

APPENDIX 1

Local Planning Documents & Summary

APPENDIX 1: PLANNING POLICIES

West Midlands

Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands (January 2008)

1. The provision of large-scale sporting facilities is addressed in **Policy PA10 Tourism and Culture**. Section A of the policy encourages the improvement of existing cultural provision as well as the creation of new facilities, subject to the capacity of infrastructure and the environment. Section B states that large-scale, innovative projects that contribute to the overall offer of the region should be encouraged in suitable locations. Section C maintains that in their development plans, local authorities should identify areas where sustainable tourism can be encouraged.

Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2 Revision (December 2007)

2. **Policy CF2 Housing beyond Major Urban Areas** defines Worcester, Hereford and Redditch as Settlements of Significant Development, meaning they will:

- i) act as sub-regional service centres*
- ii) have the capacity to accommodate additional development without significant harm to local communities and in sustainable locations*
- iii) are able to balance housing and employment opportunities and provide social infrastructure and services to meet the needs of expanded settlements*
- iv) are able to deliver local regeneration priorities through new development*
- v) either already have or are capable of developing good accessibility by public transport and through increased provision for walking and cycling.*

3. **Policy CF3 Level and Distribution of New Housing Development** sets out housing targets for each local planning authority for the period 2006 to 2026:

| Local Authority | Proposed number of dwellings 2006-2026 |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Worcestershire | 36,600 |
| Bromsgrove | 2,100 |
| Redditch | 6,600 |
| Malvern Hills | 4,900 |
| Worcester City | 10,500 |
| Wychavon | 9,100 |
| Wyre Forest | 3,400 |
| Herefordshire | 16,600 |
| <i>Of which Hereford City</i> | <i>8,300</i> |

4. The same policy stipulates that of the 6,600 new dwellings allocated to Redditch, 3,300 should be located adjacent to Redditch town in Bromsgrove and/or Stratford-upon-Avon Districts. It also states that of the 10,500 new homes to be built in

Worcester, 3,200 will be within Worcester City and 7,300 will be adjacent to the City within the surrounding districts of Malvern Hills and Wychavon. As a result, the policy specifies that the appropriate planning authorities should work together to find the most suitable locations before producing their Local Development Documents.

Nathanial Litchfield Report (October 2008)

5. This report was written in response to concern about the levels of housing proposed in the context of achieving the Government’s Housing Green Paper targets. It tests three higher growth scenarios; a South East Focus; Spreading Growth; and Maximising Growth. It was used as evidence in the Phase 2 Examination in Public, the results of which will be shown in the Secretary of State’s Proposed Changes.
6. The table below briefly summarises the potential increases in housing targets from the report:

| Local Authority / Core Strategy Area | RSS Phase 2 Revision Preferred Option (Net 2006-2026) | Scenario 1: South East Focus | | Scenario 2: Spreading Growth | | Scenario 3: Maximising Growth | |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | Potential Increase | Total Housing Allocation for RSS | Potential Increase | Total Housing Allocation for RSS | Potential Increase | Total Housing Allocation for RSS |
| Worcestershire | 36,600 | 10,900 | 47,500 | 8,400 | 45,000 | 13,400 | 50,000 |
| Bromsgrove | 2,100 | 5,000 | 7,100 | 5,000 | 7,100 | 7,500 | 9,600 |
| Redditch | 6,600 | 0 | 6,600 | 0 | 6,600 | 0 | 6,600 |
| South Worcestershire | 24,500 | 5,500 | 30,000 | 3,000 | 27,500 | 5,500 | 30,000 |
| Wyre Forest | 3,400 | 400 | 3,800 | 400 | 3,800 | 400 | 3,800 |
| Herefordshire | 16,600 | 1,200 | 17,800 | 1,200 | 17,800 | 1,200 | 17,800 |

Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 3 Revision (June 2009)

7. One of the aims of the Revision is to strengthen **Policy PA10 Tourism and Culture**, which in its existing form, primarily focuses upon the benefit of economic growth.
8. The Phase 3 Revision aims to contribute to improving physical and mental well-being of our communities by encouraging healthier, more active lifestyles, as well as more inclusive access to, and greater participation in, cultural activities. It also aims to make the Region more attract to residents and in-movers as a result of the cultural offer and to support the growth and diversification of the regional economy to create a ‘world class’ visitor destination.
9. The options for discussion explore how the RSS could influence and support delivery of regionally significant cultural, sport and tourism assets through the revision of the existing policy and developing new policy.

Worcestershire

Worcestershire County Plan

10. This document covers the period up to 2011. Saved policies relating to sports facilities are as follows:

| Policy Number | Policy Title |
|---------------|--|
| RST1 | Criteria for the development of recreation and sports Facilities |
| RST7 | Recreation in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| RST11 | Major sports facilities |
| RST13 | Golf courses |

Bromsgrove

Bromsgrove Local Development Scheme (March 2006)

11. The purpose of the LDS is to state which documents will make up the district's local development framework and the timescales for these documents.
12. The **Bromsgrove Core Strategy** is planned to be adopted in July 2010, and the **Bromsgrove Town Centre Area Action Plan** in July 2011. The **Longbridge Area Action Plan** was adopted in April 2009.

Bromsgrove Core Strategy: Draft Document (October 2008)

13. Included within the strategic objectives are the need to provide excellent health and leisure facilities to meet the needs of Bromsgrove's population and to promote active and healthy lifestyles.
14. **Core Policy 11: Open Space and Recreation** sets out development criteria for open space, sports and recreation facilities.
15. **Core Policy 2: Distribution of Housing** addresses new growth within the district and states that in the first instance new housing needs will be met through previously developed land or within existing settlement boundaries. Any additional land required should be delivered adjacent to Bromsgrove town.
16. **Core Policy 15: Cross Boundary Growth** states that Bromsgrove District will seek to accommodate housing and employment land provision for Redditch Borough.

Bromsgrove Town Centre Area Action Plan: Issues and Options (July 2008)

17. **Issue BR11** focuses on leisure provision which is currently offered in the town at the Dolphin Centre. The proposed options are as follows:
 - a) Replace the Dolphin Centre with a new leisure facility on the existing site;
 - b) Retain and refurbish the Dolphin Centre;
 - c) Re-provide a public leisure facility on an alternative site in the town centre;
 - d) Re-provide a public leisure facility on an alternative site outside the town centre.
18. **Option A** means that the range and quality of services and facilities could be improved. However, a rebuild on the same site means that there would be a period where facilities would be unavailable to the public. It would also mean that the site could not be considered as a location for new District Council offices.
19. **Option B** is a cheaper option and could mean continuous service could exist for local people. However, the Centre's overall design and structure is considered outdated and inefficient and these issues would not be resolved under this option.
20. **Option C** would see the Centre remain in the town centre, which is viewed by the Government to be the most appropriate location for leisure uses. Although finding a site for a building of this scale in historic Bromsgrove is not easy, a number of opportunity sites have been identified, and the council has sought views on the appropriateness of the existing 'Library and Fire Station' site.
21. **Option D** has seen some stakeholders express a desire to see the site relocated to the vicinity of the Artrix Centre and Bromsgrove College. Whilst some distance from the town centre, School Drive provides potentially direct access to this cluster of community, education and leisure uses.

Longbridge Area Action Plan (April 2009)

22. The Longbridge area mostly covers South Birmingham, but also incorporates part of North Bromsgrove. One of the themes for the regeneration of the area is 'a new heart for Longbridge', with the objective of creating a sustainable, mixed-use local centre.

Bromsgrove District Local Plan (January 2004)

Until policies with the new LDF replace them, there are a number of saved Local Plan policies which are relevant to the development of sports facilities:

| Policy Number | Policy Title |
|---------------|--|
| RAT1 | Outdoor Sport and Recreation in the Green Belt |
| RAT2 | Outdoor Sport and Recreation in the Green Belt |

| | |
|-------|--|
| RAT3 | Indoor Sport Development Criteria |
| RAT7 | Sports Hall Standards |
| RAT8 | Dual Use Facilities |
| RAT16 | Equestrian Facilities |
| RAT21 | Golf Courses |
| WYT5 | Recreational Development at Wythall Park |
| WYT6 | New Sports Pitches |
| WYT7 | Playing Fields |

Herefordshire

Herefordshire Local Development Scheme (January 2009)

23. The **Herefordshire Core Strategy** will be adopted in March 2011. In response to the city's Growth Point status, the local planning authority will also be producing a **Hereford Area Plan**, to be adopted in March 2012. In addition, a **Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan** is expected to be adopted in March 2013.
24. The **Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule** which will be consulted upon in 2010, is planned to be adopted in April 2011.

Herefordshire Core Strategy: Developing Options Paper (June 2008)

25. The spatial vision of this document addresses the importance of improving the health, well-being and quality of life of Herefordshire residents by improving access to, provision and use of recreation facilities.
26. In terms of new growth, the following strategic options are addressed:
 - a) Focus on economy (with an eastern focus upon development)
 - b) Focus on society (dispersed development)
 - c) Focus upon environment (concentrated development)
 - d) New / expanded settlement
27. In all options, Hereford is the focus of significant development, with Bromyard, Kington, Ledbury, Leominster and Ross-on-Wye also focuses for growth in most of the options.
28. The document also consults upon the best way to provide the required open space and recreation facilities throughout the county:
 - 1) Develop a County-wide standard for the provision of open space and recreation facilities within all new developments, similar to the current UDP;

- 2) Develop area specific standards and needs for the provision of open spaces and recreation facilities based on assessments from the PPG17 Study and the Green Infrastructure Study.

Hereford Unitary Development Plan (March 2007)

29. The policies relating to sports facilities are as follows:

| Policy Number | Policy Title |
|---------------|--|
| RST1 | Criteria for recreation, sport and tourism development |
| RST2 | Recreation, sport and tourism development within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| RST3 | Standards for outdoor playing and public open space |
| RST10 | Major sports facilities |
| RST11 | Golf courses |

South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy Preferred Options (September 2008)

The SWJCS is a planning framework that aims to ensure development has a positive impact on the environment. It is being jointly prepared by the three authorities of Malvern Hills, Wychavon and Worcester City. It will form the heart of the new Local Development Framework.

It considers the long term vision and objectives for South Worcestershire and will contain the policies for delivering these objectives in a planned and cohesive manner.

Key spatial objectives of this document include “to provide accessible opportunities for play, sport, recreation and relaxation”; and “to improve the health of South Worcestershire residents by improving, providing and protecting access to healthcare provision, informal and formal green spaces, and varied opportunities for leisure, recreation and culture in order to promote happy and healthy lifestyles.”

The housing numbers for each of Malvern, Worcester City and Wychavon are giving immediately below in their relevant SWJCS sections, are based on the SWJCS consultation draft, however the latest up to date figures for population increase and numbers, locations and phasing of planned new housing, are given in the Appendices.

Quick Summary Timetable:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Nov/ Dec 2010: | Pre-submission consultation |
| January 2011 | Submission of the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy to the Secretary of State |
| May/June 2011 | Examination in Public (public inquiry) |
| September 2011 | Inspector’s binding decision published |
| November 2011 | Adoption |

Worcester is identified in the emerging regional plan (The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Preferred Options, December 2007) as a Settlement of Significant Development. The WMRSS PO proposes a level of growth of 10,500 homes for Worcester. Due to the city's tight administrative boundary however the document suggests 7,300 of the total should be provided for in the adjoining Districts of Malvern Hills and Wychavon.

The suggested level of growth for Malvern Hills and Wychavon is 4,900 and 9,100 homes respectively. Following the Examination in Public the Planning Inspectorate's Panel have increased these figures as follows. For Malvern Hills and Wychavon it is 100 and 400 homes respectively. For Worcester the increase is 500 units. The Panel has also given more strategic direction with respect to the city's growth by recommending that at least 3,500 be provided for to the west, at least 3,500 within the city and the balance of 4,000 to be determined by the three local planning authorities which make up the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy.

It should be stressed that the WMRSS Phase 2 Revision process is still subject to the Secretary of State's proposed changes and associated public consultation period (anticipated early 2010) so the final level of growth for the study area is still uncertain.

Malvern Hills

Malvern Hills Local Development Scheme 2009 – 2012 (December 2008)

30. The Malvern Hills local planning authority is working on a **South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy** with Worcester City Council and Wychavon District Council. The document is due to be adopted in February 2011. The three authorities will go on to work on a **Site Allocations DPD** which is planned to be adopted in June 2012. The **Open Space SPD** was adopted in August 2008.

South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy Preferred Options (September 2008) Malvern Elements

31. In order to allocate new growth, a proposed settlement hierarchy has been put forward in **Policy CS2 Location Strategy**. Within Malvern Hills, Malvern is classified as a 'main town', offering the greatest range of services and employment opportunities and other facilities outside of Worcester. Tenbury Wells and Upton-upon-Severn are classed as 'other towns', offering a wide range of services, facilities, employment and town centres serving the wider rural communities.
32. This means that the majority of growth within Malvern Hills District will be directed to Malvern. In **Proposed Policy CS4 Malvern**, it is considered that there is a need to find land to accommodate 1,600 new dwellings in the town. The preferred broad locations are in the form of two sustainable urban extensions:

- to the north-east of Malvern, in the vicinity of Newland, east of railway to accommodate some 1,100 dwellings and 10 ha of employment land; and
 - to the south of Townsend Way, east of Mayfield Road, for 500 dwellings and 7ha of employment land.
33. Development in Tenbury and Upton-upon-Severn will be limited, with about 100 new dwellings in each town.
34. In terms of phasing, development in the period up to 2017 will focus upon infill development, existing commitments and Local Plan allocations within the town boundary. From 2017 to 2026, the phasing of greenfield development in Malvern will take place.

Malvern Hills Local Plan (July 2006)

35. Those policies relating to sports facilities are as follows:

| Policy Number | Policy Title |
|---------------|---|
| CN12 | Provision of public open space |
| CN13 | Protection of open space, sport and recreational facilities |
| Cn14 | Recreation, sport and leisure facilities |

Redditch

Redditch Local Development Scheme 2009 – 2012 (September 2009)

36. This document sets out the timetable for the adoption of the **Core Strategy** in February 2011 and the **Site Allocations and Policies DPD** in October 2014.

Redditch Borough Preferred Draft Core Strategy Document (2009)

37. Relevant key themes and objectives of this document include “improving health and well-being – to have high quality open spaces and the best open spaces to meet needs” and “stronger communities – to enhance the visitor economy and Redditch’s cultural and leisure opportunities.”
38. **Policy SP.1 Settlement Hierarchy** states that the location and scale of new development should be in line with the proposed settlement hierarchy; with Redditch as the Main Settlement being the focus for development. Astwood Bank is classified as a Sustainable Settlement and shall offer a range of services and facilities. Feckenham will provide for local needs only.
39. **Policy SP7 Abbey Stadium** focuses upon development criteria for this strategic site. One of the main requirements is that the “predominant component of any mixed

use development scheme must be for... ..indoor and outdoor sporting and recreational facilities.”

40. The policies relating to sports facilities are as follows:

| Policy Number | Policy Title |
|---------------|--|
| R1 | Primarily open space |
| R5 | Playing pitch provision |
| R7 | North west Redditch Master Plan: Abbey Stadium |

Worcester

South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy Preferred Options (2008) Worcester Elements

41. **Policy CF2 Location Strategy** classifies Worcester as a ‘Settlement of Significant Development’, making it the focus for strategic housing and employment development and city centre development.
42. **Proposed Policy CS3 Spatial Strategy for Worcester City and its Surrounding Area** states that of the 10,500 dwellings allocated to Worcester in the RSS, 3,200 can be allocated within the city boundary. It is proposed that the remaining 7,300 are located beyond the city boundary in the form of two new urban extensions.
43. The supporting text describes these urban extensions as follows:

One of these urban extensions would be located to the west/north west of the city and would accommodate approximately 3,500 dwellings together with 16 hectares of employment, a local centre to include, health care, retail, community and leisure facilities, and provision for the emergency services. A primary school to serve the development and a secondary school for the wider area would be needed.

The second of the new urban extensions will be located to the south/south east of the city for approximately 3,000 dwellings together with 25 hectares of employment, a local centre to include community, primary health care, retail, emergency services and leisure facilities together with a two form entry primary school. Evidence from the education authority suggests that a small secondary school may be required to absorb pressure from both Worcester and Pershore.

44. The document also references evidence emerging from consultation for a new concept of a ‘community sports hub’ on the northern edge of Worcester in the Hindlip area. **Proposed Policy CF3** states:

A specialist Criminal Justice Employment Centre will be based on the West Mercia Police Headquarters at Hindlip, and a Community Sports Hub developed on the

surrounding land both respecting the purposes of the Green Belt and incorporating sustainable transport measures.

45. Development is also planned at the village of Fernhill Heath (500 dwellings) and Kilbury Drive (300 dwellings).
46. Masterplans in the form of Supplementary Planning Documents will be prepared for the two proposed urban extensions and the proposed developments at Kilbury Drive, Fernhill Heath and Hindlip.
47. In the period up to 2011, development will be concentrated within the city boundary. Between 2012 and 2016, infill development and existing commitments will continue, plus the greenfield extensions at Kilbury Drive and Fernhill Heath. Between 2017 and 2021 initial development of the urban extensions will occur, and is expected be completed in the period 2022 to 2026.

Worcester City Local Plan 1996-2011 (adopted 2004)

48. The policies relating to sports facilities are as follows:

| Policy Number | Policy Title |
|---------------|---|
| CLT22 | Sub-regional indoor sports facilities |
| CLT23 | Criteria for large scale leisure facilities |
| CLT24 | Criteria for small scale leisure facilities |
| CLT25 | Loss of existing leisure facilities |
| CLT28 | Sports pitches – new |
| CLT29 | Sports pitches - improvements |
| CLT31 | Major spectator sports |
| CLT32 | Sports stadium for relocation of Worcester City Football Club |

Wychavon

South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy Preferred Options (2008)

Wychavon Elements

49. **Proposed Policy CS2 Location Strategy** classifies Droitwich Spa and Evesham as ‘Main Towns’, meaning they offer the greatest range of services and employment opportunities and other facilities outside of Worcester. Pershore is classed as an ‘Other Town’, offering a wide range of services, facilities, employment and town centres serving the wider rural communities.
50. Of the 9,100 dwellings allocated in the RSS, approximately 5,789 still need to be accommodated.

51. **Proposed Policy CS5 Droitwich Spa** identifies the development of 1,750 new dwellings in the town. The preferred spatial strategy these to be located to the south of the town, with 1,500 making up a residential and mixed use development at Copcut Lane / Chawson Lane, with the remaining 250 dwellings on land north of Pulley Lane. Development of the Copcut Lane site is phased to occur between 2017 and 2021.
52. **Proposed Policy CS6 Evesham** identifies the development of 2,300 new dwellings in the town. The preferred option is for 1,500 dwellings to be located to the east of the town, either side of Offenham Road and 800 dwellings to be development to the south-west, off Pershore Road, Hampton. Phase 1 of both these developments is schedule to begin in the period 2012 to 2016.
53. **Proposed Policy CS9 Pershore** identifies the development of 1,000 new dwellings. The preferred option is for these to be distributed between three broad locations; 150 dwellings to the south-west off Three Springs Road; 400 dwellings to the north off Station Road; and 450 dwellings to the north-east either side of Wyre Road.

Wychavon Local Plan (2006)

54. The policies relating to sports facilities are as follows:

| Policy Number | Policy Title |
|---------------|--|
| COM12 | Provision of public open space |
| COM13 | Protection of open space and sport and recreational buildings and land in towns and villages |
| COM14 | Specialist sport and recreation facilities in the countryside |

Wyre Forest

Wyre Forest Local Development Scheme (August 2008)

55. The **Core Strategy**, currently at preferred options stage, is set to be adopted in November 2010. Following this, both the **Site Allocations and Policies DPD** and the **Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan** are due to be adopted in November 2012.

Wyre Forest Core Strategy Preferred Options (January 2009)

56. Spatial objectives that highlight the importance of fostering health lifestyles and community cohesion are included, which have direct implications on the provision of sports facilities.
57. **Core Policy DS01** states that the majority of the 3,400 dwellings allocated in the RSS should be located on urban brownfield sites, principally within Kidderminster but

also within Stourport-on-Severn. Development to meet local needs will occur in Bewdley and the rural settlements.

58. **Core Policy 10 – Preferred Approach to Providing for Sustainable Communities** states that where the need can be demonstrated, developer contributions will be sought for sports and recreation facilities.

Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan Issues and Options Paper (January 2009)

59. In **Option 6 Leisure Sites**, the LPA consulted upon the suitability of a number of sites within the central area of Kidderminster for leisure development including health and fitness clubs.

Wyre Forest Local Plan (2004)

60. This document sets out a key aim in relation to leisure, recreation and tourism; “to enable the provision of high quality and accessible leisure and tourist facilities.” Stemming from this aim are the following objectives:

Objective 48: Land Allocation: *To identify sufficient land for recreation and commercial leisure development to meet the needs of the District.*

Objective 49: Commercial Leisure: *To promote town centre sites as the preferred locations for indoor commercial leisure developments and the arts.*

Objective 50: Open Space, Outdoor Sports facilities and Play Areas: *To enable the provision of sufficient facilities to meet the NPFA minimum standards for open space and recreation, by safeguarding and improving existing facilities and ensuring adequate provision in new developments.*

Objective 51: Rural Facilities and Open Space: *To enable the continued provision of opportunities for sustainable recreation in the countryside.*

61. Relevant policies relating to the development of sports facilities are:

| Policy Number | Policy Title |
|---------------|--|
| EQ1 | Development for commercial equestrian facilities |
| LR1 | Parks, public open spaces and other open spaces |
| LR9 | Outdoor sports pitches and playing fields |
| LR10 | Minster Road outdoor sports area |
| LR11 | Noisy or intrusive sports |
| LR13 | Water sports |
| LR14 | Golf courses and related developments |
| LR17 | Commercial leisure developments |

62. In **Policy LR10**, it is stated that:
63. *...the Council will safeguard an area shown on the Proposals Map north-west of Minster Road, Stourport-on-Severn for outdoor sports use. Proposals for the development of outdoor sports facilities will be encouraged within this area subject to compatibility with Green Belt and Landscape Protection Area Policies.*

APPENDIX 1b

| Authority | Local Development Framework | Local Plan | Others |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Bromsgrove | Local Development Scheme (adopted March 08) Draft Core Strategy (Oct 08) Bromsgrove Town Centre AAP (July 08) | Local Plan (adopted January 04) | |
| Malvern Hills | Local Development Scheme 2009-2012 (Dec 08) South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy Preferred Options (Sep 08) | Local Plan (adopted July 06) | |
| Redditch | Local Development Scheme (July 06) Preferred Draft Core Strategy (Oct 08) | Local Plan (adopted May 06) | |
| Worcester | Local Development Scheme 2009-2012 South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy Preferred Options (Sep 08) | Local Plan (1996-2011) | |
| Wychavon | Local Development Scheme (2009-2012) South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy Preferred Options (Sep 08) | Local Plan (adopted Jun 06) | |

APPENDIX 1b

| Authority | Local Development Framework | Local Plan | Others |
|------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Wyre Forest | Local Development Scheme (Aug 08) Core Strategy Preferred Options (Jan 09) Kidderminster Central AAP (Jan 09) | Local Plan (adopted Jan 04) | Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment (Oct 08) |
| Herefordshire | Local Development Scheme (Fourth Review, Jan 09) Core Strategy Developing Options Paper (June 08) Market Towns and Rural Areas Plan (Scoping Report, July 09) Hereford Area Plan (Scoping Report, July 09) | Unitary Development Plan (March 07) | |