires access mainly to local roads is located away from trunk roads, to avoid unnecessary congestion on roads designed for longer distance movement. In rural areas, applications for development necessary to sustain the rural economy should be weighed with the need to protect the countryside.	Develop SA Objective to encourage new business developments, but also ensure that they are in suitable, sustainable locations and have minimal impact on the environment.

Draft PPS4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development	▪ Purpose – to put into place a national planning policy framework for economic development at regional, sub-regional and local levels for both urban and rural areas.
	▪ Policy outcomes for economic development are to:
	  ▪ Raise the productivity of the UK economy
	  ▪ Maximise job opportunities for all
	  ▪ Improve the economic performance of all English regions and reduce the gap in economic growth rates between regions
	  ▪ Deliver sustainable development, the key principles of which, including responding to climate change, are set out in PPS1 and its accompanying Annex on Climate Change
	  ▪ Build prosperous communities by improving the economic performance of cities, sub-
		Develop SA objective to encourage new business developments and ensure that new business development is sustainable and takes full account of the impacts of climate change.

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NATIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
	regions and local areas, promoting regeneration and tackling deprivation.	
PPS 6 – Planning for Town Centres (2005)	Key objective for town centres is to promote viability and vitality by: ▪ Planning for the growth and development of existing centres ▪ Promoting and enhancing existing centres, by focusing development in such centres and encouraging a wide range of services in a good environment, accessible to all. ▪ Enhancing consumer choice by making provision for a wide range of shopping, leisure and local services, which allow genuine choice to meet the needs of the entire community, and particularly socially excluded groups. ▪ Improving accessibility, ensuring that existing or new development is, or will be, accessible and well served by a choice means of transport. ▪ Promote social inclusion, ensuring that communities have access to a range of main town centre uses, and that deficiencies in provision in poor areas with poor access to facilities are remedied. ▪ Encourage investment to regenerate deprived areas, creating additional employment opportunities and an improved physical environment. ▪ To deliver more sustainable patterns of development, ensuring that locations are fully exploited through high-density, mixed-use development and promoting sustainable transport choices, including reducing the need to travel and providing alternatives to car use ▪ Ensure that town centres provide an attractive, accessible and safe environment for businesses, shoppers and residents	Develop SA objective to improve accessibility and transport choice to District and Local Centres. Develop SA objective to maintain and improve the attractiveness of the District's town centres.
PPG 8 – Telecommunications 1991	▪ Facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum. ▪ Protect public health. ▪ Protect the countryside and urban areas – especially national parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty, SSSI's, Green Belts, and areas and buildings of architectural or historic importance. ▪ Authorities should seek not to prevent competition between operators and should not question the need for the proposed development. ▪ The sharing of masts and sites is strongly encouraged where that represents the optimum environmental solution in a particular case. ▪ Encourage roll out to rural areas whilst managing potentially undesirable impacts upon the environment.	
PPS 9 – Biodiversity &	▪ Policies should seek to maintain, or enhance, or add to biodiversity and geological conservation	Include sustainability objective to

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Geological Conservation (2005)	interests ▪ Policies on the form and location of development should take a strategic approach to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geology, and recognise the contributions that individual sites and areas make to conserving these resources in the wider environment ▪ Development policies should promote opportunities for the incorporation of beneficial biodiversity and geological features within the design of development. ▪ Policies should aim to maintain, enhance, or add to, biodiversity and geological conservation interests, including incorporating features into development	maintain/enhance biodiversity and geological conservation within the District.
PPS 10 – Planning for Sustainable Waste Management	▪ Protect human health and the environment by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible. ▪ Step change in the way waste is handled and significant new investment in waste management facilities. Providing sufficient opportunities for new waste management facilities of the right type, in the right place and at the right time. ▪ Waste management should be considered alongside other spatial planning concerns, such as transport, housing, economic growth, natural resources and regeneration. ▪ Good design and layout in new development can help to secure opportunities for sustainable waste management, including for kerbside collection and community recycling as well as for larger waste facilities. ▪ The Waste Hierarchy: Reduction, Re-use, Recycling and Composting, Energy Recovery, Disposal.	Include SA Objective to plan for sustainable waste management.
PPS 11 – Regional Spatial Strategies (2004)	▪ Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD needs to be in general conformity with the RSS. ▪ RSS provides a broad development strategy for the West Midlands Region up until 2021. For example, it identifies scale and distribution of provision for new housing, priorities for the environment, transport, infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, minerals extraction and waste treatment and disposal.	Ensure that the RSS informs the policies and option analysis within the SA.
PPS 12 – Local Development Frameworks (2004)	▪ LPAs should take account of the principles and characteristics of other relevant strategies and programmes when preparing the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD. ▪ LDF should be a key component in the delivery of the community strategy setting out its spatial aspects where appropriate and providing long-term spatial vision. ▪ Good design including consideration of access issues are crucial to the deliver of sustainable development.	The Community Strategy is incorporated within the SA Scoping process.

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Draft Replacement PPS12: Streamlining Local Development Frameworks: Consultation (2007)	▪ The Planning White Paper made a number of proposals to streamline LDF production. This document has been seeks consultation responses to these changes. It sets out the proposals and asks a series of questions about them. ▪ The main areas of change concern improved consultation arrangements, revisions to the process of plan making, and in the way Supplementary Planning Documents are produced. Changes to the PPS include emphasising the key role the Core Strategy plays; the need for making progress with LDFs; increasing the flexibility local authorities have in producing documents so as to concentrate on the essentials, and repackaging the tests of soundness.	Ensure that the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD is prepared in accordance with emerging guidance.
PPG 13 – Transport (2001)	▪ Promote development within urban areas at locations highly accessible by means other than the private car. ▪ Locate major generators of travel demand in existing centres, which are highly accessible by means other than the private car. ▪ Strengthening existing local centres, which offer a range of everyday community, shopping and employment opportunities, and aim to protect and enhance their viability and vitality. ▪ Maintain and improve choice for people to walk, cycle or catch public transport rather than drive between homes and facilities which they tend to visit regularly. ▪ Limit parking provision for developments and other on or off street parking provision to discourage reliance on the car for work and other journeys where there are effective alternatives.	Develop SA Objective to promote opportunities for sustainable modes of transport including walking, cycling and public transport.
PPG 14 – Development on unstable land	▪ Development proposals should ensure that land use is appropriate in the light of any known landslide risk. ▪ Encourage full and effective use of land in an environmentally friendly manner. ▪ Given proper safeguards, land which had been damaged by mining or other industrial activities or which is naturally unstable can often be put to appropriate uses. The principal aims of considering land instability are: ▪ To minimise the risks and effects of land instability on property, infrastructure and the public. ▪ To help ensure that various types of development should not be placed in unstable locations without appropriate precautions. ▪ To bring unstable land, where possible, back into productive use. ▪ Any necessary protection or remedial works will not lead to significant adverse environmental effects at the site or elsewhere.	Develop SA Objective to take account of the effects of climate change and the location of new development in the District

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NATIONAL		
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	- Built development may not be appropriate unless adequate and environmentally acceptable slope stabilisation measures are included. - Ensure that new development is suitable for the ground conditions at its location and will not be threatened by subsidence in the near future.	
PPG 15 – Planning and the Historic Environment (1994)	- Sets out clear policies for the preservation and enhancement of the historic environment. - The historic environment should not be sacrificed in favour of short-term interests but also recognise that it cannot be preserved entirely unchanged. - Economic prosperity can secure the continued vitality of historic areas and buildings if realistic and imaginative approach to their alteration and change of use. - Conservation plays a key part in economic prosperity by offering attractive conditions that encourage inward investment. - Need positive management of development in conservation areas to ensure vitality and prosperity. - Design in historic area needs careful consideration in terms of scale, height, mass, alignment and materials but not necessarily copies of old style buildings. - Need to integrate old buildings into the townscape.	Develop SA objective to give protection to and enhancement of the various elements of the historic environment but also to allow for appropriate change.
PPG 16 – Archaeology and Planning (1990)	- Include policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and their settings. - Archaeological remains identified and scheduled, as being of national importance should be earmarked for preservation in Local Plans.	Ensure sites of archaeological importance are preserved within the District.
PPG 17 – Planning for Open Space, Sport & Recreation (2002)	- To maintain an adequate supply of open space and sports and recreational facilities. - High quality/value open spaces should be recognised and protected through appropriate policies. - Local authorities should; avoid any erosion of recreational function and maintain or enhance the character of open space. - Encourage better accessibility of open spaces and recreational facilities. Local planning authorities should ensure that new facilities are accessible by walking, cycling and public transport as alternatives to the use of the car. - Open space has multiple functions: defining and separating urban areas, support regeneration, improve quality of life, promote health and well being, provide havens and habitats for flora and fauna, act as a community resource and as a visual amenity.	Develop SA Objective to preserve and enhance open space and recreational facilities within the District.

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PPG 19 – Outdoor Advertisement Control	▪ To help everyone involved in the display of adverts to contribute positively to the appearance of an attractive and cared-for environment.	The majority of adverts benefit from deemed consent. Planning control is primarily concerned with illuminated signs in conservation areas and free-standing signs.
PPS 22 – Renewable Energy (2004)	▪ Should contain policies designed to promote and encourage rather that restrict the development of renewable energy resources. ▪ LPA's should recognise the full range of renewable energy sources, their differing characteristics, locational requirements and potential for exploiting them subject to appropriate environmental safeguards. ▪ Small-scale projects can provide a limited but valuable contribution to overall outputs of renewable energy and to meeting energy needs both locally and nationally. ▪ LPA's and LSPs should foster community involvement in renewable energy projects and seek to promote knowledge of and greater acceptance by the public of prospective renewable energy projects that are appropriately located.	Develop SA Objective to promote opportunities for renewable energy facilities within the District in appropriate circumstances.
PPS 23 – Planning & Pollution Control (2004)	▪ Aim to keep apart housing and other developments sensitive to pollution from polluting or potentially polluting uses, where such uses cannot reasonably coexist. ▪ Policies for development on and remediation of existing contaminated and derelict land. ▪ Control and minimise pollution ▪ In terms of contaminated land, identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment ▪ The principles of sustainable development and the precautionary principal should be taken into account	▪ Develop SA Objective that reduce the effects of pollution and reduce the amount of contaminated land.
PPG 24 – Planning & Noise 2001	▪ Noise-sensitive developments should be located away from existing sources of significant noise. ▪ Policies to avoid potentially noisy developments in areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise nuisance and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason. ▪ The character of the noise (and frequency) should be taken into account, as well as its level. ▪ Consideration should be given to whether proposals for new noise sensitive development would be incompatible with existing facilities. ▪ Planning authorities should consider both the likely level of noise exposure at the time of the application and any increase that may reasonably be expected in the foreseeable future.	▪ Consider quality of life issues when planning for new development in the District.

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	▪ Measures to control the source of, or limit exposure to, noise include; engineering, layout and restricting operation times/activities permitted on a site.	
PPS25 - Development & Flood Risk (2006)	▪ To ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to 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.	▪ Develop SA objective to reduce and manage the risk of flooding in the District.
Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism (DCLG, 2006)	▪ The document states that the planning system has a vital role to play in terms of facilitating the development and improvement of tourism in appropriate locations. ▪ The document pints out that the planning system, by taking a pro-active role in facilitating and promoting the implementation of good quality development, is crucial to ensuring that the tourism industry can develop and thrive. At the same time, the planning system aims to ensure that these benefits are achieved in the most sustainable manner possible. ▪ The document emphasises that the planning process provides the opportunity to help to make new development more sustainable, both through the preparation of development plans and when decisions are taken on specific schemes. The outcomes should be developments which: provide well-designed, safe and accessible development, and create new opportunities that will improve the well being of individuals and the regeneration of communities; result in the more efficient use of land and bring forward sufficient land to meet a wide range of expected needs; provide a supportive framework for economic growth and successful business; create vibrant, vital and viable town centres; reduce the need to travel; and protect and enhance the natural and built environment and safeguard natural resources.	▪ Ensure that the SA takes into account the role of the planning system in developing opportunities for sustainable tourism.
Physical Activity and the Environment National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (January 2008)	▪ The guide presents the recommendations on 'Promoting and creating built or natural environments that encourage and support physical activity'. ▪ The guidance presents the first national, evidence-based recommendations on how to improve the physical environment to encourage physical activity. It demonstrates the importance of such improvements and the need to evaluate how they impact on the public's health. ▪ 1) Involve communities and experts in developing strategies, policies and plans to ensure the potential for physical activity is maximised and ensure that local facilities and services are easily accessible on foot and bicycle, and that children can participate in physically active play. ▪ 2) Ensure pedestrians and cyclists are given the highest level of priority when designing new developments	Ensure the SA contains an objective to increase walking and cycling and reduce the need to travel by the private car.

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	▪ 3) Plan and provide a comprehensive network of pedestrian and cycle routes which offer everyone convenient, safe and attractive access to workplaces, homes, schools and other facilities. ▪ 4)Ensure public open spaces can be reached on foot or by bicycle and by public transport. ▪ 5) Ensure different parts of campus sites are linked by pedestrian and cycle routes and ensure that new workplaces are linked to pedestrian and cycle routes.	
Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society (DCLG, 2008)	▪ The ageing society poses one of our greatest housing challenges. By 2026 older people will account for almost half (48 per cent) of the increase in the total number of households, resulting in 2.4 million more older households than there are today. ▪ Today, most of our homes and communities are not designed to meet people's changing needs as they grow older. Older people's housing options are too often limited to care homes or sheltered housing. Put simply, we need more and better homes for older people now. ▪ Vision: We want to prepare our communities for the multiple changes that we will face; to 'future proof' our society so that it does not alienate or exclude; and to allow everybody, regardless of age, to participate and enjoy their home and their environment for as long as possible. ▪ It is not just lifetime homes that are needed, but lifetime neighbourhoods, where older people are not left out or forgotten because they cannot access buildings or public spaces. ▪ We will ensure therefore that all public housing will be built to Lifetime Homes Standards by 2011. Our aspiration is that all new housing will be built to these standards by 2013. ▪ It is not just lifetime homes that are needed, but lifetime neighbourhoods, where older people are not left out or forgotten because they cannot access buildings or public spaces.	Ensure the SA includes an objective on provision of homes to meet the needs of all people.

REGIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
Regional Sustainable Development Framework (2008)	▪ Aims to help people develop review and implement strategies, policies and plans in the West Midlands region. Tool to help this happen, by setting out a common set of objectives based around four themes, designed to help the Region move towards a more sustainable future. ▪ **Sustainable Consumption and Production:** includes objectives to use more recycled materials in	Ensure that the RSDF Objectives are reflected within the SA objectives.

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REGIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
	construction, promote high standards of resource efficient construction, reduce dependence on the private car, minimise waste, encourage local sourcing of food, goods and materials, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and encourage social and environmental responsibility amongst businesses and individuals. ▪ **Climate Change and Energy**: includes objectives to reduce energy consumption, increase the supply of renewable and low-carbon energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and implement a managed response to the effects of climate change. ▪ **Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement:** includes objectives to protect and restore environmental assets, maintain and recreate bio-diversity, minimise all forms of pollution, promote local distinctiveness and sense of place, encourage local stewardship of local environments, and promote environmental justice. ▪ **Sustainable Communities:** includes objectives to promote community engagement, ensure access to jobs and services, tackle poverty, reduce health inequalities, provide affordable housing for all, reduce crime, and promote lifelong learning.	
West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (2004 – 2021)	▪ 76% of new housing on brownfield land creating balanced communities through providing a range of different housing with different tenures and within rural areas targeting new housing to meet local needs and to support local services. ▪ Improvements to quality of environment and access to high quality public services and transport. Creating a high quality built environment, landscapes and enhancing urban greenspace and public spaces, the historic environment, restoring degraded land, increasing forestry and woodland and areas for increasing biodiversity. ▪ A positive approach towards renewable energy and energy conservation. Regional targets for waste reduction and recycling. ▪ Reducing the need to travel and to make the best use of infrastructure while targeting investment at areas in a joined up way across the different types of transport. Need to change people's attitude to travel, promote public transport and strategic park and ride. ▪ Increase range and quality of business opportunities available. ▪ Create balanced communities and provide the commercial, retail, transport and leisure facilities to serve a wider area, thereby minimising the need to travel further afield. ▪ Kidderminster to provide the main focus in the District for large scale retail, leisure, business and commercial development and other major community facilities like health, education and public administration.	The Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD will need to be in general conformity with the RSS. Develop SA Objectives to reflect the RSS policies including: . Creating more housing choice and balanced communities. . - Providing high quality public services and transport. - Enhancing urban greenspace and public spaces. - Increasing forestry, woodland and biodiversity.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

REGIONAL		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
West Midlands Housing Strategy 2006 – 2021	▪ Create mixed, balanced and inclusive communities ▪ Assist in the delivery of urban and rural renaissance as per RSS ▪ Influence future development of new housing provision to facilitate and enhance economic development ▪ Address variety of different housing needs ▪ See that Decent Homes standards are met ▪ Achieve social and other affordable housing ▪ Achieve sustainable access to minimise environmental resource consumption and traffic and improve the quality of the environment	Develop SA Objective to ensure the District Council is able to meet the District's housing requirements.
West Midlands Regional Transport Strategy 2004 – 2021	▪ Improve accessibility and performance of the transport system while not perpetuating post trends in car traffic and trip length growth. ▪ LPA's, developers and other agencies should work together to reduce the need to travel, especially by car and reduce the length of journeys. ▪ Provide greater opportunities for walking and cycling. ▪ Development plans should require all planning applications involving significant travel demand to include transport assessments and provide proposals for travel plans. ▪ An integrated hierarchy of public transport services should be developed with priority given to the improvement of services and interchanges within urban areas and the development of links with catchment areas. In rural areas priority should be given to the development of community and public transport services, particularly those providing links from rural hinterlands to key local service centres. ▪ Local Authorities, other agencies and key representatives should work together to develop a network of Strategic Park & Ride sites to reduce congestion in major centres. ▪ Local authorities should manage their car parking to reduce congestion and encourage more sustainable forms of travel.	Include SA Objective to reduce the need to travel and to promote sustainable modes of transport.
Black Country Sub-Regional Study RSS1	▪ Reverse the trend of people leaving the Black Country. ▪ Raise income levels by ensuring better skills and types of jobs ▪ Attract and retain people with higher level skills. ▪ Protect and enhance the environment and create a safe, attractive and healthy place to live and work. Suggests three potential directions for change: - Focus on growth being directed at the Black Country's most important centres – Wolverhampton, Walsall, West Bromwich and Brierley Hill.	Take account of the findings of the Black Country Study, particularly urban regeneration, rural renaissance and sustainable travel opportunities.

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	- Emphasis on growth along corridors – canals and public transport routes – focussed around more sustainable travel opportunities. - Emphasis on planned dispersal – maintains the broad pattern of mixed land uses that exists at present.	
West Midlands RSS Revision Phase Two – Submission Document (2007)	▪ 'The overall vision for the West Midlands is one of an economically successful, outward looking and adaptable Region, which is rich in culture and environment, where all people, working together, are able to meet their aspirations and needs without prejudicing the quality of life of future generations'. ▪ This phase of the RSS considers housing, employment, transport and waste. ▪ The WMRSS Revision seeks to retain a strong emphasis on urban renaissance and the concentration of new housing development within the major urban Areas (MUAs) close to where demand arises. Excessive development on greenfield sites outside these areas could fundamentally undermine the process of urban renaissance. ▪ The policies in the prosperity for All section contribute to the sustainable communities growth agenda through the maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth as a key element of the overall strategy for sustainable development by helping to support improvements in both the environment and quality of life for everyone who lives in the region. ▪ The underlying philosophy of the Quality of the Environment chapter is that while in some cases the environment may act as a constraint on certain types of development, overall, it should be regarded as a major asset to the Region, supporting wider economic and social aspirations and acting as a key component in regeneration. ▪ The Transport and Accessibility section aims to reduce the need to travel by private car through the delivery of a range of measures including; improving walking and cycling provision; promoting travel awareness initiatives; significantly improving public transport; improving park and ride facilities and introducing appropriate demand management measures.	Take account of the policies set out within the emerging RSS Phase Two Revision, particularly the figures that relate to the District. Support the objectives of the RSS.

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West Midlands Economic Strategy December 2007	▪ VISION *'To be a global centre where people and businesses choose to connect.'*.
	▪ The vision will be achieved by:
	  ▪ becoming a more prosperous region, but recognising that economic growth must support overall improvements in the quality of life and wellbeing of all the region's residents;
	  ▪ becoming a more cosmopolitan and inclusive region, making full use of the skills and talents of our people and ensuring equality of opportunity, across the region, in relation to the wealth and prosperity generated through continued economic growth;
	  ▪ becoming a more sustainable region, correctly valuing our natural, historic and cultural assets, seeking to minimise our use of the planet's resources and preparing for a low-carbon future.
		Promote opportunities for economic growth and diversification, whilst ensuring that the environment is protected.

West Midlands Regional Innovation Strategy	▪ Improve living standards by promoting innovation and strengthening the economic base of the region. ▪ Promotion of collaborative innovation activity – research development, design, market research and training.	Promote opportunities for innovative business development within the District to help diversify the economy.
West Midlands Cultural Strategy 2001 – 2006	▪ Aims towards benefits to the community including a better environment, which is healthier and more attractive with more local people, involved in its conservation and regeneration. ▪ No one should be excluded from cultural involvement, access for all is a key priority; it is also essential for continuing viability. ▪ People of all ages and backgrounds must be made aware of the opportunities available. To achieve real social inclusion a more direct targeting of resources is needed, as is working closely with education and community services. ▪ Local authorities have key roles in ensuring that the needs and aspirations of local people are fully reflected in their plans for cultural development. Sustainability will also require increased investment and strong partnerships at both the local and regional levels.	Include Quality of life and community cohesion as a SA Objective.
West Midlands Visitor Economy Strategy	▪ Need to create successful sustainable destinations ▪ Need to focus on key destinations and gateways ▪ Encourages the development of , and investment in, the destinations of the future ▪ Developing sustainable tourism and transport initiatives ▪ Focus public and private sector investment on the sustainable (re)development of key visitor destinations	Develop SA Objective to promote the use of public transport in linking destinations.

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	- Focus on 'sense of place', 'liveability' and authentic local products - Link destinations using information, signage and integrated public transport - Develop sustainable projects: - To meet market needs - To fit with established themes - With professional business planning - Through partnership working	
West Midlands Energy Strategy	- Sets out how the region can contribute towards the development of renewable energy and greater take up of energy efficiency. 2020 vision: Delivered the West Midlands commitment to the climate change challenge. - Ensured a sustainable, secure and affordable supply of energy for everyone. - Strengthened the Region's economic capability - Overall aims of strategy: To improve energy efficiency, to increase the use of renewable energy, to ensure that business benefits from commercial opportunities to produce energy efficient products/initiatives. - To provide focussed and practical delivery.	Include SA Objective to incorporate opportunities for renewable energy generation within the District's new developments.
West Midlands Regional Biodiversity Strategy	- Maintain and improve the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems - Develop an area based approach to restoring wildlife - Monitor the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems - Reconnect and integrate action for biodiversity with other environmental, social and economic activity - Cope with the impact of climate change	Develop SA objective to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the District.
West Midlands Regional Water Resources Strategy	- Future developments in the West Midlands should recognise the limited availability of water as an influence their location and timing, and should incorporate water efficiency measures and sustainable drainage systems at the feasibility or planning stage - Water abstraction cut backs are necessary in some area to improve the environment - A twin track approach to meeting future demands should be followed, combining further water resource developments and improvements with sensible management of our demands through efficient use - Over the next 25years, household metering will become more widespread, providing a greater incentive for sustainable use of water in the home, with appropriate tariffs to protect vulnerable households - Industry should strive to use water efficiently and realise the economic and environmental benefits	Develop SA objective to ensure the efficient use of water resources and to promote the use of sustainable drainage systems.

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	REGIONAL	
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
	▪ Farmers should strive to use water efficiently and consider opportunities to work with others to develop new sources of water and consider the development of winter storage to ensure reliable supplies ▪ Climate change studies suggest summers could become drier and winters wetter. Water resource options that are flexible to the possible impacts of climate change are preferred ▪ Mineral and aggregate companies should take steps to minimise the impact of their extraction operations on the local water environment.	
Severn Trent Water Resources Plan 2005-2010	▪ Demand for water is projected to stay essentially flat, and is therefore not a driver. ▪ Abstraction reductions may be required to achieve environmental objectives such as reducing nitrate levels. ▪ Over the 25 year planning period, there is a potential need for significant new strategic water resource developments to counter the impacts of climate change. ▪ There are many assumptions and uncertainties in the calculations of available water supply and demand.	Ensure that the Kidderminster central Area Action Plan DPD takes full account of water availability when allocating sites for development.
Choosing Health: Regional Health and Well-Being Strategy (WMRA, 2008)	▪ Vision: 'To maintain, enhance, improve and protect the health and well-being of people in the West Midlands Region and to reduce health inequalities by 2020 within environmental limits, so as not to compromise healthy life for future generations'. ▪ Key aims include reducing health inequalities; eliminating child poverty; ensuring health issues are promoted in other strategies; partnership working; and promoting health and well-being and sustainable development as an integrated agenda. ▪ Planning can assist in delivering the vision by; creating sustainable communities; identifying sites for health and education facilities; and maximising investment through planning agreements.	Include an SA objective on improved health and well-being. Ensure the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD safeguards existing health and education facilities.
Fluvial Severn Flood Risk Management Strategy (2006)	▪ 50yr framework for management of flood risk and a 5yr plan for capital investment in flood defence management. ▪ Identify and assess potential solutions: economically, technically and environmentally. ▪ Identify preferred flood risk management options and any environmental enhancements. ▪ In locations where there are no significant populations at flood risk, and where it would be economically viable, the preferred environmental option would be to manage retreat to allow reclamation of the floodplain. ▪ A long term vision for development can deliver reduced flood risk.	Include SA Objective to identify flood risk management options and any environmental enhancements.

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Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
South Housing market Area: South Housing Market Assessment (2007)	▪ SHMA update at March 2007 shows a higher surplus of open market housing for sale in Wyre Forest and also a surplus in private rented accommodation. (Private rented sector used by those unable to access other tenures). Main change - no. of social re-lets falling greatly from 501 to 391. This means there is a shortfall of 107 a year. Add in those households which can not buy at 50% LQ price gives a total shortfall of 303 affordable housing units p.a. This is nearly 5 times the projected level of new affordable supply. Only Stratford and Warwick Districts have a greater shortfall. NB 2007/08 saw 84 affordable units completed with over 100 predicted for 2008/09.	Include an indicator on affordable housing.
South Housing Market Area: Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2007)	▪ Both the Local Authority residential sites are full. 30 additional pitches required for Gypsies on existing public and private sites. It may be possible for more private sites to be set up to cater for some of this need. Need to consider suitability and sustainability of sites in Stourport area.	Include an indicator on housing for all members of the community.

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Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
Worcestershire Local Area Agreement (2006)	▪ "A County with safe, cohesive, healthy and inclusive communities, a strong and diverse economy and a valued and cherished environment." Identifies 36 outcomes under 6 thematic blocks as follows: A. Communities that are safe and feel safe. B. A better environment for today and tomorrow C. Economic success that is shared by all. D. Improving health and well being E. Meeting the needs of children and young people F. Stronger communities	Ensure that the LAA Objectives are reflected within the SA Framework.

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	Includes an outcome under A as follows: A5: To improve the quality of life of people living in Broadwaters and Horsefair.	
Partnership Towards Excellence: A Community Strategy for Worcestershire	• Communities that are healthy and support vulnerable people • A safer place to live, work, learn, travel and do business. • People able to acquire the skills, knowledge and self-esteem they need to allow them to be active citizens and achieve personal fulfilment. • Worcestershire as a prosperous County which continues to build on strengths and by diversifying and modernising to meet the needs of a changing economy. • Worcestershire's environment and everything it contains to be protected, conserved and enhanced to ensure that we keep the best of our inheritance for future generations. • Worcestershire to be vibrant and celebrate diversity, to include everyone and give them equal access to public services and opportunities to take part in community life and have a strong sense of citizenship.	Ensure that the Community Strategy Objectives are reflected within the SA Framework.

Partnership Towards Excellence – The Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire SECOND EDITION 2008 – 2013 (Draft 2007)	• The Sustainable Community Strategy addresses six themes:
	  ▪ Communities that are safe and feel safe
	  • A better environment for today and tomorrow
	  • Economic success that is shared by all
	  • Improving health and well being
	  • Meeting the needs of children and young people
	  ▪ Stronger communities - covering a range of issues including housing, culture and volunteering .
	• The thirty priorities to be tackled are set out under the six themes.
	• Vision – "A County with safe, cohesive, healthy and inclusive communities, a strong and diverse economy and a valued and cherished environment"
		Ensure that the vision and key priorities are reflected in the SA and the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD.

Worcestershire County Structure Plan (1996 – 2011)	• Long term planning document covering the period 1996-2011. • Encourage and promote land use activities that will lead to an improvement in the quality or air, water and land. • Seek a reduction in the consumption of energy and finite resources through the more efficient use of resources, recycling, the use of renewable sources and the reduction in the amount of waste produced. • Protect from damaging development and land use activity, and enhance, biodiversity and diverse and important environmental. Landscape townscape and historic features and characteristics. • Ensure the integration of development within the landscape in order to protect and enhance essential	Ensure that the Structure Plan policies are incorporated into the SA Framework.

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	landscape characteristics and features. ▪ Protect and expand amenity areas and open spaces, and access to them, in both town and country. ▪ Meet the housing requirements of the population of the new County through the provision of an adequate range of housing including general market, affordable and social housing in a way which protects the environment and makes the most effective use of the existing settlement pattern. ▪ Work towards a better balance between housing, employment, social and community facilities within settlements ▪ Encourage development that will help retain and enhance the identity, character and vitality of settlements. ▪ Promote energy efficient construction, design and development patterns. ▪ Seek the location of development in areas which will minimise the need to travel and reduce the distances required to be travelled (energy efficient locations) ▪ Guide new development to locations that can be served by a choice of transport modes for both the movements of people and freight. ▪ Support and facilitate the development of alternative modes of travel tot he car. ▪ Facilitate the strengthening and diversification of the economic base of the Region and of Worcestershire by the provision of a mixed portfolio of development locations and sites and by the enhancement and management of an attractive County environment. ▪ Encourage urban and rural regeneration ▪ Support the enhancement, development and integration of, and access to, a range of recreation facilities both within and around settlements. ▪ Seek to reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour by introducing crime prevention as a material consideration into the land-use and development planning process. ▪ Prudent use of natural resources in order to minimise their use and to conserve them for future generations. ▪ There is a primary need to reduce energy use wherever possible at all stages of the development process. ▪ The loss of or detrimental impact to the County's environmental assets or landscape character should be avoided. ▪ Encourage development on previously developed land ▪ Deliver sustainable patterns of development, which allow accessibility to jobs, education, health, shopping, leisure and other local services. ▪ A key element of sustainability is to ensure that town centres within the County are not undermined by	

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	development proposals elsewhere. ▪ Skylines and hill features and prominent views of such features contribute to local landscape character and as such should be protected from development. ▪ The principle of sustainable development must be applied to agricultural land, and this will require the protection of the best and most versatile agricultural land for future generations, whilst recognising the environmental, economic and social needs of rural areas. ▪ Development will be expected to incorporate measures to prevent the pollution of watercourses and aquifers. ▪ Support for proposals that incorporate renewable energy/energy efficiency measures.	
Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2 (2006 – 2011)	▪ Sets out Transport Strategy for Worcestershire for 2006 – 11. Identifies an area strategy for Wyre Forest which includes the following policies: - WF.1 To identify and implement an appropriate traffic management scheme to reduce traffic emissions on the A451 at Horsefair and to enable the Air Quality Management Area designation to be removed. - WF.2 To undertake a transportation study for the Wyre Forest area, which will result in the identification of the preferred transport strategy to support the economic regeneration of the SREC. This will form the basis for a future major scheme funding bid for implementation of the strategy within the LTP3 period. ▪ To work with rail industry partners and the SVR to undertake improvements at Kidderminster Railway Station, that will improve accessibility within and to the Station, improve the connectivity between the station and the town centre and improve bus/rail interchange. ▪ To implement a package of measures within Bewdley town centre to improve air quality and the town centre environment. ▪ To work with Stourport Forward partners to identify and implement a package of transportation measures to reduce congestion and improve the environment within Stourport Town Centre. ▪ To support the work of WFBQP by helping the development of a fully integrated, affordable public and community transport network for Wyre Forest, providing the opportunity for seamless multi-modal journeys. ▪ To work with the Highways Agency to develop the future strategy for the management of the A449 and A456 Trunk Road routes. ▪ To undertake a review of all aspects of school transport provision, including school travel plans, as part of the Wyre Forest Schools Review and in particular to identify opportunities for better integration of school bus services.	The Transport Strategy for Wyre Forest will be reflected in the Kidderminster Area Action Plan DPD, which should support the implementation of this strategy within Kidderminster.

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Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan	▪ Takes objectives/targets of UK BAP and translates them into a Worcestershire context ▪ Contains Habitat Action Plans for 19 key wildlife habitats and Species Action Plans for 20 key species ▪ Habitat Action Plans aim to preserve habitats and their associated species by protecting existing sites, restoring degraded sites and where appropriate creating new sites. ▪ Species Action Plans aim to protect viable populations through protecting and enhancing them	Develop SA objective to safeguard and enhance biodiversity and promote creation of appropriate new habitats
Worcestershire Supporting People Strategy	▪ 5-year strategy aimed at developing and implementing a countywide vision for the Supporting People Programme. A number of key priorities include; making neighbourhoods safer, addressing homelessness, tackling substance misuse and supporting those who are vulnerable through age, disability or life experience to become independent. Particular emphasis is placed on the supported-housing market. ▪ Making our neighbourhoods safer through addressing crime, community safety and anti-social behaviour. ▪ Committed to services that deliver the highest standards of equality and diversity including; promoting equal opportunities and social cohesion and responding to the needs of each eligible group and working to engage all eligible sections of the community. ▪ Promote the integration of health/social care support services to maintain the health and well –being of vulnerable people.	Include SA Objective to reduce crime and promote community cohesion.
Worcestershire County Council Tourism Strategy	▪ Help provide a high quality experience for all visitors, and to bring economic, social and environmental benefit through a growing and sustainable visitor economy ▪ Take opportunities to link with regional and county initiatives on the economy, transport, environment, leisure and cultural development where they impact on tourism and tourism can make a contribution ▪ Encourage walking, cycling, the development of 'quiet lanes', public transport interchange points and coach parties and other transport initiatives that strengthen appeal to visitors	Include sustainability objectives to promote tourism for all visitors in a sustainable fashion
A Cultural Strategy for Worcestershire	▪ The integration of culture into environmental initiatives helps to bring people and the planning process closer together. Programs that make use of creativity in addressing environmental issues can promote even greater empathy and awareness across a Worcestershire community, which already values its built heritage and natural environment very highly. The benefits include: • better understanding of the needs of environmental issues (through a crosscutting	Include SA Objective to improve community cohesion.

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	and integrated approach) • managing tourism and balancing the needs of local people with promoting sustainable growth (through awareness and a wider educational context) • direct and real improvements to natural assets • strengthening support for community-based projects • getting residents actively involved in environmental improvements	
Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan 1997	▪ Identifies preferred areas for the working of sand and gravel in the County and sets our detailed policies. ▪ Proposals in the Green Belt must contribute to Green Belt purposes by maintaining openness and visual amenity and must be environmentally and ecologically acceptable. ▪ All proposals must be accompanied by detailed proposals for the reclamation of the site to an agreed after use.	Note the principles set out in the Minerals Local Plan and ensure the openness of the green belt is maintained.
Worcestershire Countryside Access & Recreation Strategy. (2003 – 2013)	▪ Provides the Strategic Management Framework for issues relating to countryside access and recreation within Worcestershire. ▪ Vision: "To develop a countryside recreation culture in Worcestershire in which residents and visitors alike benefit from the opportunity to access a range of high quality countryside recreation opportunities. This will be planned and implemented having respect for the wishes of both landowners and the local community and ensuring the utmost protection of environmental interests. ▪ Ensuring opportunity is available to all sections of the community to enjoy the countryside. ▪ Securing and promoting opportunities for countryside access. ▪ Encouraging and enabling local communities to become involved in and take action to share and increase the local benefits of countryside recreation opportunities. ▪ Manage and promote responsible land use activities so as to reduce the potential for conflict between all types of land users, communities and rural enterprises. ▪ Making use of recreational opportunities whilst protecting and enhancing the environmental qualities of the countryside. ▪ Provide a range of facilities of high standard to ensure that the differing demands and aspirations of users are catered for, to help people enjoy and appreciate their recreational experiences. ▪ Contributing to and promoting the associated health and well being qualities associated with countryside recreation activities. ▪ Raise awareness of the opportunities and benefits of countryside recreation to the diversification of the rural economy, in particular in its support for local tourism.	Include SA Objective to promote recreational opportunities whilst protecting and enhancing the environmental qualities of the countryside.

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	▪ Encourage and promote the use of a greater variety of transport modes to access the countryside and in particular alternatives to the car.	
Worcestershire Climate Change Strategy	▪ Raise awareness of the issue of Climate Change & its impact on the County. ▪ Reduce Climate Change causing gas emissions across the County by a minimum of 10% from 2005 levels by 2011 and 20% by 2020 ▪ Adapt to and plan for the inevitable impacts of Climate Change on the County by focusing on a number of key sectors including; Commercial, Voluntary & Public Service, Industry, New Developments, Public Transport and Waste.	Include SA Objective on promoting opportunities for sustainable travel to reduce transport emissions.
Planning for Water in Worcestershire – Draft Technical Research Paper (2008)	▪ The purpose of this Technical Research Paper is to provide a consistent, strategic approach to the management of water by, identifying the key issues and implications surrounding the management of water in the County so that water related issues can be properly and strategically planned for at an early stage in the plan making process. ▪ The document identifies a number of water related challenges and issues which need to be addressed within the planning system within Worcestershire. These are: adapting to the challenges of climate change (drought and flooding); Preventing and managing surface ground and fluvial flooding; Ensuring sufficient water supply; Ensuring sufficient sewerage capacity (infrastructure); Biodiversity enhancement and the role of green infrastructure (wetlands, woodlands etc) in flood management and water cycle; Improving water efficiency in developments; Improving water quality.	Ensure that the SA reflects the key water related challenges and that these are addressed within the DPD where relevant.
Planning for Renewable Energy in Worcestershire - Draft Technical Research paper (2008)	▪ Identifies that there is potential to generate a greater level of renewable energy within Worcestershire than is presently achieved; ▪ Rivers, streams and watercourses within the County could be exploited to provide hydro-electric power; ▪ Large areas of the county have average wind speeds sufficient for the generation of energy from wind turbines, with the greatest potential in Wychavon and Bromsgrove districts; ▪ Biomass energy has significant potential in Worcestershire, with substantial existing woodland and high potential yields for energy crops; ▪ Solar irradiation (the amount of sunlight falling on the ground) across the County as a whole is relatively high, and could deliver both electricity and hot water through the increased use of solar panels; ▪ Worcestershire falls within an area that is capable of utilising the heat of the ground, air and water to contribute towards heating energy needs.	Incorporate an indicator relating to the generation of renewable energy within the District.

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	▪ The paper seeks to collate existing baseline information to allow an informed view to be taken on the need and support for an expansion in renewable energy capacity.	

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Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
Wyre Forest Sustainable Community Strategy (2008)	o The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the following vision for the District: *Wyre Forest is a vibrant District where all our communities enjoy a high quality of life, and people value themselves and one another. Residents of all ages receive efficient services and play an active part in the success and well being of the District. Our unique and beautiful rural landscape is preserved; our three uniquely identifiable riverside towns and the outlying villages thrive, socially and economically. Wyre Forest District is a safe, prosperous and healthy place to live, work and play.* o The Sustainable Community Strategy is presented in inter-related block, each with its own priorities, these are set out below: ▪ **Communities that are Safe and feel Safe**: Improve the quality of life for people who live in Wyre Forest by reducing crime and deliberate fires; reassure the public by reducing the fear of crime; reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs; and build respect in communities and reduce anti-social behaviour. ▪ **A Better Environment for Today and Tomorrow:** To have cleaner, greener, safer public spaces; To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change; To reduce waste and increase re-use and recycling; To protect and improve Wyre Forests natural environment/biodiversity. ▪ **Economic Success that is Shared by All:** To develop a vibrant and sustainable economy, by attracting and retaining high growth and niche businesses to Wyre Forest District; To develop the economic infrastructure; To improve the skills based of the population; To ensure access to economic benefits. ▪ **Improved Health and Wellbeing:** To increase the life expectancy of adults and to reduce the incidence of coronary heart disease and cancer; To improve the quality of life of older people, especially those with a limiting long-term illness; To reduce health inequalities; Improved life choices for people with mental health problems.	Imperative that the central themes of the Community Strategy are reflected in the SA Framework.

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	▪ **Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People:** Support children and young people to lead healthy lifestyles; Improve the emotional well-being of children and young people; Prevent bullying, and support children who have been affected by it; Protect children and young people who are at risk of harm or neglect; Ensure that children and young people are respected and valued in their communities; Actively involve children, young people and their families in decisions that affect their lives; Support the implementation of Extended Services in Wyre Forest District; Raise the educational achievement of all children and young people, from those who find learning challenging to the most gifted and able; To enrich the experiences and development of children and young people through activity and positive contribution; Ensure that children, young people and their families have things to do and enjoy in their communities; Increase the participation of young people aged 16 and over in education, employment and training; Ensure that all children and young people and their families live in satisfactory accommodation. ▪ **Stronger Communities:** Improve access to learning, participation and cultural opportunities; Increase participation in cultural, leisure and recreational activities; Improve access to services, including advice, support and facilities; Increase the availability of decent, appropriate and affordable housing; Improve housing conditions; Access to housing and preventing homelessness; To reduce the impact of traffic congestion upon Wyre Forest; Improve passenger transport leading to improved accessibility and an increase in passenger numbers; Increase the use of sustainable travel methods; Ensure the value of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and volunteers is recognised across the District; Empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in public delivery; Improve the quality of life for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods (Oldington and Foley Park ward) and ensure service providers are more responsive to neighbourhood needs and improving their delivery; To reduce income deprivation including child and pensioner poverty.	
Wyre Forest Adopted Local Plan (2004)	▪ Overall vision: "to establish a framework for achieving a sustainable balance between development necessary to meet the needs of the District and the conservation of the diverse character of the area's built and natural environments. In striving to achieve this balance, the Plan will help to ensure a better quality of life for residents, visitors and future generations." ▪ Principle aims of the Development Strategy: accommodate the development needs of the District as set out in the Worcestershire County Structure Plan 1996 – 2011, in a sustainable manner by concentrating housing and employment development in the main towns of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn. ▪ Place an emphasis on urban regeneration and recycling of land and buildings particularly for mixed-use development in or adjacent to the main town centres.	The SA Framework should reflect the aims of the development strategy.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

DISTRICT		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
	▪ Concentrate retail, commercial, leisure and office uses in Kidderminster Town Centre and to a lesser extent Stourport-on-Severn town centre. ▪ Enable the diversification of the rural economy whilst generally limiting rural housing provision to local needs. ▪ Conserve and enhance the District's environmental assets including the countryside, natural and built heritage. ▪ Locate development so as to reduce the need to travel, provide a choice of travel modes, and support the provision of alternative modes to the private car. ▪ Maintain the existing adopted Green Belt boundaries unless exceptional circumstances require otherwise.	
Wyre Forest Housing Strategy (2004)	▪ 4 key priorities ▪ meeting affordable housing needs ▪ tackling homelessness and providing housing options ▪ maintaining independence of older and vulnerable people through housing and support ▪ improving conditions within private sector housing	Develop a SA objective to try and meet the housing needs of the district's population.
Wyre Forest Cycle Strategy (2002)	▪ Aims to promote cycling as a sustainable from of transport and to provide a comprehensive framework of measures by which this can be achieved. ▪ Identifies a network of prioritised cycle route proposals for the District, which reflects WCC's LTP2 Strategy. ▪ Outlines the following objectives: ▪ To create safe cycle routes for local people to utilise. ▪ To ensure that cyclists' needs are catered for in new developments within the District. ▪ To improve the provision of facilities for cyclists at transport interchanges and to promote links between cycling and public transport. ▪ To support the creation of safer routes to schools in conjunction with Worcestershire County Council. ▪ To implement the Sustrans Route 45 Network within the District in partnership with Sustrans and Worcestershire County Council. ▪ To increase cycle parking provision within the town centres of Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley. ▪ To promote cycle routes for leisure and sustainable tourism purposes within the District. ▪ To promote the environmental and health benefits of cycling as a form of transport through partnership	Develop a SA Objective to promote opportunities to increase cycling levels within the District.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

DISTRICT		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
	working. ▪ To provide quality and usable cycle infrastructure through regular consultation with local cyclists. ▪ To work in partnership with Worcestershire County Council, the Highways Agency, Wyre Forest Cycle Forum and local residents to meet or exceed government targets of trebling cycling by 2010 compared with 2000.	
Wyre Forest Design Supplementary Planning Guidance. (2004)	▪ Everyone deserves access to places, which are safe, welcoming, attractive and healthy. ▪ Good design adds value to development schemes in terms of environmental performance, community and social well being and commercial viability ▪ New development should remove real and perceived barriers to access and use ▪ Every opportunity should be taken to improve the environmental performance of development, at scheme and detailed level ▪ Sustainability relates to design, construction and operating costs of new development ▪ Development which scores 'Good' (or better) on the BREEAM rating system is encouraged ▪ Larger scale developments may need to demonstrate a commitment to sustainable design ▪ New buildings need to adapt to future change. Buildings that can be modified without major structural alteration will suit changing circumstances and the energy and upheaval of demolition can be avoided ▪ Design new development to contribute to vitality by mixing uses and increasing densities and the intensity of uses within buildings ▪ Design for walking and forms of movement other than the car – which should not dominate ▪ Residential development should support more sustainable lifestyles	Develop SA objective to ensure good, sustainable design in any (re)development.
Wyre Forest Community Safety Strategy	▪ To reduce crime by 18% in the District by 2007/08 ▪ To reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour. ▪ To reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs. ▪ To increase voluntary and community engagement especially amongst those at risk of social exclusion.	Develop SA Objective to contribute to the reduction of crime levels within the District.
Wyre Forest Air Quality Strategy (2005)	▪ Maps out the actions required to improve air quality and set out objectives and actions within strategic business and public sectors to implement and investigate further improvements to air quality within the District, Includes the following objectives: - Ensure that planning applications are assessed for the effects of air pollution on future occupiers of that development and the effects of the development on air quality.	Develop SA Objective to reduce the adverse effects on air quality within the District.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

DISTRICT		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
	- Implement procedures to liaise with neighbouring local authorities where developments within the District could adversely effect air quality within their area. - Require air quality monitoring and modelling from developers for proposed development where appropriate. - Apply LTP initiatives: S106 Obligations will be sought for contributions towards improved bus services and priority measures, inclusion of cycle facilities in proposals, S106 Obligations sought for developers to enhance pedestrian access to development, all major new developments that would create specific transport related problems must be accompanied by travel plans, promote use of public transport, Bus Quality Partnerships and other forms of sustainable transport, work together with WCC to co-ordinate a sustainable transport policy across the District, implement policies to reduce traffic demand on roads in the District, - Provide energy efficiency and green energy initiatives to residents and businesses within the District.	
Wyre Forest Housing Needs Survey	▪ To reanalyse the change in the housing market locally in order to reassess income thresholds for access to market housing. ▪ To reanalyse housing survey database. ▪ To reanalyse population forecasts. ▪ To provide an affordable need forecast to 2006. ▪ To inform the Housing Strategy and support Local Plan policies for affordable housing.	Develop SA objective to ensure that there is an adequate range of affordable and social housing to meet the District's needs
Wyre Forest Housing Stock Condition Survey (2007)	▪ The most recent housing stock condition survey was conducted in early 2007. 1,139 homes private rented and owner occupied homes were survey and information was collected on the following: General characteristics of the dwelling; condition of the internal and external fabric; provision of amenities; compliance with the fitness standard; compliance with housing health and safety; age and type of elements; energy efficiency measures; compliance with the Decent Homes Standard and socio-economic information about the household (where occupied). ▪ The report estimates that 9,770 homes within the District fail to meet the decent homes standard.	Develop an SA objective regarding the provision of decent, affordable housing.
Wyre Forest Sustainability Strategy 2004 - 2007	▪ Identifies three priority areas that need addressing in order to mover towards sustainable development in Wyre Forest. These are: ▪ Improve the provision of and promotion of sustainable transport. ▪ Protect and enhance our natural and built environment. ▪ Promote effective and minimal use of natural resources.	Ensure that the objectives of the strategy are reflected in the SA objectives.

APPENDIX A: Identification of other relevant plans, policies, programmes and sustainability objectives.

DISTRICT		
Policy/Plan/Programme/ Strategy/Initiative	**Objectives**	**SA Implications**
Wyre Forest Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (2001)	- The principle aims of the strategy are: - To comply with statute law on contaminated land. - To remove any threat to human health. - To remove any threat to controlled waters. - To remove any threat to flora and fauna. - To aid effective re-development of land within the Wyre Forest District. - To protect historic sites and the historic environment. - The Strategy sets out the Council's priorities for dealing with contaminated land. These are: - To protect human health. - To protect controlled waters. - To protect designated ecosystems. - To prevent damage to property. - To prevent any further contamination of land. - To encourage voluntary remediation of land. - To ensure compliance with Statute Law. - To aid effective re-development of land within the Wyre Forest District. - To ensure that procedures are in place for the provision of information to the Council's customers i.e. the public, developers, land owners etc. - To enable the Council to address liability issues associated with Council owned land. - To encourage the remediation/redevelopment of brown field sites within the District. - To have a comprehensive Strategy in place before the inspection of the District takes place. - To focus its strategy on areas of the District where statutorily contaminated land is more likely to exist and on industries specific to the region.	Ensure that any contaminated land identified is recorded in the SA baseline.

Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework

Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan

Development Plan Document

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

APPENDIX B – BASELINE DATA

April 2008

Forward Planning Section
Planning, Health & Environment Division
Wyre Forest District Council
Duke House
Clensmore Street
Kidderminster
Worcestershire
DY10 2JX

WARDS IN WYRE FOREST DISTRICT

Wolverley

Cookley

Wribbenhall

Blakedown & Chaddesley

Bewdley & Arley

Rock

Lickhill

Mitton

Areley Kings
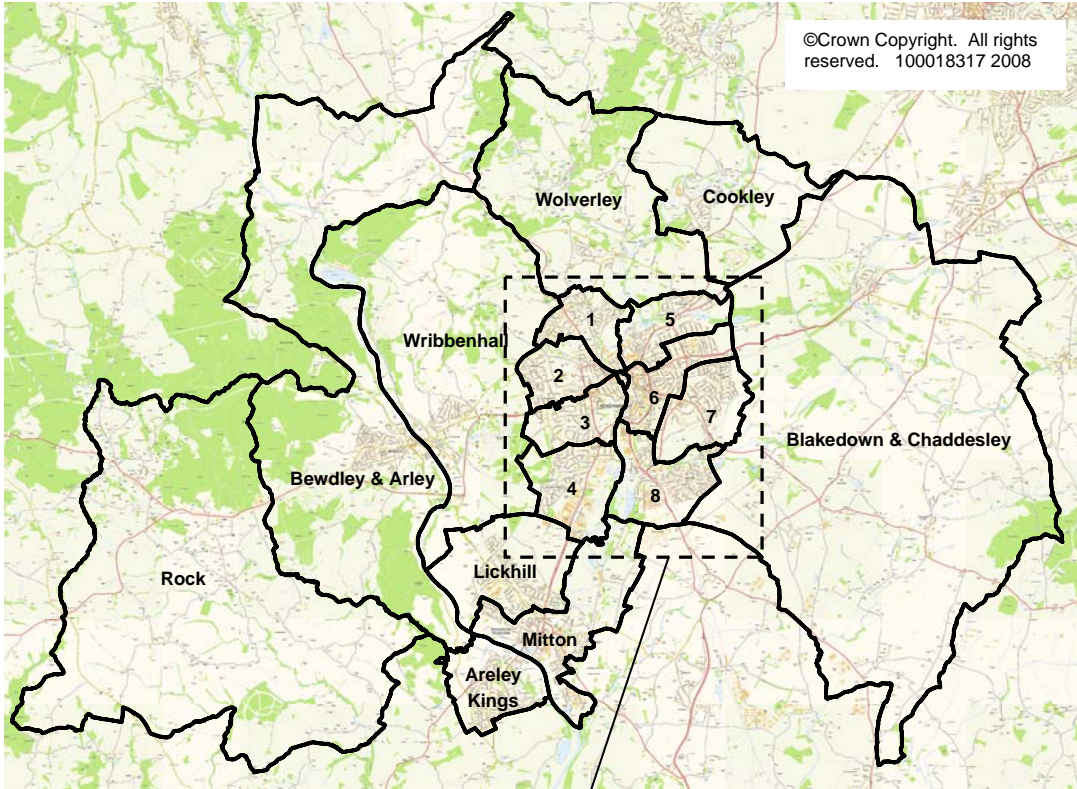
Key
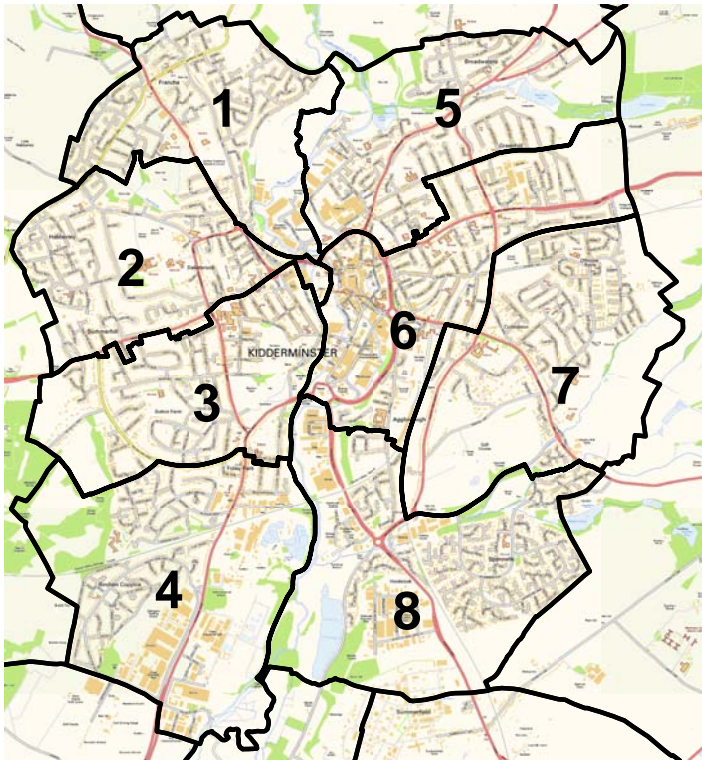
1. Franche

2. Habberley & Blakebrook

3. Sutton Park

4. Oldington & Foley Park

5. Broadwaters

6. Greenhill

7. Offmore & Comberton

8. Aggborough & Spennells

Contents

Introduction

This document sets out the baseline data that has been collected to inform the production of the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan (KCAAP). This section will set out what baseline data has been collected and why, how the data was collected, and its limitations.

A wide range of data has been collected and presented in six over-arching themes, which reflect those of the District's Sustainable Community Strategy. The data has been drawn from the Council's own monitoring and mapping systems; on-line statistical databases including www.statistics.gov.uk and www.nomisweb.co.uk, and existing adopted Council documents.

The boundary for the area to be covered by the Area Action Plan will be defined through the Issues and Options consultation process. The data collected presents an overview of the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the 8 urban wards of Kidderminster, the wider area in which the Area Action Plan area will fall. The map on the inside front cover of this document shows the location of these wards. The range of data available is restricted at this small scale as a large amount of data is only available at County or District level, rather than ward level and has therefore been excluded. A wider range of data is set out in the SA Scoping Report which was prepared for the Core Strategy, this is available from the District Council's website.

Introduction to the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan area

Although the area to be covered has not yet been fully defined, the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan will focus on Kidderminster Town Centre and the areas immediately surrounding it, including The Horsefair, Churchfields Business Park, and the Comberton Hill area. Kidderminster town centre is identified as a strategic centre within the RSS and will be the focus for new retail, office and leisure development within the District. The Horsefair forms a small local centre on the edge of Kidderminster. The Horsefair, along with the ring road suffers from traffic congestion. Comberton Hill forms the gateway to the town centre for people arriving by train; however, pedestrian connections from here to the town centre are poor. The Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan aims to reconnect and regenerate these parts of Kidderminster.

_____

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COMMUNITIES THAT ARE SAFE AND FEEL SAFE

Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework
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Crime

Crime 2004/05

KEY

	381-660
	661-940
	941-1220
	1221-1500
	1501-1778

The map to the left shows the level of reported crime in the six urban wards of Kidderminster for 2004/05. Crime is highest in the Greenhill ward, which includes Kidderminster Town Centre. Here 1778 crimes were reported during 2004/05. The ward with the lowest level of recorded crime was Franche, here 381 offences were reported during 2004/05.

(Source: http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk).

Indices of Deprivation 2007

The crime domain of the 2007 IMD measures the rate of recorded crime for four major crime types, representing the risk of personal and material victimisation at a small area level. The four crime types covered are burglary, theft, criminal damage and violence. The map below shows that the town centre and its immediate surroundings are within the. The Riffle Range area of Oldington and Foley Park ward is also within the most deprived 10% nationally. On the whole, the least deprived areas in terms of crime are further from the town centre.

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KEY

	Most Deprived 10%
	Most Deprived 20%
	Most Deprived 50%
	Least Deprived 50%
	Least Deprived 20%
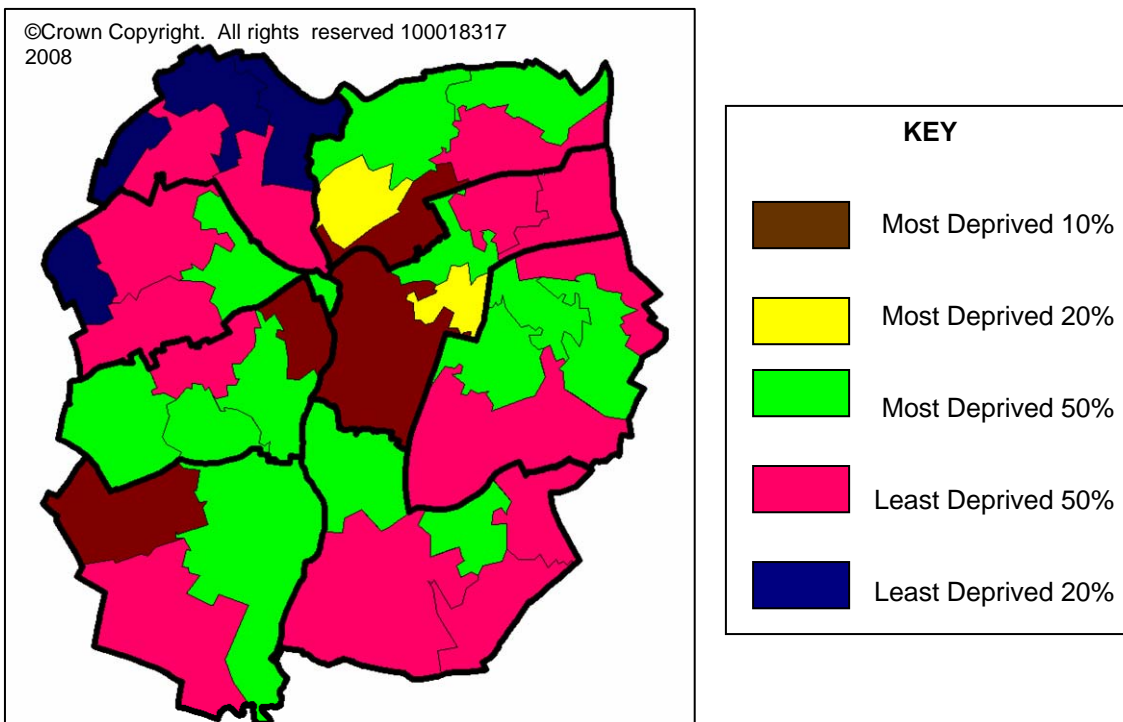
Drug and Alcohol Misuse in Kidderminster

The following information was obtained through The Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership Strategy.

Results for 2002 – 2003

Drugs
- There were 439 drug-related crimes in the District during this time period. Kidderminster town centre and the Horsefair were the priority areas for these crimes which were mainly shop lifting and assault.

Alcohol
- Kidderminster town centre and the Horsefair were identified as alcohol related hotspots.

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A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

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Sites of Special Scientific Interest

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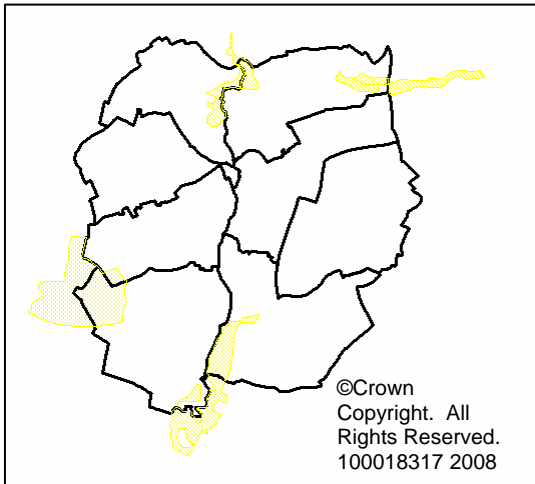
The map adjacent shows all of the SSI sites within the six urban wards of Kidderminster. The four SSIs which fall int the urban area are Devil's Spittleful which is adjacent to the Riffle Rage estate, Wilden March and Meadows, Hurcott and Podmore Pools, which is within Broadwaters, and Puxton Marsh SSI which is adjacent to Crossley Retail Park.

English Nature conducts a rolling programme of site condition surveys for all the SSSIs over a six-year period. The results for Puxton Marshes are shown in the table below.

Source Wyre Forest District Adopted Local Plan 2004

Name of site and characteristics.	Size in hectares	Condition(from English Nature surveys)
Puxton Marshes – large area of unimproved marshy grassland with associated damp woodland and open water. One of the largest areas of marshland remaining in the County.	7.66 5.27	Favourable Part destroyed where flood alleviation works have taken place.

Source: WFDC AMR 2007.

Special Wildlife Sites

The map to the right indicates the location of Special Wildlife sites throughout the Kidderminster area as at March 2008. SWS's are non-statutory areas that have, in the past, been identified by the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. SWS's are considered to be, at least, of county importance; although some may be of national importance.

Two linear SWSs, the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal and the River Stour, pass through Kidderminster Town Centre.

Source: WFDC GGP overlay 2008

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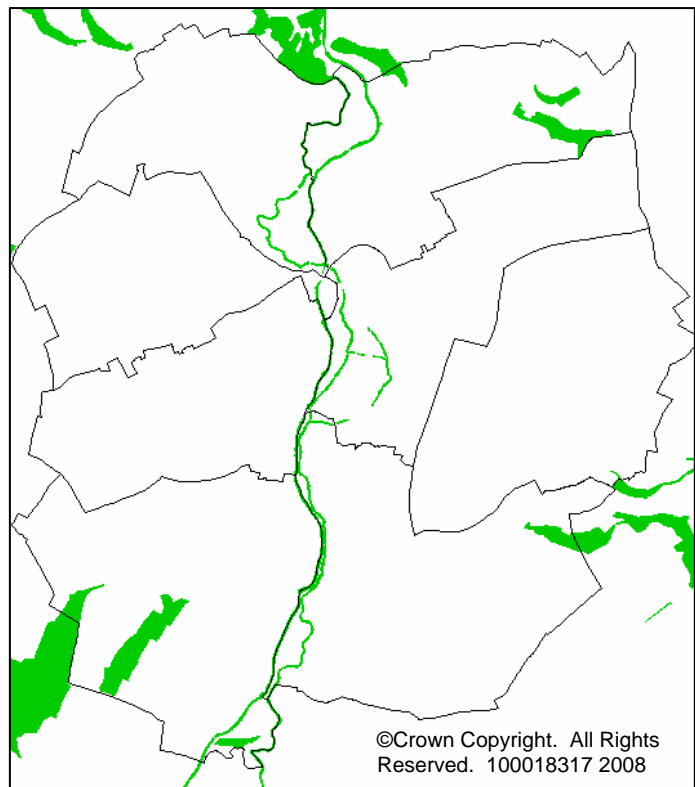
Protected Species

International and national law relevant to the protection of species in the District includes the following:

- European Council Habitats Directive 92/43
- Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)
- Protection of Badgers Act (1992)

These statutes provide comprehensive protection to a variety of flora and fauna. Some species are given total protection, whilst others are protected from activities such as killing or sale. Many of the species referred to are commonly encountered during the development process and those found within or adjacent to the town centre are:

Species Type	Location (Not Comprehensive)
Water Vole	The River Stour and its tributaries
Slow Worm	On allotments & at Puxton Marsh and Habberley Valley
Hornet Robberfly	Hurcott pastures, being the only siting in the County
Black Poplar	Along the Severn and Stour Valleys
Woodlark	Kidderminster

Source: Biodiversity Action Plan for Worcestershire (1999)

Tree Preservation
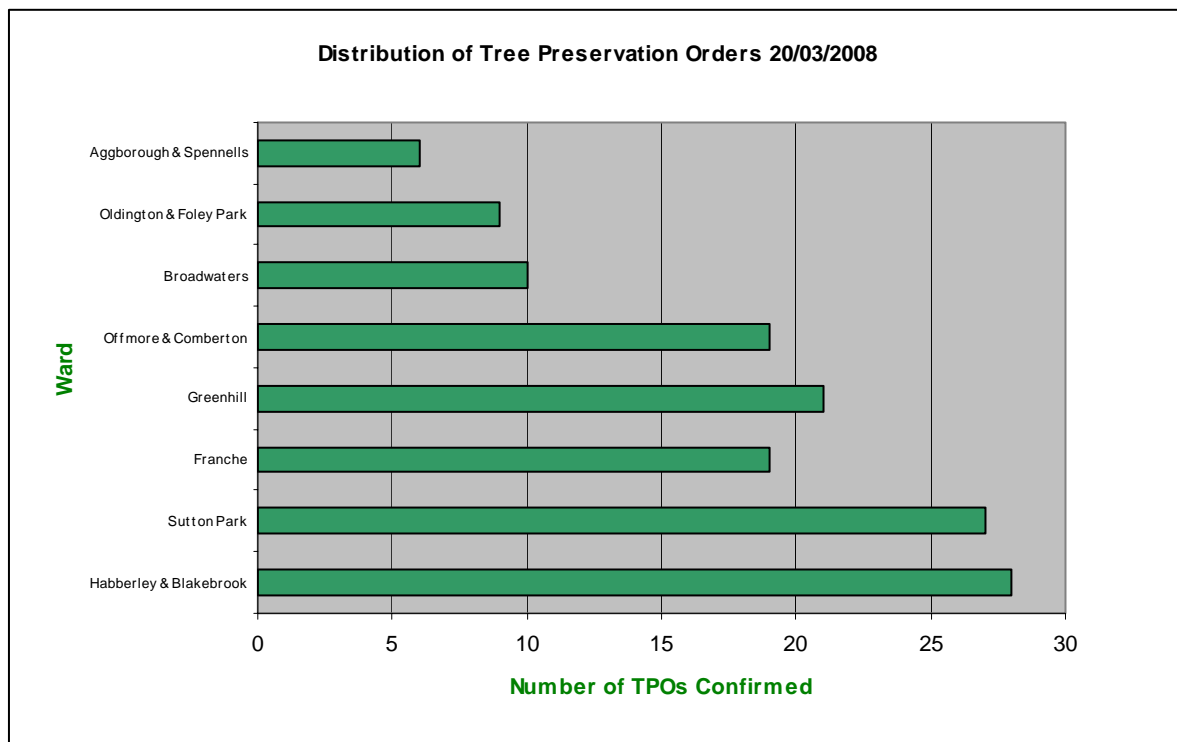
Source: Wyre Forest District Council Tree Preservation Database

To date (March 2008) the Council has 323 preservation orders placed on individual and areas or groups of trees within the 8 wards which make up the Kidderminster urban area. In addition all trees within Conservation Areas, with a diameter of more than 75 mm (at 1.5m above the ground), are also protected through the prior notification requirement. The town centre falls within Greenhill ward, here in excess of 20 trees are protected by TPOs. Additionally, the town centre has three Conservation Areas and any trees falling within their boundaries are protected.

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Water Resources

The River Stour runs parallel with the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal through Kidderminster to meet the River Severn at Stourport-on-Severn.

Aquifers
Kidderminster is underlain by the Permo-Triassic Sandstones. These sandstones are classed as major aquifers of high vulnerability to surface contamination. The sandstones are classed as major aquifers as large volumes of water can easily be drawn from them via boreholes or wells. Indeed, these sandstones are regionally important aquifers in terms of public water supply. They are of high vulnerability to surface contamination primarily due to the lack of any overlying protective cover e.g. clay layer.

Source Protection Zones
Large parts of Kidderminster also fall within source protection zones. Source protection zones have been modelled to protect specific sensitive locations such as springs, wells and boreholes used for potable supply e.g. public water s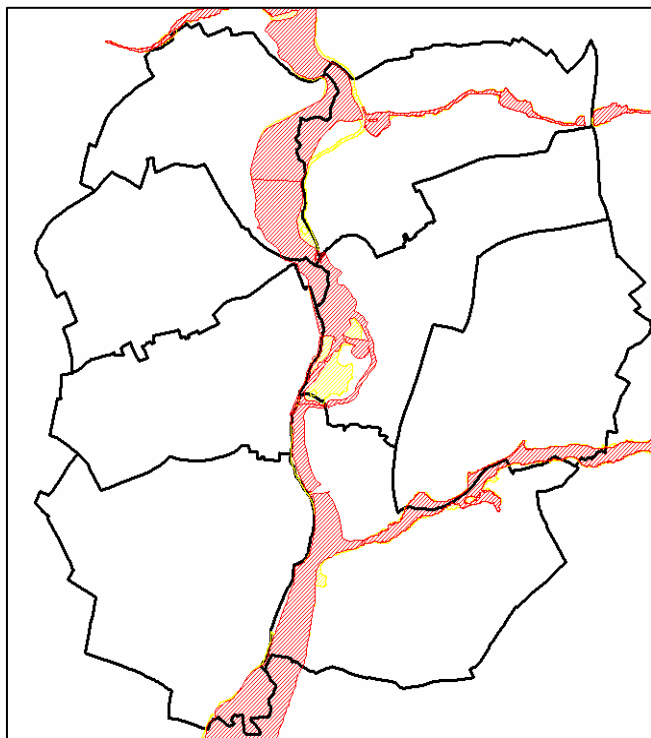upply boreholes. The abstraction of groundwater from a borehole modifies the natural groundwater flow in the aquifer. Based on the above information it can be seen that the area is highly sensitive in terms of protection of groundwater. It is therefore essential that all appropriate measures are taken to ensure that the underlying aquifers are protected during any regeneration.

Flooding Information

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Source: Environment Agency (September 2007) Flood Zones 2, 1:100 and 3, 1:1000

The Environment Agency's designated flood zones within the urban area of Kidderminster are indicated on the map to the right. The map shows those areas affected by fluvial flooding from the main rivers. Other types of flooding also affect the District, including surface-water run-off, groundwater, and foul water flooding.

As the River Stour passes through Kidderminster town centre, flooding is a key issue within the area and there is pressure for development within the flood zones. The Environment Agency is consulted on proposals for development within the flood zones and in 2007 no developments were built against Environment Agency advice.

A level one SFRA has been prepared for the District and is available from the District Council's web-site.

Flood Defences

Due to the nature of heavy flooding that the District has received in the past steps have been taken by the EA to alleviate the impact of flooding in certain areas. Within the Kidderminster area, flood defences have been constructed at Crossley Park/Puxton Marsh to protect Kiddermnister town centre from future flooding events.

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Recycling (Source: Wyre Forest District Council)

The recycling facilities within Kidderminster are listed below by location and by which items can be recycled at each location.

KIDDERMINSTER	Glass	Cans	Paper	Textiles	Shoes	Books
Aldi, Green Street	yes	yes	yes	yes		
B&Q		yes	yes	yes		
Birchen Coppice, Whittle Drive				yes		
Bromsgrove Street (Leisure Centre)	yes	yes	yes	yes		
Co-op, Franche	yes	yes	yes	yes		
Heronswood Road, Spennells	yes	yes	yes	yes		
Offmore Farm Community Centre	yes	yes	yes	yes		
Sainsburys	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
The Roundhead, Franche	yes	yes	yes			
The Swan, Blakedown	yes			yes		

Conservation Areas (Source: Wyre Forest District Council Records)

There are 3 Conservation Areas within Kidderminster Town Centre, these are highlighted on the map below. The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area passes through the area and the Church Street and Vicar & Exchange Street Conservation Area fall within the Area Action Plan area. Conservation Area appraisals have been prepared for Vicar & Exchange Street and the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area. A Management Plan has also been prepared for the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area.

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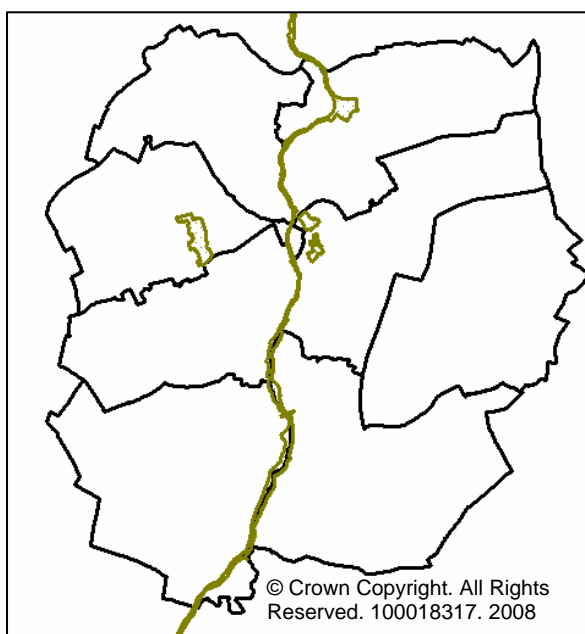
Locally Listed Buildings (Source: Wyre Forest District Council Records)

Under the provisions of PPG15 local planning authorities can draw up lists of locally important buildings and structures. A Locally Listed Building is one that is recognised by the District Council as being of local interest, either for historical associations, or for its architectural style. There are 424 buildings and structures on the Kidderminster Local List (237 entries) ranging from entire terraces to chapels, walls and viaducts.

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Any works requiring planing permission will need to be sympathetic to protect the character and appearance of the building and structure. Locally listing a building can sometimes lead to its placing on the statutory register. This has happened in the case of St. John the Baptist Church and the War Memorial to the front of St. Mary's Church, Kidderminster.

Buildings at Risk

The term 'Building At Risk' (BAR) has been defined by English Heritage as "an historic building at risk through neglect and decay" as distinct from the threat posed by unsympathetic alteration. In practice, the term has been used more narrowly and 'Building at Risk' is shorthand for listed building at risk. The National Building at Risk register therefore contains only listed buildings. The Register was updated in 2006; none of the Listed Buildings within the Area Action Plan area are on this list. The national list does not include Grade II listed buildings.

The Local Buildings at Risk Survey Update was completed in 2006. The Update Survey covered Grade II Listed Buildings in the three main towns. In Kidderminster, 70 buildings were surveyed and six of these were considered to be at risk.

Brownfield Land in Kidderminster

The map to the right shows the brownfield sites above 0.1 ha which are available for redevelopment within the Kidderminster area. A number of these sites fall within the town centre and will be addressed through the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan DPD.

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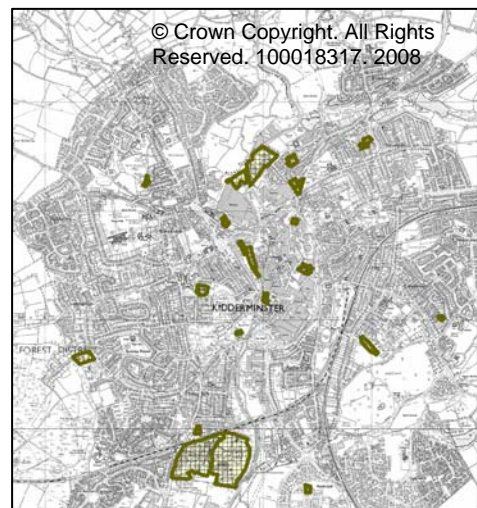
Average Density of New Development

Government policy encourages higher densities of housing to make better use of land and provide more support for public transport. It is recommended that most new housing is built at a density of over 30 dwellings per hectare (d.p.h). Within Kidderminster, which includes the area covered by the Area Action Plan, 65% of completions were at densities of at least 50 dph.

(Source: Wyre Forest District Council Residential Land Availability Report)

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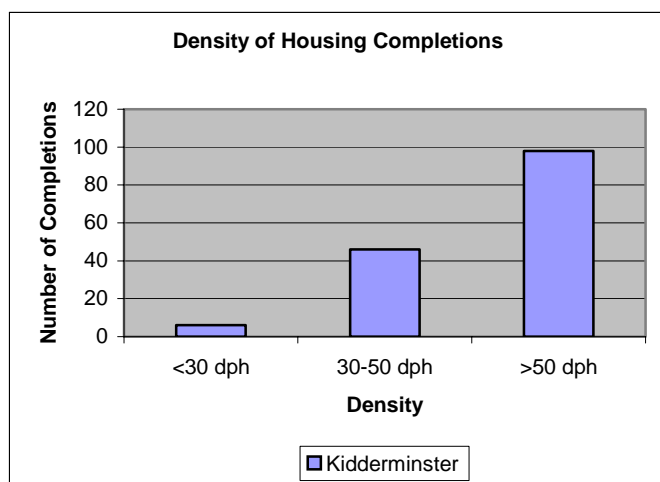
Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) (Source: Wyre Forest District Council Air Quality Action Plan (2004))

Air Quality Management Areas are areas designated by Wyre Forest District Council where the level of pollutant concentrations in the atmosphere results in the air quality not meeting the objectives set out by central government in 2005. There are two locations designated as AQMAs within the Wyre Forest and one is in the Horsefair area of Kidderminster. The map to the right shows its location. There is a strong correlation between the higher levels of NO^2 and high levels of traffic congestion. Road traffic congestion appears to be exacerbated by the fact that:

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AQMA 2 – Horsefair, Kidderminster.

- The road is a street canyon
- The road is restrictively narrow for large vehicles
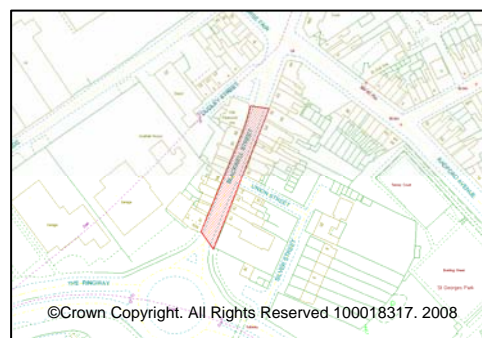
The net effect of these site-specific features is slow moving and standing traffic, especially at peak times. The Wyre Forest Air Quality Strategy also identifies a borderline air quality area along the Kidderminster Ring Road at St Marys. This is also within the area covered by the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan.

Pollution – Light
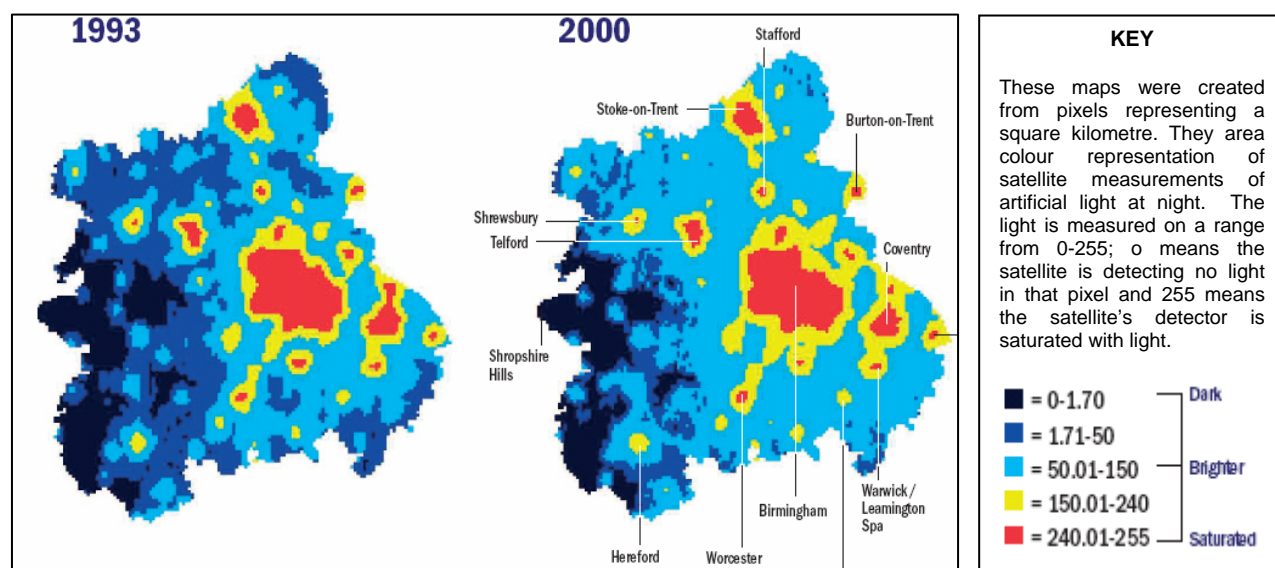
Light pollution in the West Midlands 1993 and 2000. Source: www.cpre.org.uk

The light pollution maps show that there has been a substantial increase in light pollution from light in the West Midlands in recent years. This has a detrimental impact upon nature and consumes electricity. Light pollution in Herefordshire and Worcestershire increased by 24% between 1993 and 2000, by comparison, the regional increase was 30% and the national increase was 24%. Kidderminster falls within the corridor between Birmingham and Worcester where light pollution is 150.01-240 which is the second highest level.

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ECONOMIC SUCCESS THAT IS SHARED BY ALL

BACKGROUND DATA

Unemployment by Ward (2001 Census)

1 – 2 %
3 – 4 %
5 – 6 %
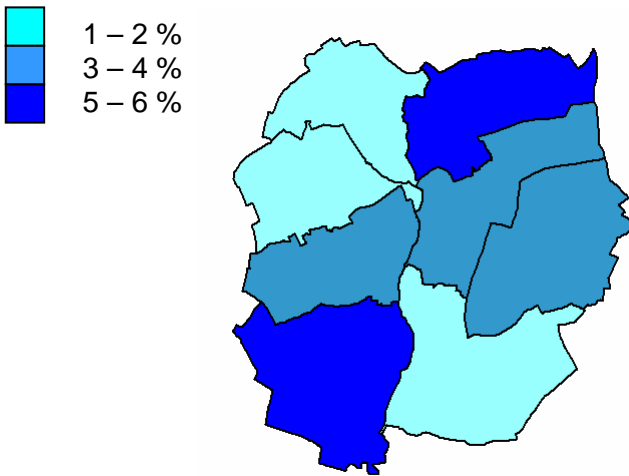
The adjacent map indicates the unemployment level in the Kidderminster area by ward. The wards of Broadwaters and Oldington and Foley Park have the highest levels of unemployment. The area around the town centre has 3-4% unemployment.

Levels of Economic Activity (2001 Census)

The graph below shows the percentage of people who are economically active and economically inactive by ward for Kidderminster. The highest levels of economic activity are in Sutton Park and Greenhill ward and the lowest levels are in Oldington and Foley and Broadwaters wards.
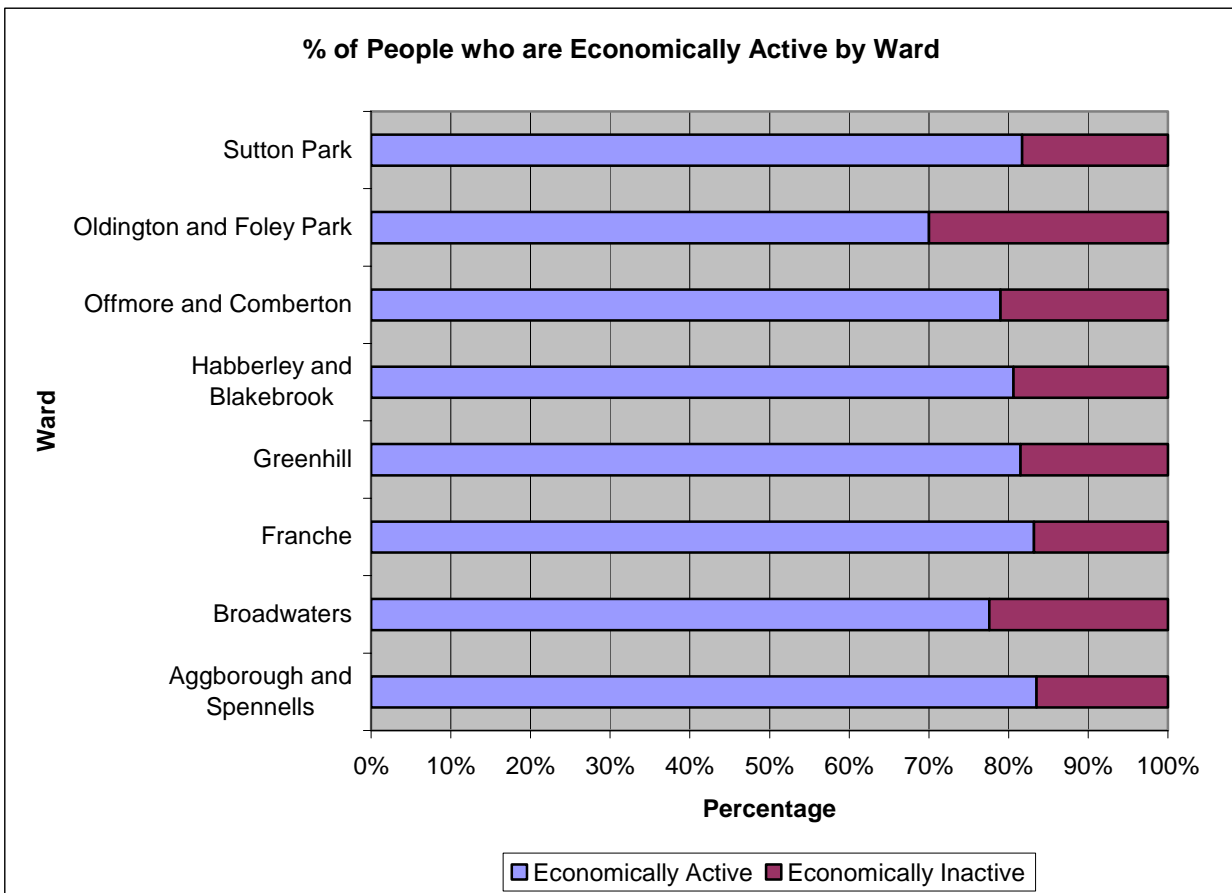
(Source: www.statistics.gov.uk)

Estimated Average Earnings per Household (£)

£ per Week

- ■ £400-£441
- ■ £442-£484
- ■ £485-£527
- ■ £528-£570

Source: Estimated Earnings per Household (ONS, 2006)
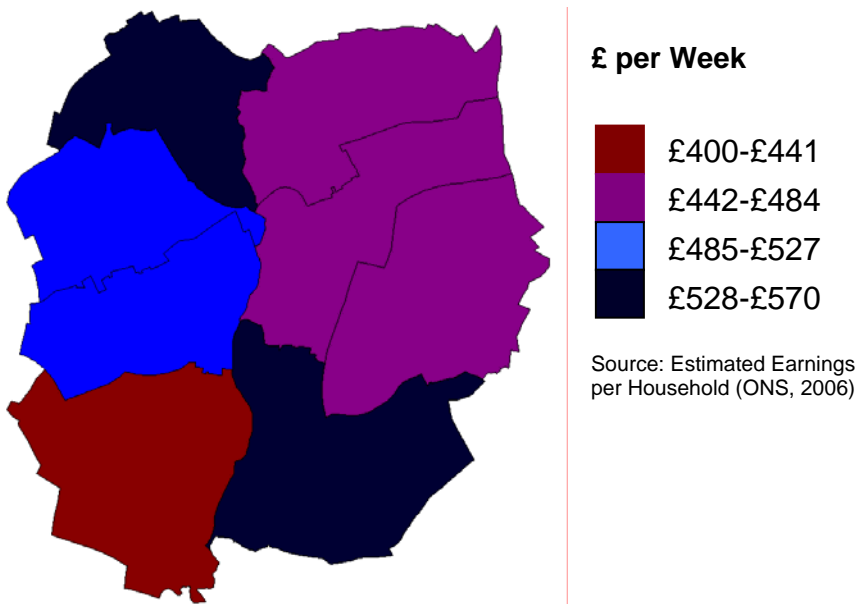
The map of Kidderminster to the left indicates the average earnings per household (in pounds per week) as estimated by the Office for national Statistics (ONS). Average earnings are highest in Aggborough and Spennells ward and Franche ward. Average earnings are lowest in Oldington and Foley Park ward. In Greenhill ward which covers the town centre area average earnings are £470 per week.

Benefits – Percentage of People Claiming JSA (March 2008)

- ■ 0.0-1.9%
- ■ 2.0-2.9%
- ■ 3+
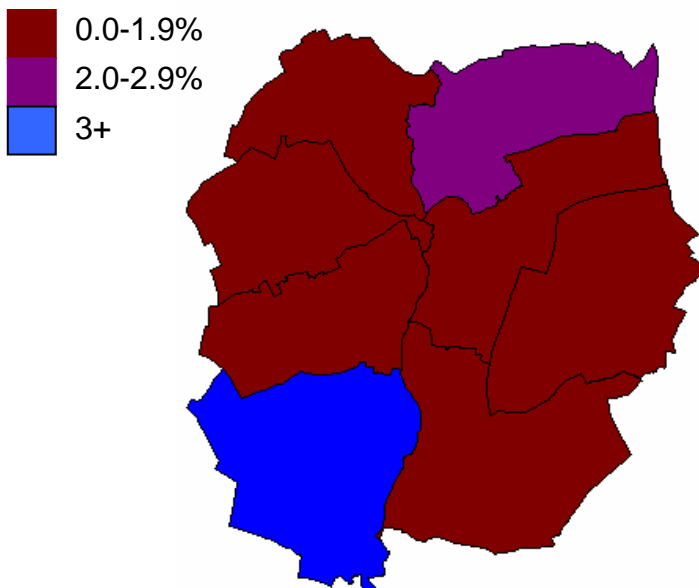
The map to the left indicates the percentage of people in each of the Kidderminster wards claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). The wards with the greatest percentage of people claiming this benefit are Oldington & Foley Park and Broadwaters. In Greenhill ward, which includes the town centre, 1.9% of people are claiming JSA.

Source: Nomis web 2008

INDUSTRY/BUSINESS

Average Rental Levels for Kidderminster		
(source: Jones Lang LaSalle, cited in Insider Commercial Property Guide 2008)		
Office	**Retail**	**Industrial**
£14 per sq ft	£75 per sq ft	£4.95 per sq ft

The table to the left shows the average rental levels of retail, office and commercial floorsapce within Kidderminster.

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VAT Registered Enterprises by Sector (March 2007)

The graph to the right shows the percentage of VAT registered businesses by industrial sector for Kidderminster in March 2007. The majority of VAT registered enterprises within Kidderminster are in the property and business services sector. Finance and education are the least-well represented sectors within Kidderminster.
(source: www.statistics.gov.uk)

VAT Based Enterprises by Sector

Legend:
- Agriculture
- Production
- Construction
- Motor Trades
- Wholesale
- Retail
- Hotels & Catering
- Transport
- Post & Telecommunications
- Finance
- Property & Business Services
- Education
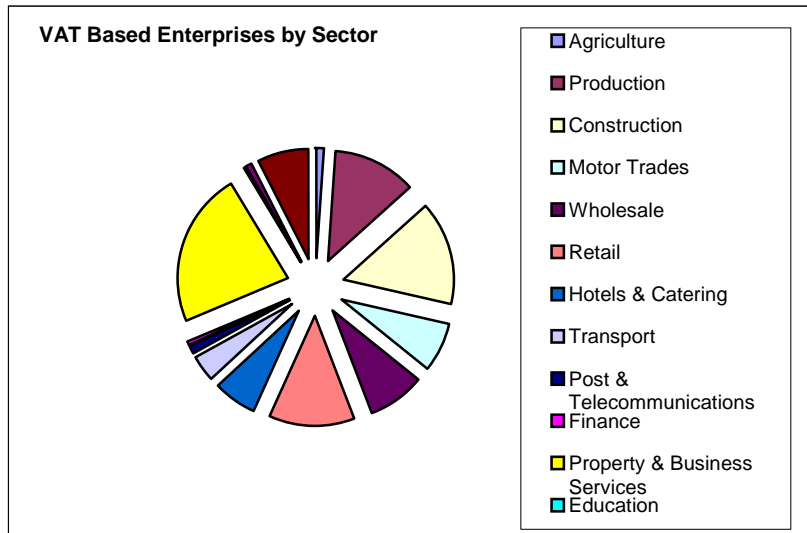
Employment by Occupation 2001 (People aged 16-74) (Source: Census 2001 www.nomisweb.co.uk)
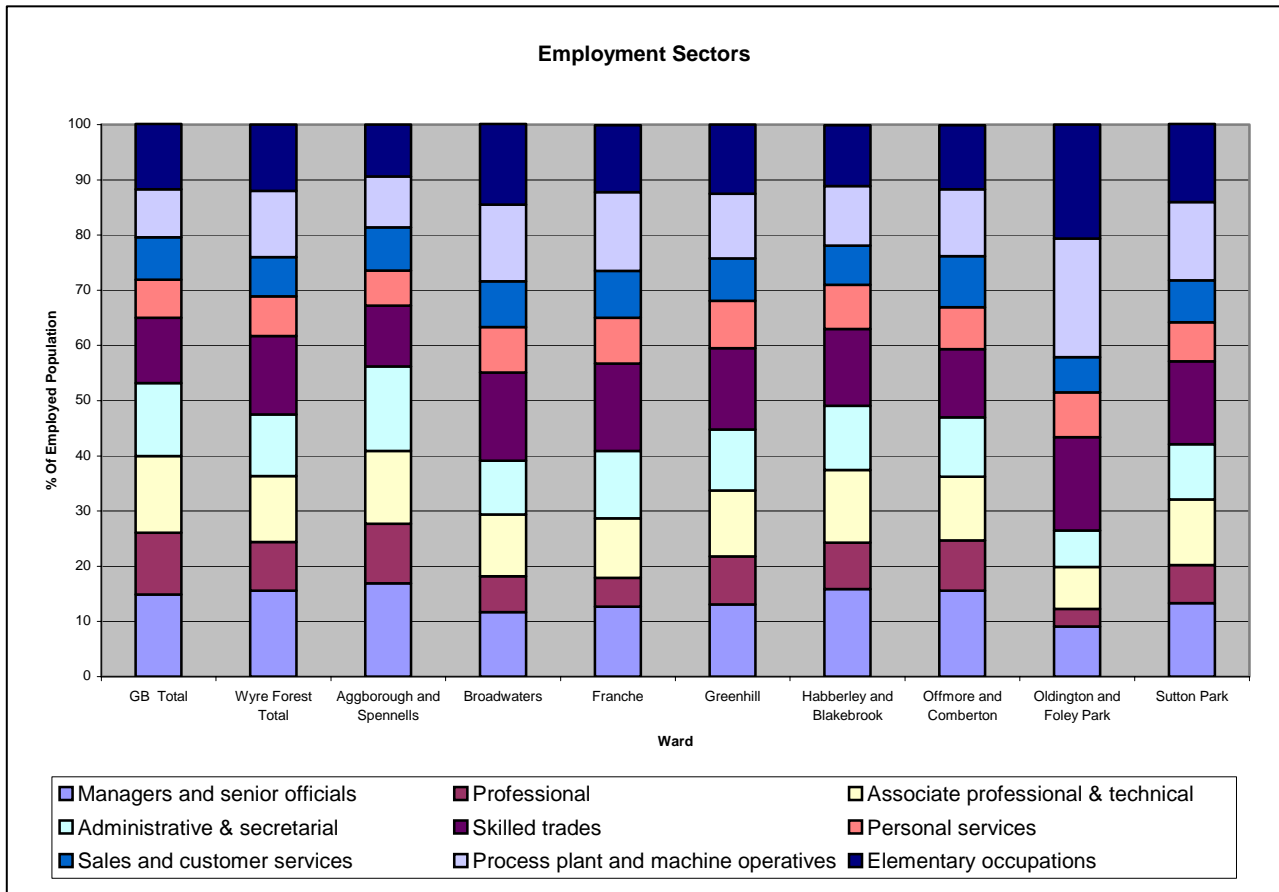
The graph above shows the percentage of employed people who are employed in each occupation category within each of the Kidderminster wards. The ward with the highest percentage of residents employed as managers and senior officials and professionals is Aggborough and Spennells. The ward with the lowest percentage of residents employed as managers and senior officials and professionals is Oldington and Foley Park, this ward also has a considerably higher proportion of its residents employed in elementary occupations and as process and machine operatives than any other ward within Kidderminster.

Employment Areas within Kidderminster
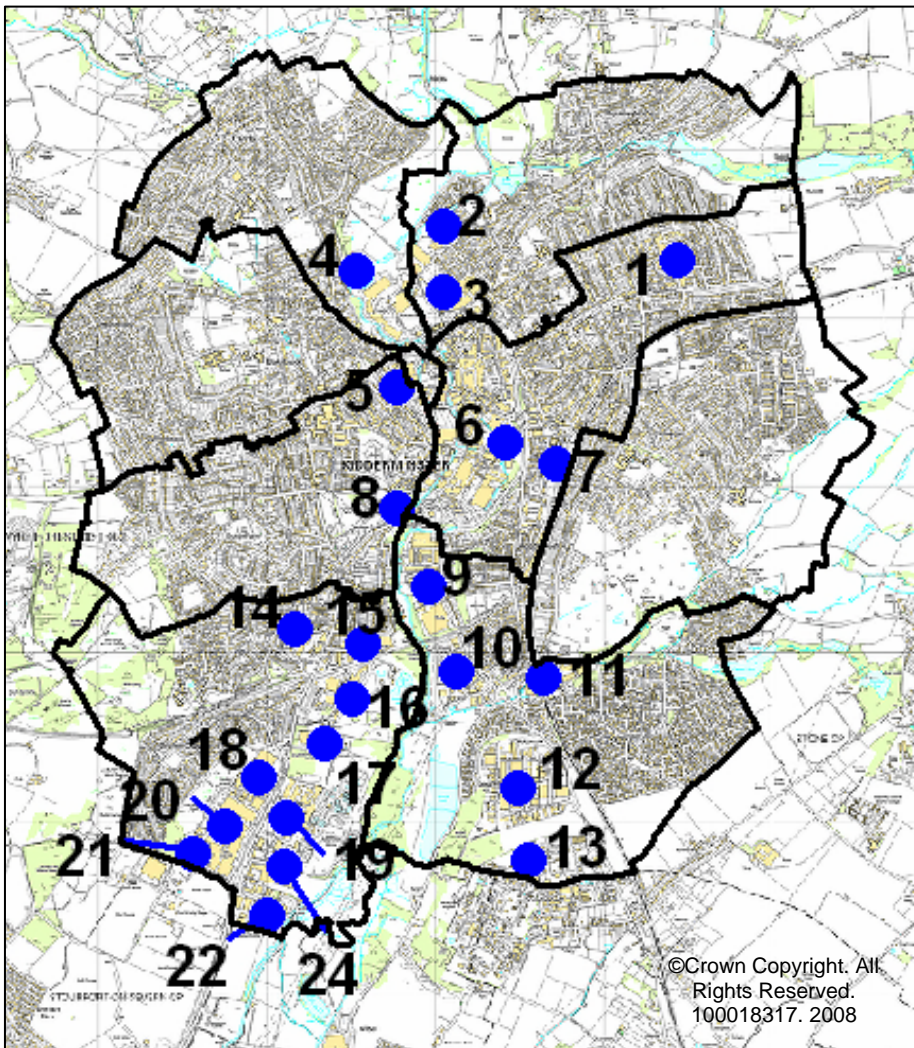
The adjacent map indicates a concentration of employment sites in Kidderminster.

Main Employment Areas within Kidderminster

Kidderminster

1. Greenhill Industrial Estate
2. Stoney Lane Industrial Estate
3. Churchfields Business Park
4. Puxton Mill
5. Park Street
6. Stourvale and Meadow Mills
7. Harriers Trading Estate
8. Park Lane
9. Worcester Road Business Area
10. Hoobrook Industrial Area
11. Spennells Valley and Brockway Carpets
12. Hoo Farm Industrial Estate
13. Summerfield
14. Oasis and Reilloc Chain
15. Lisle Avenue
16. Former British Sugar Site
17. Vale Industrial Estate
18. Oldington Trading Estate
19. Foley Industrial Estate and Foley Business Park

20. Brintons
21. Coppice Trading Estate & Former Romwire Site
22. Ceramaspeed
23. Folkes Forge
24. Firs Industrial Estate

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RETAIL AND SERVICES

Primary and Secondary Shopping Areas

Primary and Secondary Shopping Areas

Legend: A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, Vacant
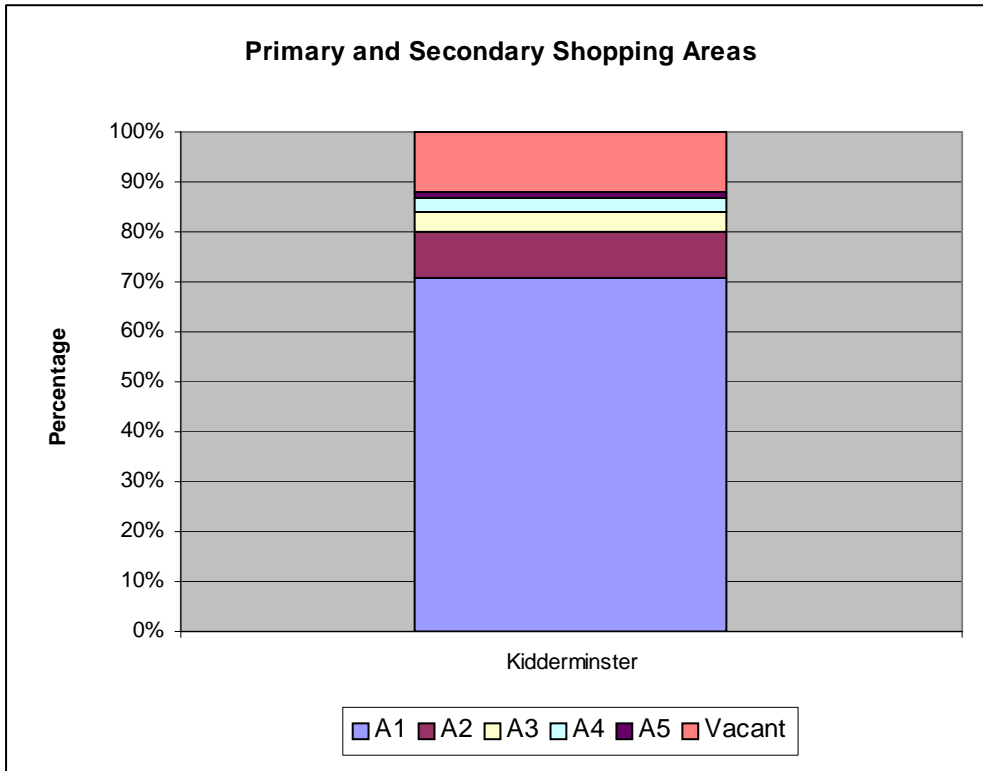
The graph to the left indicates the make up of shops within the primary and secondary shopping areas of Kidderminster.

There are a large proportion of empty shops within Kidderminster, these are concentrated in the traditional town centre.

Kidderminster has a total retail floorspace of 145,729 sqm gross (106,654 sqm net) of which 81,285 sqm gross is within the town centre or edge-of-centre. Crossley Park and B&Q, which are both in close proximity to the town centre, take the bulk of out-of-centre floorspace at 46,463 sqm gross. (Source: Wyre Forest District Council Annual Retail Monitoring Report (2007))

Shopping Areas within Kidderminster

Key
Primary Shopping Area
Secondary Shopping Area

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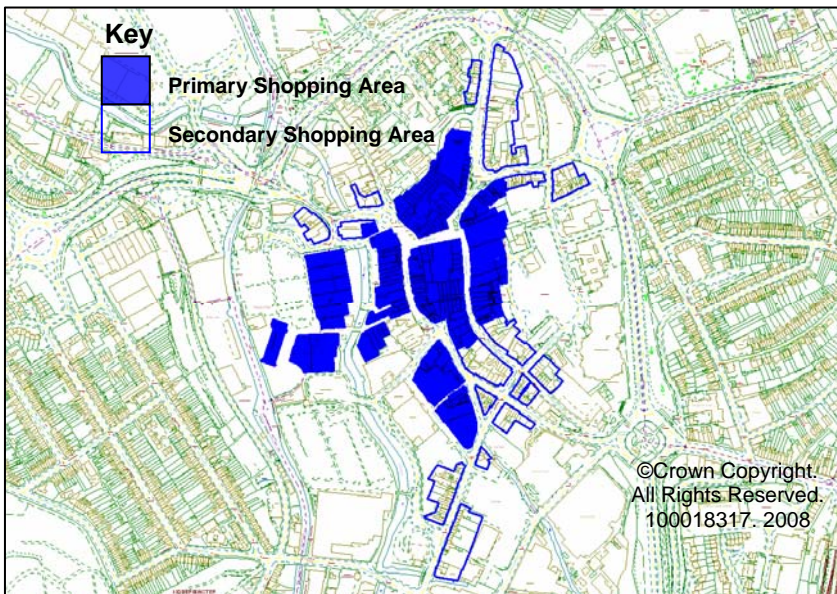
The map to the left indicates the main shopping areas within Kidderminster Town Centre.

(Source: Wyre Forest District Council Adopted Local Plan, 2004)

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Major Stores within Kidderminster (Source: Forest District Council Annual Retail Monitoring Report (2007))

Major Existing Retail Stores (>1000 m2 Gross) Kidderminster					AP
Operator	Location	Address	Trade	Gross Floorspace (m2)	Net Floorspace (m2)
Littlewoods	Town Centre	Worcester Street	Catalogue Shop	3265	2122
Next	Town Centre	Weavers Wharf	Clothing	1942	1262
TK Maxx	Town Centre	Weavers Wharf	Clothing	2440	1586
TJ Hughes	Town Centre	1 High Street	Department Store	2499	1624
JJB Sports	Town Centre	Weavers Wharf	Sports Shop	1730	1125
Sports World	Town Centre	Weavers Wharf	Sports Shop	1784	1160
Waitrose	Town Centre	St Georges Mall (Swan Shopping Centre)	Supermarket	1040	676
De Bradlei Mill Shop	Town Centre	Weavers Wharf	Variety Store	3727	2423
Vacant (Formerly M&S)	Town Centre	High Street	Variety Store	1520	988
Marks & Spencer (M&S)	Town Centre	Weavers Wharf	Variety Store	2020	1313
Wilkinson	Town Centre	Market Street	Variety Store	2010	1307
Woolworths	Town Centre	Worcester Street	Variety Store	2180	1417
PC World	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Computers	1737	1390
B&Q	Out-of-Centre	Green Street	DIY/Hardware	13800	11040
Focus	Out-of-Centre	Hoo Brook Trading Estate	DIY/Hardware	3446	2757
Comet	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Electrical	1380	1104
Currys	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Electrical	1223	978
Dreams	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Furniture & Carpets	1038	830
Klaussner	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Furniture & Carpets	1235	988
MFI	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Furniture & Carpets	1167	934
SCS	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Furniture & Carpets	1412	1130
Halfords	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Motor Accessories	1187	950
Staples	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Stationary	1641	1313
Sainsburys	Out-of-Centre	Carpet Trades Way	Supermarket	7645	6116
Co-op	Out-of-Centre	Franche Road	Supermarket	2618	2094
Somerfield	Out-of-Centre	New Road	Supermarket	1403	1122
Matalan	Out-of-Centre	Park Lane	Variety Store	2638	2110
The Range	Out-of-Centre	Crossley Park	Variety Store	11688	9350
Aldi	Edge-of-Centre	Green Street	Supermarket	1200	780
Safeway	Edge-of-Centre	Oxford Street	Supermarket	3621	2354
Tesco	Edge-of-Centre	Castle Road	Supermarket	7590	4934
			TOTAL	93826	69276

Retail Rents

	Rents (£/sq ft)					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Kidderminster	65	65	65	65	65	70

The average retail rents in Kidderminster remained stable between 2001 and 2005, and then increased slightly between 2005 and 2006.

Source: Focus database, WFDC Retail and Commercial Leisure Report, 2006

Retail Yields

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Kidderminster	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75	7.50	7.50	7.50

Source: Focus database, WFDC Retail and Commercial Leisure Report, 2006

The retail yields (which are calculated by dividing the annual rent by the capital value or sale price of the property and broadly represent the market's evaluation of risk and return attached to the income stream of shop rents) in Kidderminster have improved slightly during the last 10 years. Lower yield figures represent a town that is considered to be attractive and more likely to attract investment.

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TRANSPORT

Kidderminster - Travel to Work Area (T.T.W.A)

The map (below) indicates Kidderminster's T.T.W.A. The area is based on 1991 census data and came into effect in May 1998. The areas included within Kidderminster's T.T.W.A are:
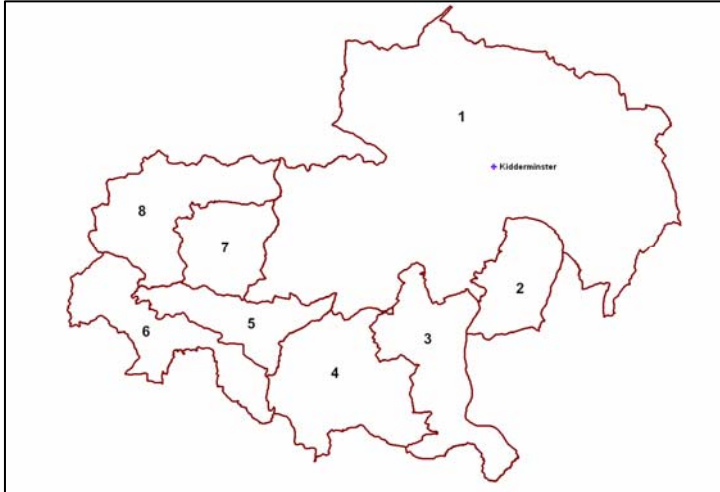
1. Wyre Forest District Council
2. Hartlebury Ward, Wychavon District Council
3. Baldwin Ward, Malvern Hills District Council
4. Woodbury Ward, Malvern Hills District Council
5. Lindridge Ward, Malvern Hills District Council
6. Valley of the Teme Ward, Malvern Hills District Council
7. Bayton & Mamble Ward, Malvern Hills District Council
8. Cleobury Mortimer, South Shropshire District Council

The fundamental criterion of T.T.W.As is that, of the resident economically active population, at least 75% actually work in the area, and also, that of everyone working in the area, at least 75% actually live in the area. (ONS, 2004)

Kidderminster's Travel to Work Area stretches South and West of the District Boundary. It includes wards which form part of Malvern Hills District Council, Wychavon District Council and South Shropshire District Council.

Percentage of People Working from Home

7.0-8.0 %
8.1-9.0 %
9.0-9.9 %
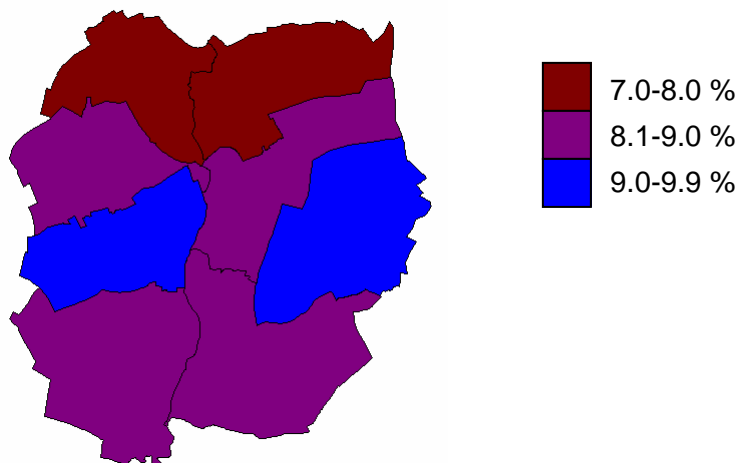
The map above indicates the percentage of people within Kidderminster working from home by ward. The percentage of people working from home within these wards ranges from 7-9% which is comparatively low compared to the District as a whole. Franche and Broadwaters wards have the lowest proportion of people working from home and Sutton Park and Offmore and Comberton wards have the highest percentage of people working from home.

(Source: 2001 Census via http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk)

Distance Travelled to Workplace (2001 Census)

The graph below shows the distance that the residents of the Kidderminster urban area travel from home to work. Slightly fewer people in Kidderminster work from home than in the West Midlands as a whole. When compared to the West Midlands average, people within Kidderminster generally travel shorter distances to work with the majority of Kidderminster residents travelling less than 2km to work compared to a West Midlands average of 2-5km. despite this, considerably more people within Kidderminster travel 20-30km to work than within the West Midlands as a whole.
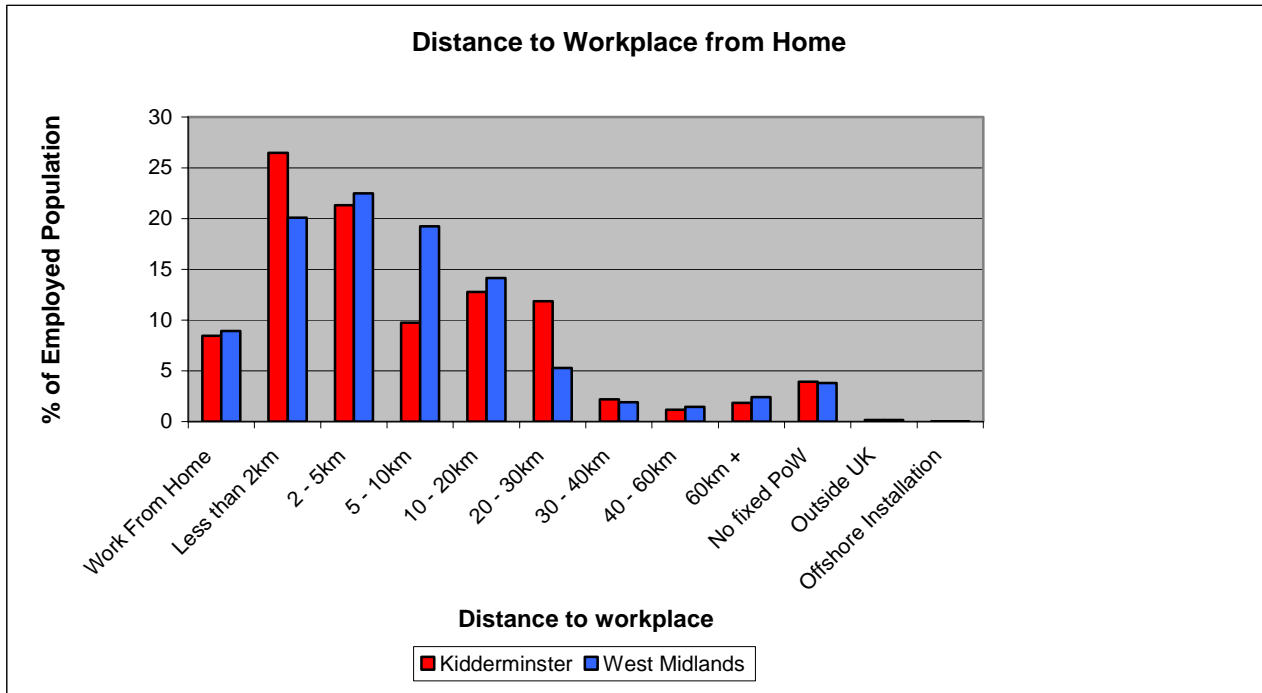
(Source: www.statistics.gov.uk)

Households with No Car
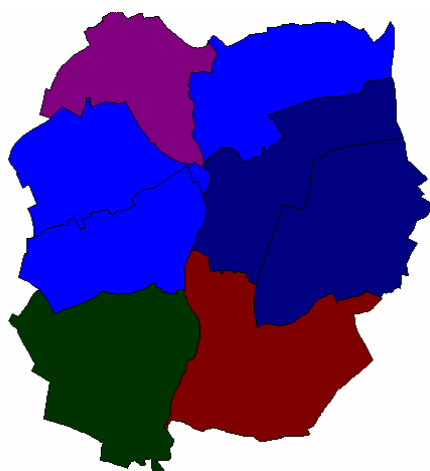
The percentage of households with no car varies greatly between the wards of Kidderminster. The ward with the lowest levels of car ownership is Oldington and Foley Park where 33.8% of households have no car. The ward with the highest level of car ownership is Aggborough and Spennells where only 11.52% of households have no car. In Greenhill ward which covers the town centre, 24.98% of residents have no car, however, it is not unusual for car ownership to be lower in town centres where people are likely to have better access to public transport.

(Source: 2001 Census via http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk)

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Public Transport within Kidderminster

Rail

Worcestershire Station Usage – Annual Journeys 1994 – 2005

Station	1994	2005	% Change
Kidderminster	645,517	1,038,129	61%

Source: Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2006 – 11 (WCC) p.97

Kidderminster is the 2nd busiest station in Worcestershire, carrying over a million passengers a year, with a significant growth having been recorded over the past 11 years. This increase can be attributed to the continual improvement of services from Kidderminster to Birmingham now operated by London Midland and the introduction of peak time train services to London Marylebone by Chiltern Railways during 2002. It is notable that Kidderminster and Worcester Stations generate more passengers per train than any other comparable non-metropolitan stations within the West Midlands region.

Road Links

Within the District the key strategic highways are as follows:
- The A449, which runs north/south through the District and the eastern side of Kidderminster, linking Worcester and Wolverhampton.
- The A456 runs east/west through the District providing the main route from the conurbation to Kidderminster, Bewdley and on to the Marches.
- The A448 Kidderminster to Bromsgrove Road.
- The A442 which connects Kidderminster with Bridgnorth and Droitwich
- The A451 Stourport-on-Severn – Kidderminster – Stourbridge route.

All of the main strategic roads pass through Kidderminster and this causes great pressure on the Kidderminster Ring Road which suffers congestion during peak periods. The pedestrian environment around the ring road is poor and the ring road acts as a barrier to pedestrian movement between the town centre and the surrounding areas, particularly the rail station which is located outside the ring road on Comberton Hill.

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Car-Parking

Table of District Council Pay and Display Facilities within Kidderminster

Car Park	Duration	No of Spaces
Comberton Place	Short Stay	88
Market Street	Short Stay	72
Bateman Yard	Long Stay	50
Horsefair	Medium/Long Stay	45
Bromsgrove Street	Short/Medium/Long Stay	330
Weavers Wharf	Short/Medium Stay	402
Pike Mills	Medium/Long Stay	210
Aldi Store	Medium/Long Stay	65
Castle Road	Medium/Long Stay	42
St Mary's Church	Medium/Long Stay	40
Youth Centre	Medium/Long Stay	65
Stadium Close	Long Stay	153 (Park & Ride)

(Source: WFDC Cultural, Leisure & Commercial Services Division 2006)

(Source: Wyre Forest GGP Overlay)

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Key
Council Owned
Privately Owned

The adjacent map shows the car parking areas in Kidderminster town centre. The town centre is relatively well served by public car parking. A large proportion of parking is maintained privately and has been provided through development including the KTC.1 regeneration scheme. Generally speaking, the town's car parks are easily accessed.
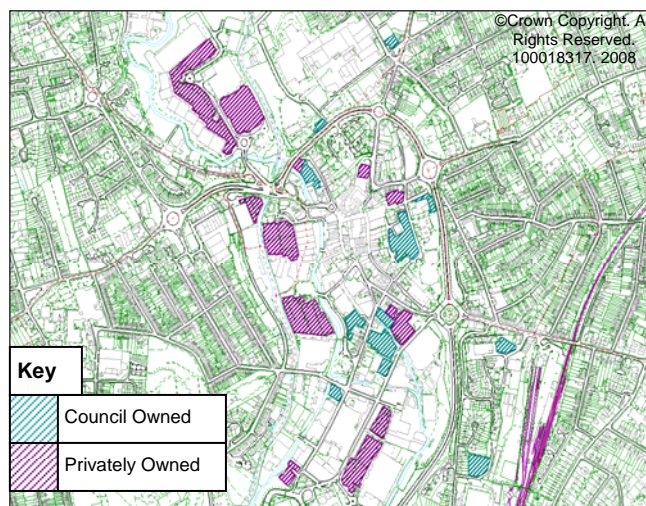
The table below shows that parking provision is considered to be good in Kidderminster.

Opinion on Car Parking	Kidderminster
Average or Good	55.8%
Poor	26%
Don't Know	18.2%

Source: Wyre Forest Retail and Leisure Study, December 2006

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IMPROVED HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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Health and Wellbeing in Kidderminster

Health Status % of resident population in each group				
Area	General health: Good	General health: Fairly good	General health: Not good	People with a limiting long-term illness
England and Wales	68.6	22.2	9.2	18.2
West Midlands	67.2	23.1	9.7	18.9
Wyre Forest District	67.5	23.7	8.9	17.9
Aggborough & Spennells Ward	73.7	20.3	6.0	12.6
Broadwaters Ward	66.7	24.3	9.1	16.7
Franche Ward	69.0	22.7	8.3	16.3
Greenhill Ward	67.2	24.2	8.6	18.5
Habberley & Blakebrook Ward	66.0	24.4	9.6	19.5
Offmore & Comberton Ward	64.9	25.2	9.8	20.5
Oldington & Foley Park Ward	63.4	25.3	11.4	20.7
Sutton Park Ward	66.7	24.3	9.1	17.5

The table to the left shows that overall the District's population has a good level of health.

Health varies between the urban wards which cover the wider Kidderminster area. Health is better in Aggborough and Spennells ward, where 73.7% of the population perceive their health to be good and only 12.6% have a limiting long-term illness. The ward with the poorest health is Oldington and Foley Park where 63.4% of people perceive their health to be good and 20.7% of people have a limiting long-term illness. *(Source: Census Statistics, 2001)*

Index of Multiple Deprivation Health Profiles

The 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is a Super Output Area level measure of multiple deprivation. The health domain identifies areas with high concentrations of people who die prematurely and whose quality of life is reduced by poor health or disability.
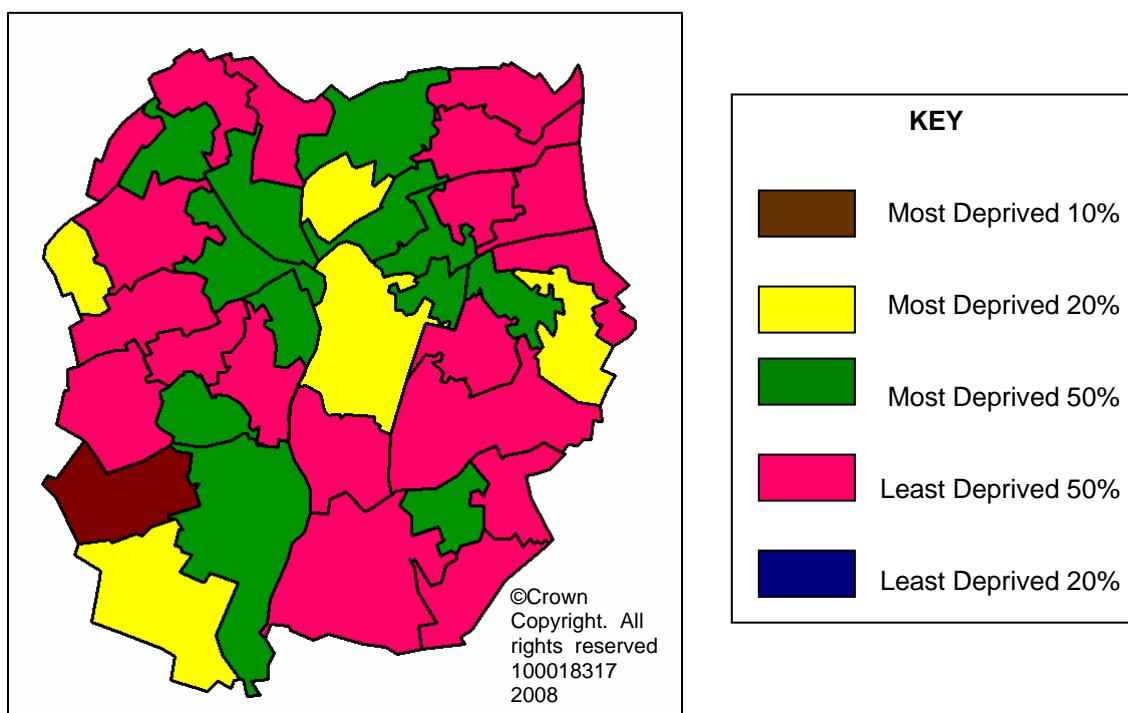
KEY

- Most Deprived 10%
- Most Deprived 20%
- Most Deprived 50%
- Least Deprived 50%
- Least Deprived 20%

The map above shows the Ranking of the Super Output Areas (SOAs) within the Kidderminster area of the District. SOAs are small areas which fit together to make up wards. The only SOA in the top 10% mosst deprived nationally is the Riffle Range area of Oldington and Foley Park ward. The majority of the Kidderminster area is within the least 50% most deprived nationally, however, there are pockets of deprivation including the SOA which covers the town centre area which is within the 20% most deprived SOAs nationally. (Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2007))

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Wellbeing and Access to Facilities

The living environment domain of the 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation focuses on deprivation in the living environment. It includes both the 'indoors' living environment measuring the quality of housing, and the 'outdoors' living environment measuring the air quality and road traffic accidents. Other issues considered include overcrowding, homelessness and affordability of housing.

KEY

(brown)	Most Deprived 10%
(yellow)	Most Deprived 20%
(green)	Most Deprived 50%
(pink)	Least Deprived 50%
(navy)	Least Deprived 20%

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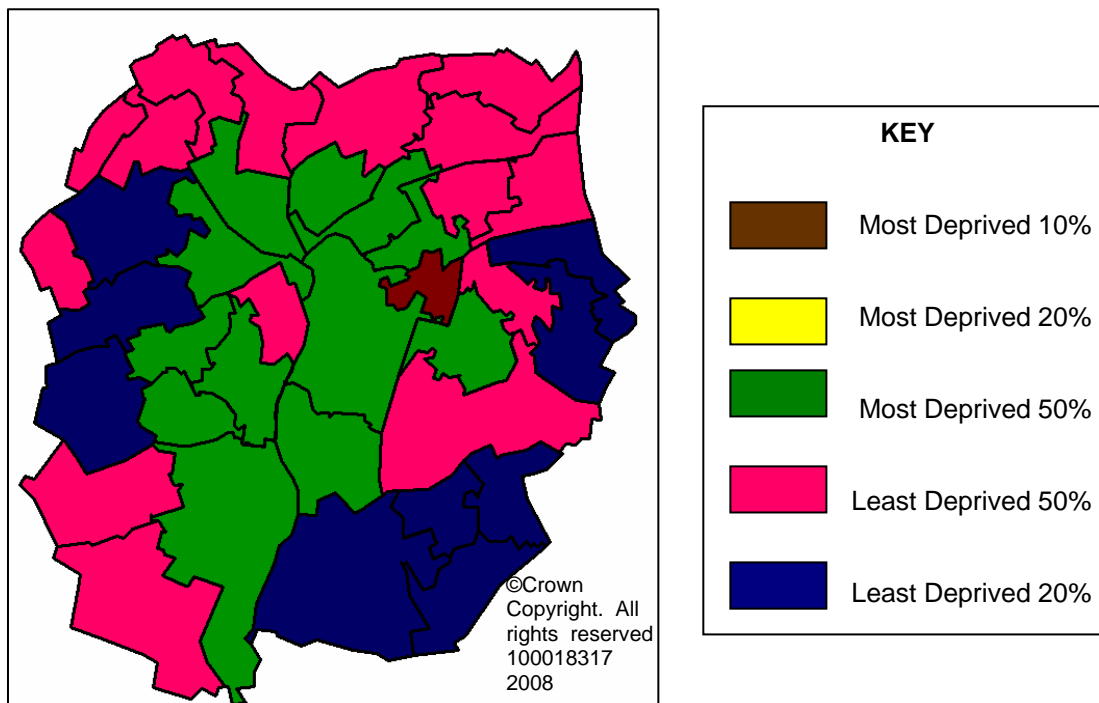
The map above shows the ranking of the Super Output Areas within the wards which make up the wider Kidderminster area. Only one SOA falls within the most deprived 10% of SOAs nationally. This is the area pof Greenhill adjacent to the town centre. The majority of the area is within the least 50% deprived nationally, and a number of SOAs are within the least 20% deprived nationally. This may be because house prices are a factor in this domain. (*Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2007) www.statistics.gov.uk*).

Community Facilities in Kidderminster

District Ward	Ward Population (2001 Census)	Community Civic Halls	Primary Schools	High Schools	Private Schools & ACLs	Doctor's Surgeries
Aggborough & Spennells	**7,225**	**2**	**1**		**1**	
Broadwaters	**7,787**	**4**	**2**		**5**	
Franche	**7,071**	**3**	**2**		**1**	
Greenhill	**7,293**	**11**	**2**		**4**	**3**
Habberley & Blakebrook	**6,477**	**4**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**
Offmore & Comberton Ward	**6,901**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**1**	
Oldington & Foley Park Ward	**5,261**	**3**	**2**		**3**	**1**
Sutton Park Ward	**7,167**	**3**	**1**		**5**	**1**
Total	**55,182**	**33**	**13**	**2**	**22**	**6**

Sources: WFDC- Environmental Health - Licensing Jan 2006; WFDC Adopted Local Plan 2004; Valuation Office - www.voa.gov.uk WCC SPG April 2003, WCC - ACL Mapping Project - Sept 2003 - Dec 2004

The above table indicates the range of community facilities within the different wards of Kidderminster. Greenhill ward encompasses the town centre and therefore, it is unsurprising that this ward has the widest range of facilities and the largest number of community halls. The wards of Aggborough& Spennells; Broadwaters and Franche do not have a doctor's surgery.

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Adult and Community Learning (ACL)

The ACL Mapping Project was developed by the Worcestershire Learning and Skills Partnership. It was implemented in September 2003 to develop a dynamic mapping process for Adult Community Learning provision and facilities across Worcestershire and Hereford City. One of the objectives of the project was to identify the locations where adult and community learning is delivered. The map and table below show the distribution of venues across the Kidderminster area. The map and table set out where the venues are located. There are a large number of venues within the Kidderminster area, particularly around the town centre in Greenhill and Braodwaters wards.

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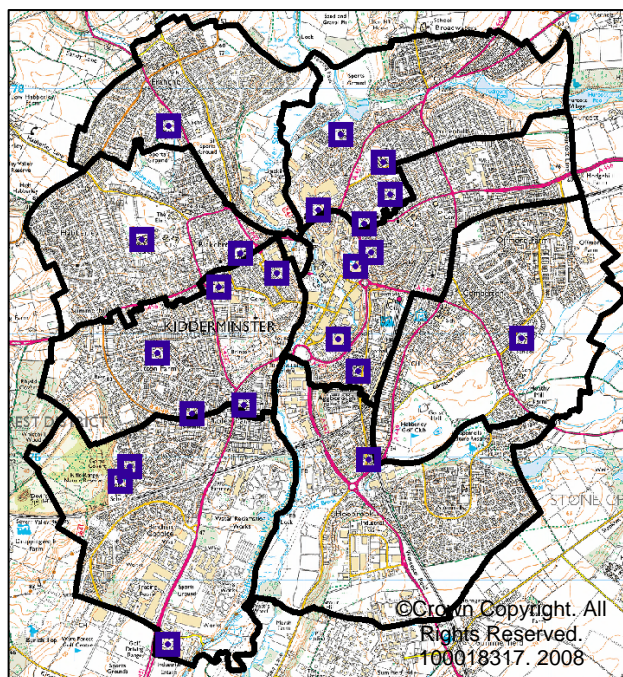
 Adult and Community Learning Venues

	Primary School (December 07)	High Schools (December 07)	Other Education Venues (ACL - Dec.2004)***
Ward			
Aggborough & Spennells	**1**		1
Broadwaters	**2**		5
Franche	**2**		1
Greenhill	**2**		4
Habberley & Blakebrook	**1**	1	2
Offmore & Comberton	**2**	1	1
Oldington & Foley Park	**2**		3
Sutton Park	**1**		5
Total	**27**	**5**	**35**

Sources:
*** WCC - Adult and Community Learning (ACL) Mapping Project - Sept 2003 - Dec 2004

Open Space Provision (Hectares)

Ward	Population 2001 census	Allotments	Amenity Open Space	Natural Green Space	School Playing Fields	Outdoor Sports (excl. golf)	Golf Course	Church Yard	Total
Aggborough. & Spennells	7225	1.55	2.95	22.47	0.45			-	27.42
Broadwaters	7787	-	26.81	13.61	7.41	5.82		2.8	56.45
Franche	7071	-	1.62	22	2.2	4.34		-	30.16
Greenhill	7293	-		1.91	0.8	2.86		-	5.57
Habberley & Blakebrook	6477	1.06	2.92	6.97	10.23	9.75		1.61	32.54
Offmore & Comberton	6901	3.8	3.18	0.4	8.07	3.11	44.35	-	62.91
Oldington & Foley Park	5261	0.8	2.85	53.68	1.5			-	58.83

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Ward	Population 2001 census	Allotments	Amenity Open Space	Natural Green Space	School Playing Fields	Outdoor Sports (excl. golf)	Golf Course	Church Yard	Total
Sutton Park	7167	3.4	14.32	6.49	0.55	1.65		7.92	34.33
Kidderminster	**55163**	**10.61**	**54.65**	**127.53**	**31.21**	**27.53**	**44.35**	**12.33**	**308.21**

(Source Open Space Audit baseline data 2007)

The above table shows the distribution of accessible open space by ward. Greenhill ward is considered to have poor provision of open space for its population; this ward covers the town centre.

Leisure Facilities

The main leisure visitor attractions in the District are the Severn Valley Railway, the West Midlands Safari Park and the Wyre Forest itself. The Severn Valley Railway line commences at Kidderminster and has approximately 250,000 visitors annually. However, the connection from the Railway Station into the town centre is currently a poor quality pedestrian environment.

In terms of parks and open spaces the Kidderminster area is fortunate that it has a number of parks such as Brinton, St. Georges, Baxter Gardens, Broadwaters and Springfield. However, the town centre suffers from a lack of public open space.

Museums and Cultural Sites/Learning Opportunity Sites

There are a four museums and cultural learning sites within the Kidderminster area. These are set out in the table below.

| Site	Description
Caldwell Tower Castle Road Kidderminster	This octagonal tower is Grade II* Listed. Apparently a fragment of a small castle or fortified manor house.
Kidderminster Railway Museum Comberton Hill Kidderminster	The Kidderminster Railway Museum houses a vast range of railway artefacts, most of which date back to the days of steam travel.
The Forge Blakedown Kidderminster	Churchill forge water mill, was one of the last working water powered forges in Britain, and was until the early 1970s producing metal tools such as spades, shovels and ladles. As such it is an important example of the industrial history and, to ensure that it is not lost to future generations is now being restored as a working museum.
The Weavers Loft Church Street Kidderminster	The Weavers Loft is a small museum belonging to the Friends of the Carpet Museum Trust.

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Pensionable Households within Kidderminster

	One Person Pensioner Households		One Family and no Others: All Pensioners		Other Households: All Pensioner		All Households with Pensioners	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Aggborough and Spennells	212	2.93	191	2.64	3	0.04	406	5.62
Broadwaters	340	4.37	217	2.79	3	0.04	560	7.19
Franche	365	5.16	268	3.79	10	0.14	643	9.09
Greenhill	501	6.87	215	2.95	10	0.14	726	9.95
Habberley and Blakebrook	484	7.47	336	5.19	9	0.14	829	12.80
Offmore and Comberton	564	8.18	290	4.20	9	0.13	863	12.51
Oldington and Foley Park	340	6.46	132	2.51	5	0.10	477	9.06
Sutton Park	433	6.04	239	3.34	17	0.24	689	9.61
TOTAL	**3239**	**5.93**	**1888**	**3.43**	**66**	**0.12**	**5193**	**9.48**

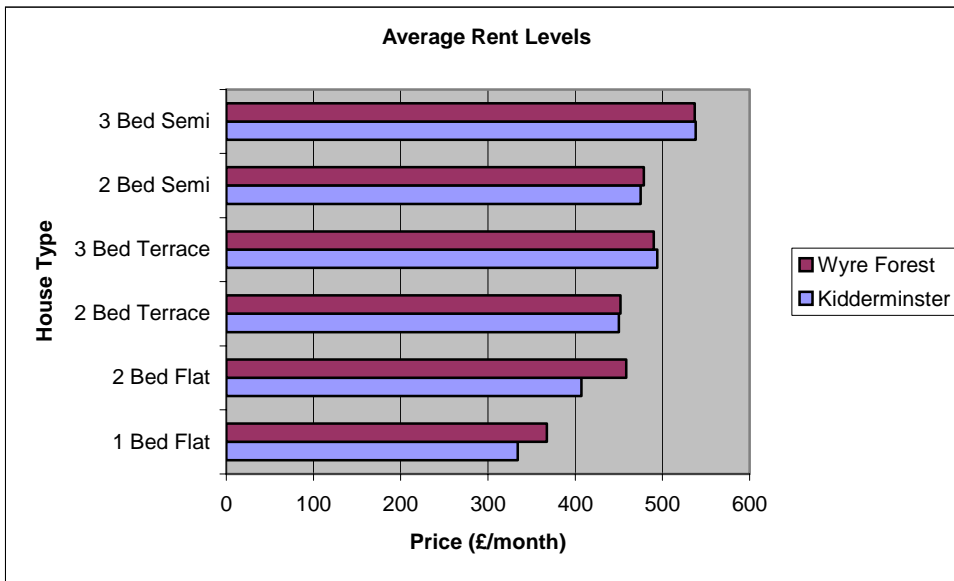Source: 2001 Census. Crown Copyright

The table above shows that there is a concentration of pensioners in all wards except Aggborough & Spennells and Broadwaters.   In the ward of Greenhill which covers the town centre 9.95% of households house a pensioner.

Housing Provision within Kidderminster
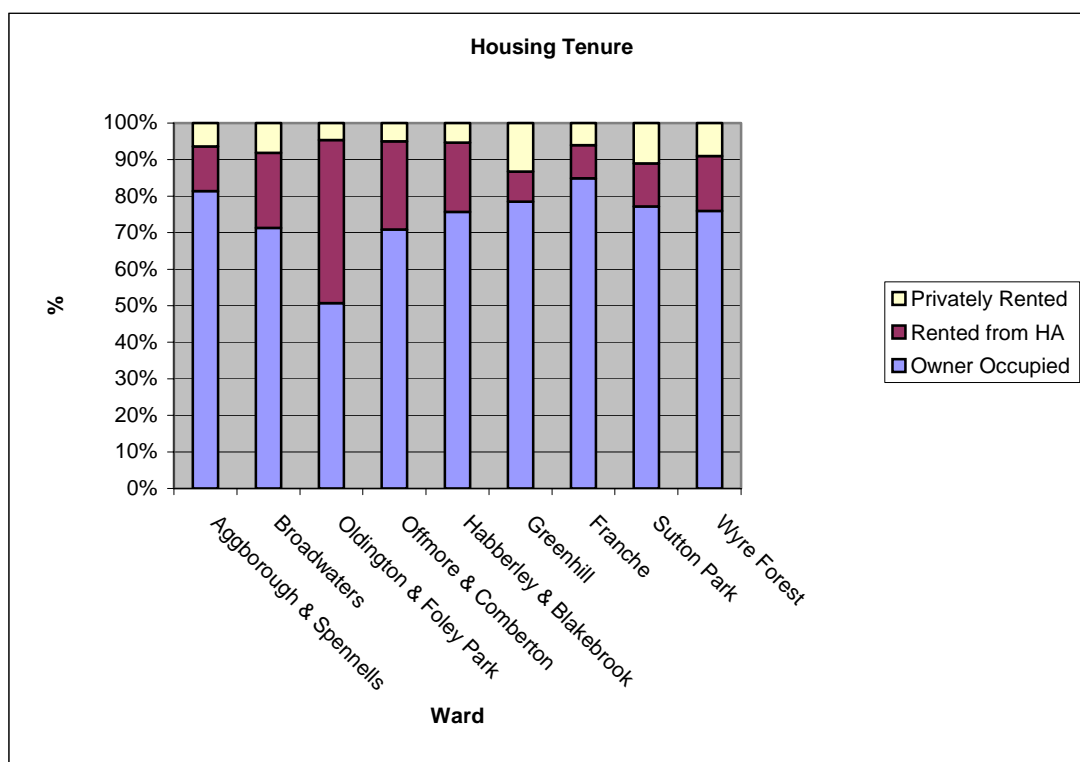
The graph to the left shows the tenure of homes in the wards of Kidderminster. Oldington & Foley Park ward has the lowest levels of home ownership and the highest levels of socially rented housing. Greenhill ward which incorporates the town centre has the highest levels of privately rented housing.

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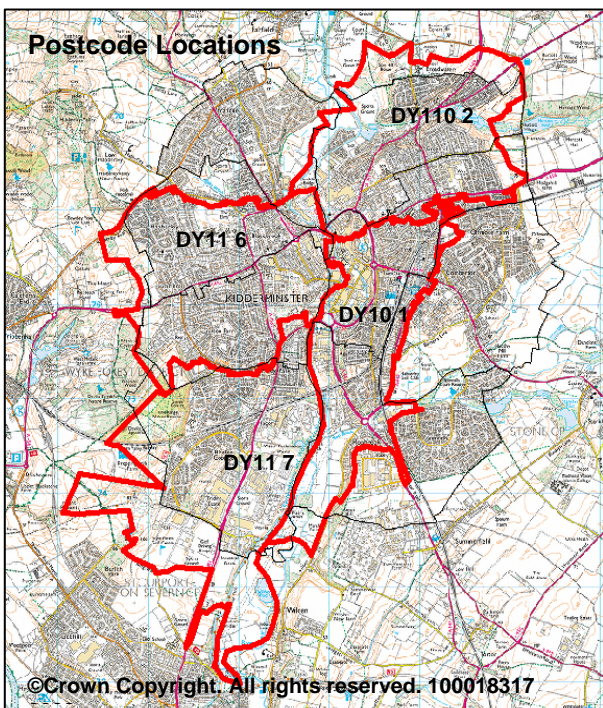
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Average Rent Levels

Rent levels within Kidderminster are generally below average compared to the District as a whole. Three bed terrace properties are the exception; these are slightly more expensive to rent in Kidderminster. The biggest difference is between the rental prices of flats within Kidderminster and the average rental price for flats across the District. Rental values for flats are considerably less within Kidderminster. *Source: Wyre Forest Housing Needs Survey Update (2003)*

Average House Prices

Property Type	DY10 1 (Central Kidderminster)	DY11 6 (West Kidderminster)	DY10 2 (East Kidderminster)	DY11 7 (South West Kidderminster) (note)
Terraced	126,285	131,827	136,018	129,655
Semi Detached	150,920	145,498	158,813	137,557
Detached	208,870	260,862	205,351	288,066
Flats/Maisonette	91,744	112,307	93,078	94,000

The table shows the average house prices in the four postcode sectors that cover the majority of Kidderminster. The postcode area DY10 1 covers the town centre; here the average price of a flat and a terraced house is less than the other areas of Kidderminster. Semi-detached houses are cheapest in DY11 6 and detached houses are cheapest in DY10 2.

The map to the left shows the locations of the four postcode sectors.

Note: Postcode area DY11 7 also includes areas of Hartlebury which fall outside the District. Here, the average house price is greater than in those areas of DY11 7 which fall inside the District and this has skewed the figures, especially for detached houses of which there are very few in the area of DY11 7 which falls inside the District.

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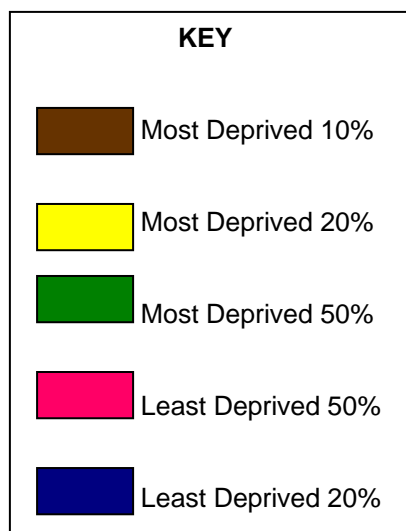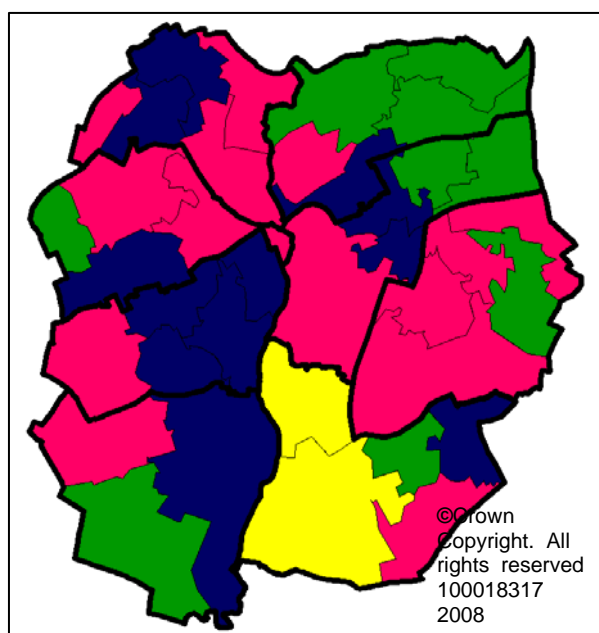Appendix B – Baseline Statistics

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Affordable Housing

The table below sets out the current levels of affordable housing provision as part of new developments within Kidderminster. It demonstrates that affordable housing levels are improving within Kidderminster, despite this; there were no affordable housing completion in Kidderminster during 2006/07. However, in excess of 45 units were completed during 2007/08. 25 of these are located in the Horsefair, adjacent to the town centre.

Affordable Housing Provision Completed 2001-07		
Location/Parish	No of units	Financial Year Implemented
Rifle Range Road (BCHA), Kidderminster	12	2000/01
Park Street, Kidderminster	14	2001/02
York Street, Broadwaters	16	2001/02
Chapel Street/Park Street, Kidderminster	13	2001/02
End of St David's Close, Kidderminster	11	2002/03
Former Garage Court, Kidderminster	8	2002/03
Park Lane, Sutton Park, Kidderminster	8	2003/04
Hoo Road (Plots 114-121), Kidderminster	8	2004/05
Comberton Place, Kidderminster	32	2004/05
Hoo Road (College Site), Kidderminster	8	2004/05
Chapel Street, Kidderminster	33	2005/06
Drake Crescent, Habberley, Kidderminster	8	2005/06
Adj 47 Broome Crescent, Kidderminster	5	2005/06
Broom Rise, Kidderminster	5	2005/06
Parkwood Court, Kidderminster	33	2005/06
Drake Crescent, Kidderminster	3	2005/06
St. Michael's Place, Kidderminster	5	2005/06
Freeman Court, Parry Road, Kidderminster	8	2007/08
Doverdale Avenue, Kidderminster	17	2007/08
Horsefair, Kidderminster	25	2007/08

Barriers to Housing & Services

The barriers to housing and services domain of the 2004 IMD measures barriers to accessing housing and key local services. The indicators cover two sub domains 'geographical barriers' which are road distances to key facilities, and 'wider barriers' including household overcrowding and the difficulty of accessing owner occupied housing.

KEY

Most Deprived 10%

Most Deprived 20%

Most Deprived 50%

Least Deprived 50%

Least Deprived 20%

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The map to the left shows the rankings of the SOAs within the urban wards of Kidderminster. Parts of Aggborough and Spennells ward are within the 20% most deprived SOAs nationally. The town centre is within the least 50% most deprived SOAs nationally.

Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2007)   www.statistics.gov.uk

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MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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Education

Qualifications – GCSE

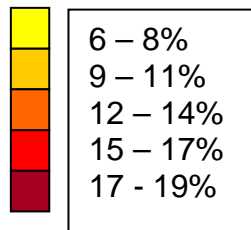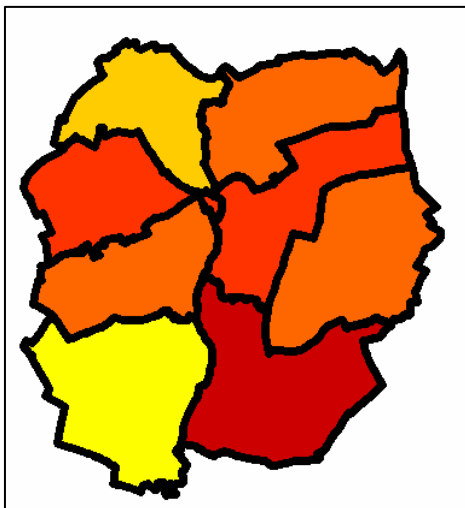The graph shows the percentage of 15 year olds achieving 5 A*-C grades at GCSE by place of residence. Educational attainment varies markedly between the wards within the District. Arley Kings has the highest educational attainment, with over 75% of pupils gaining 5 A*-C passes at GCSE. Educational attainment at GCSE is considerably lower in Oldington and Foley Park than anywhere else in the District with less than 20% of pupils achieving 5 A*-C grades compared to a District average of 49.8%. The majority of the Area action Plan area falls into the ward of Greenhill, here, 50% of pupils achieved 5 A*-C grades.
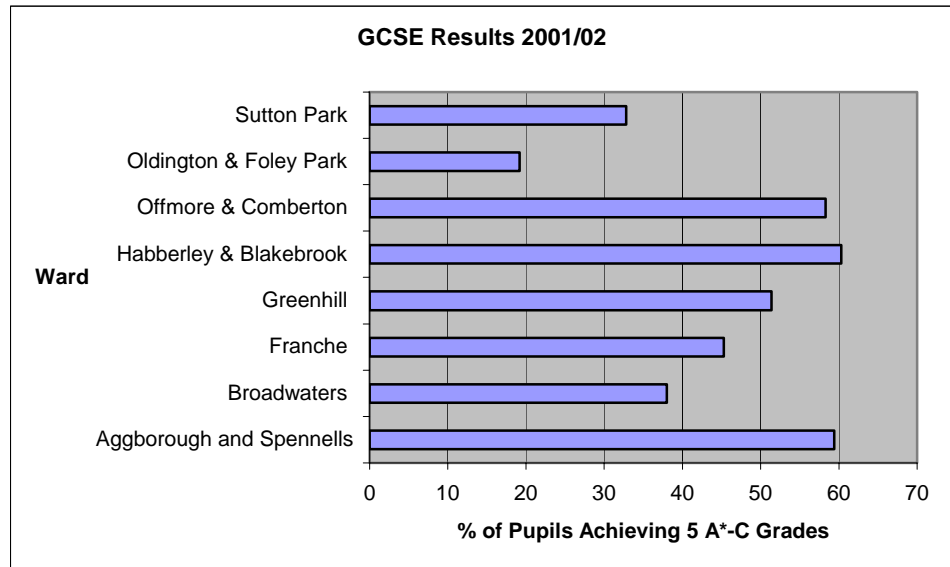
(Source: http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk)

GCSE Results 2001/02

Qualifications - Higher Level

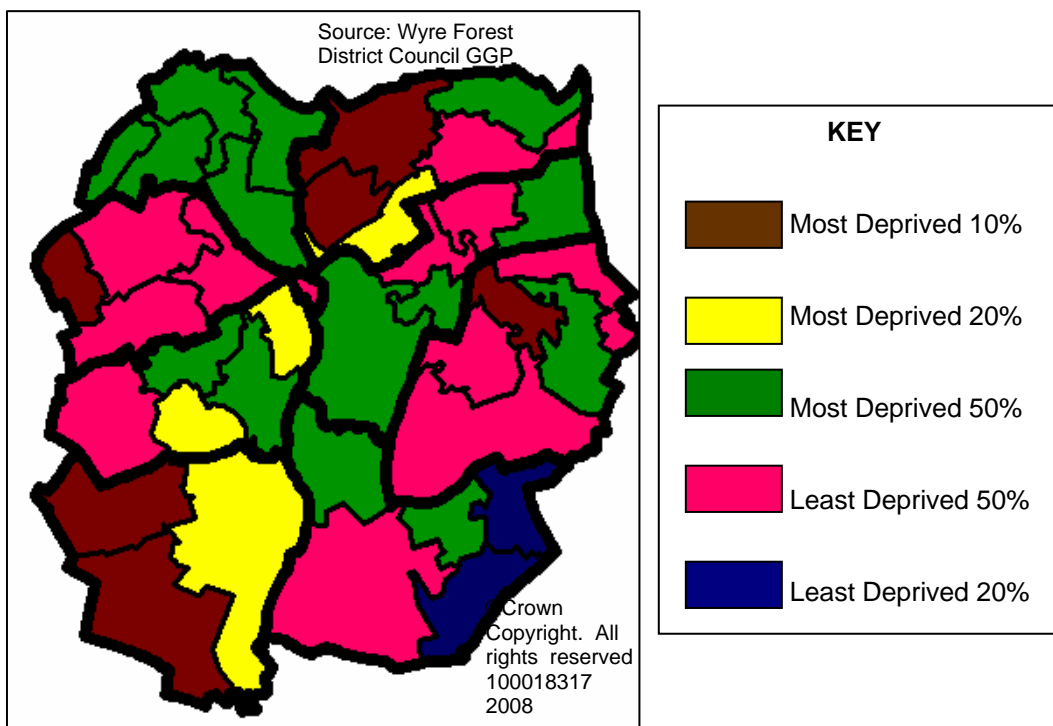|	
▮	6 – 8%
▮	9 – 11%
▮	12 – 14%
▮	15 – 17%
▮	17 - 19%

The adjacent map indicates the areas within the urban wards of Kidderminster where qualifications are higher. Oldington and Foley Park has the lowest number of people with higher level qualifications. The ward with the highest level of qualifications is Aggborough and Spennells. In Greenhill ward which covers the town centre, 15-17% of people have higher level qualifications.

Source:
http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Further Education

The District is served by Kidderminster College, which falls within the Area Action Plan area and which offers a wide range of full and part time courses. The college moved to its purpose built premises within Kidderminster Town Centre in May 2003.

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Index of Multiple Deprivation – Education

In terms of education, there are a number of Super Output Areas (SOAs) within the Kidderminster area which are in the most deprived 10% nationally, including parts of Oldington and Foley Park and parts of Broadwaters. The town centre area is within the 50% most deprived SOAs nationally. The least deprived ward in terms of education is Aggborough and Spennells where 2 SOAs are in the least deprived 20% nationally and one SOA is within the least deprived 50% nationally.

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STRONGER COMMUNITIES

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Settlement Character & Population Structure

Kidderminster has a population of 55,182 people living in 22,875 households. The average household size is therefore 2.41 persons per dwelling. The table below shows the population, number of households and average number of persons per household by ward for the Kidderminster area. The ward with the highest number of persons per household is Aggborough and Spennells. The ward with the lowest number of persons per household is Offmore and Comberton. Greenhill ward has an average of 2.32 persons per household, this is the second lowest in Kidderminster.

Ward	Population	Households	Persons per Household
Aggborough and Spennellls	7725	2832	2.73
Broadwaters	7787	3212	2.42
Franche	7071	2839	2.49
Greenhill	7293	3141	2.32
Habberley and Blakebrook	6477	2743	2.36
Offmore and Comberton	6901	3005	2.30
Oldington and Foley Park	5281	2053	2.57
Sutton Park	7157	3050	2.35

Source: Census (2001) **www.statistics.gov.uk**

Population Density

The population density of the District (by lower layer super output area) is shown below.
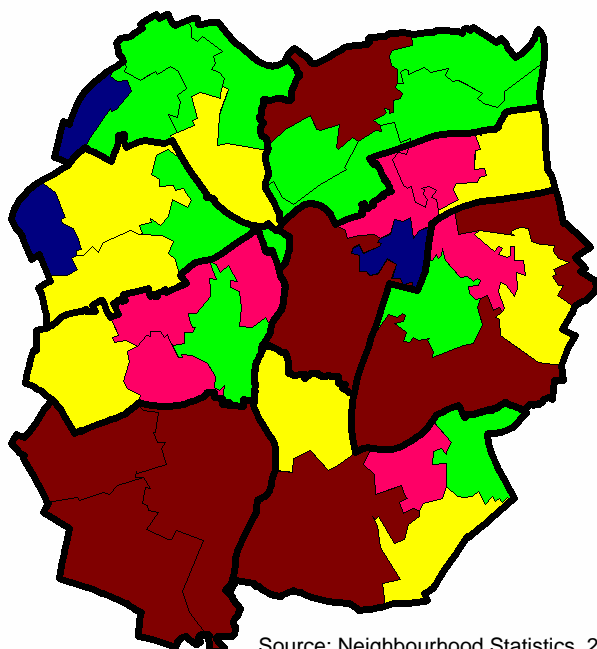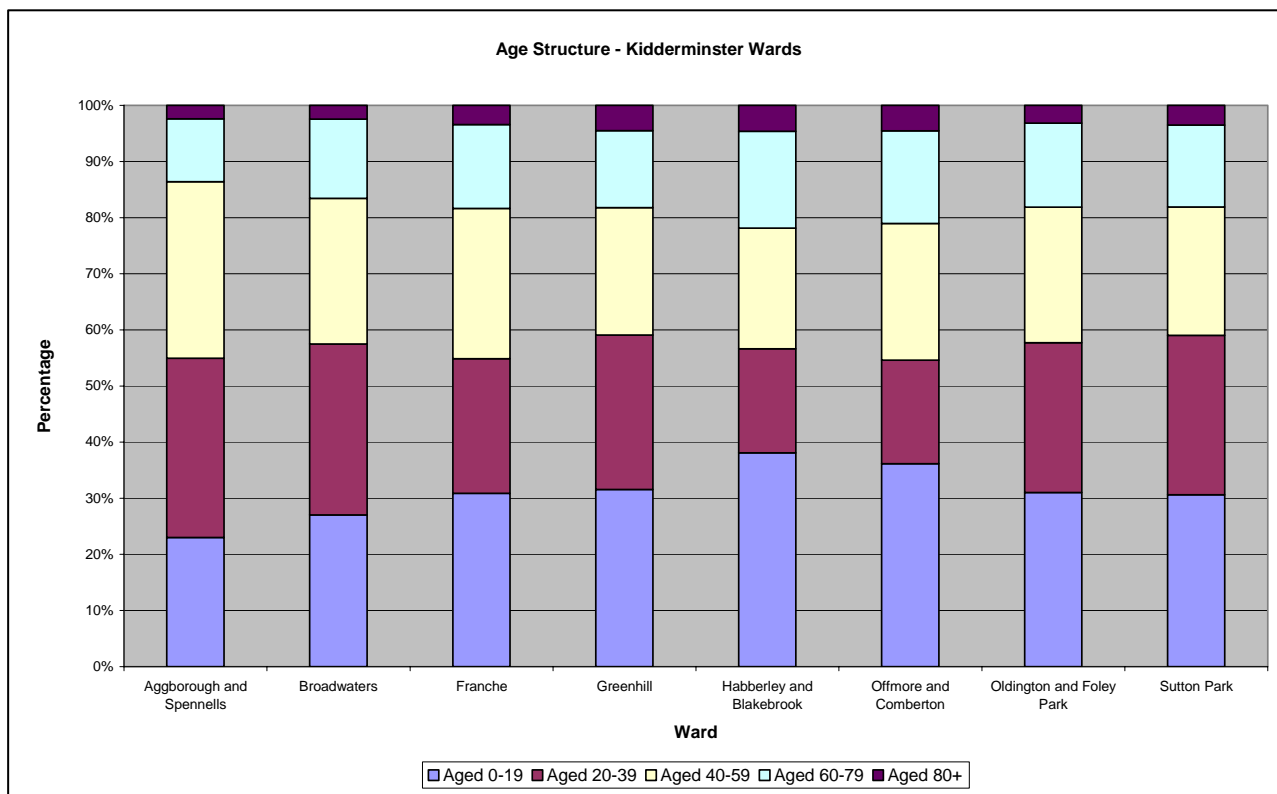

Key – People per Hectare

- 0-15
- 16-31
- 32-47
- 48-63
- 64-77

The population density Kidderminster is generally low in the South of the area but higher in the north. Pockets of very high density occur in Habberley, Franche and also in the Offmore area of Kidderminster.

Source: Neighbourhood Statistics, 2007

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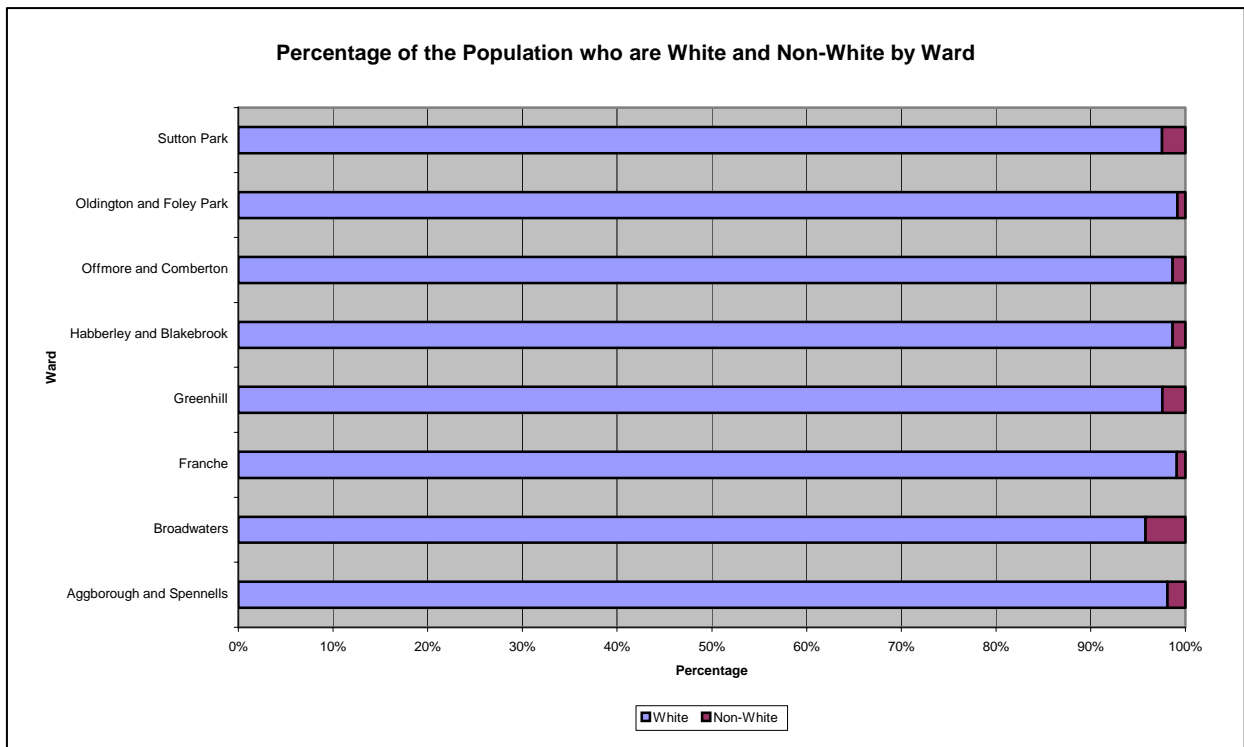
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Population Age, Structure and Change

The graph shows the age structure of the Kidderminster wards. Habberley and Blakebrook ward has a higher percentage of under 20s than the other wards. Habberley and Blakebrook ward also has the highest percentage of people aged over 60. In Greenhill ward which covers the town centre, almost 20% of the population are over 60 years of age and over 30% of the population are under 20 years of age. (Source: **www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk** (2001 Census))

Ethnic Minorities

District Ward	All People	White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Chinese	Other
Aggborough and Spennells	7228	7091	49	30	16	20	22
Broadwaters	7787	7459	46	243	15	11	13
Franche	7070	7005	42	16	3	0	4
Greenhill	7294	7116	63	88	15	12	0
Habberley and Blakebrook	6476	6387	45	28	6	5	5
Offmore and Comberton	6898	6804	36	33	12	9	4
Oldington and Foley Park	5263	5218	30	3	5	3	4
Sutton Park	7166	6989	42	51	28	25	31
Kidderminster Total	55182	54069	353	492	100	85	83

Source: Adapted from 2001 Census Statistics

The table above and the graph below show that the ethnic minority across the Kidderminster wards. Kidderminster has a very low non-white population. There are larger concentrations of non-white people within the wards of Broadwaters, Greenhill and Sutton Park. The District, specifically the Kidderminster area, has seen a rise in levels of immigration from Eastern Europe since the expansion of the EU in 2004. It is expected that this will be reflected in the 2011 Census.

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Percentage of the Population who are White and Non-White by Ward

Source: 2001 Census www.statistics.gov.uk

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