

## **Cabinet – 24 October 2018**

### **Walsall Revised Local Development Scheme**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Adrian Andrew, Deputy Leader and portfolio holder for Regeneration

**Related Portfolios:**

**Service:** Regeneration and Development

**Wards:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Forward plan:** No

#### **1. Summary of report**

- 1.1. Local Planning Authorities are required to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS) that sets out the programme for preparing and revising the Local Plan.
- 1.2. A revision is required to the current LDS in order to reflect the likely adoption date for the Site Allocation Document and Town Centre Area Action Plan and changes to the timetable for the production of the Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS) Review.
- 1.3. The revised LDS is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1. That Cabinet endorses the amended LDS set out below and attached as the appendix to this report and resolves to bring it into effect as of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018.

#### **3. Report Detail**

- 3.1. Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires Local Planning Authorities to prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). This means the Council has a statutory requirement to have an LDS. The LDS must set out what plans are to form part of the Local Plan, the subject matter and geographical

area to which each plan is to relate, and the timetable for their preparation.

- 3.2. Walsall's LDS was first produced in 2005 and has been revised several times as the council has kept its plans under review. The last revision was in June 2017. It has become necessary to revise the LDS for two reasons. First to reflect the likely adoption date for Walsall Site Allocation Document and Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan. Second to update the timetable for the Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS) review.
- 3.3. Walsall Site Allocation Document (SAD) and Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) went through independent examination in September/October 2017. This was followed by public consultation on the Inspectors Proposed Modifications to the plans which took place between February and April 2018. These modifications were considered necessary by the Inspector in order to find the plans 'sound'. Following the publication of the Inspector's Reports<sup>1</sup> it is expected that the SAD and AAP can be recommended for adoption by full Council in January 2019. The adoption of these two key development plans will provide the Council with a strong framework for decision making that will facilitate the delivery of development to meet Walsall's housing and economic needs to up 2026.
- 3.4. The Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) is a statutory document based on a sound and tested evidence base. A statutory plan provides the only basis for formally allocating sites and is the only way in which policies can be given full weight legally in decision making. Publication of the Inspector's Report and the commitment to adopt the plan in January helps provide a solid basis for the masterplan work currently being undertaken on the town centre. The policies within the AAP have been developed in a way that provides flexibility to account for the dynamic nature of town centres and the masterplan should provide the mechanism to commit the Council to implementing the AAPs regeneration strategy.
- 3.5. Beyond the planning period of the SAD and AAP the BCCS Review will provide the updated statutory framework within which the four Black Country Local Planning Authorities will make decisions about the use and development of land. It will support each Council's economic and corporate priorities, and enable the progression of regeneration plans, transportation strategies etc. The revised plan will allocate land for development including housing (including affordable housing) and for industry and business (including investment in strategic and town centres), as well as including policies to protect the environment and important heritage assets.

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<sup>1</sup> There will be one Inspector's Report for the SAD and one for the AAP. These were not available at the time of writing this report but it is anticipated that the Council will be able to publish them in October.

- 3.6. Work on the BCCS Review began in 2016 and has focussed on production of key evidence to establish up-to-date housing and employment land requirements. This work informed the development of an Issues and Options Report.
- 3.7. Consultation on Issues and Options took place from 3 July 2017 for 10 weeks and included a ‘call for sites’ inviting land owners and developers to put forward potential development sites. The consultation included a launch event for key stakeholders, local events, press articles and a social media campaign involving a series of videos.
- 3.8. Consideration of the issues raised during consultation, the sites submitted through Call for Sites and the evidence produced to date on the amount of land required to meet the Black Country’s housing and employment needs has necessitated a review of the timetable for the BCCS Review. The main change to the timetable is the removal of the Preferred Option stage and progression straight to a Draft Plan for consultation. This allows for more time to understand complex evidence which includes a Green Belt Assessment, Employment Land Review and Town Centre Study as well consider the impacts of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) on the strategy. It also allows time to address fully the consultation responses to the Issues and Options stage. The town centre masterplan work can also be fed into the BCCS Review which will consider the amount of retail, office, leisure and residential floorspace the centre could support and deliver beyond 2026.
- 3.9. The stage being removed by the timetable change was ‘Preferred Options’ which is technical and could actually prevent communities from engaging with the process. Advancing straight to a Draft Plans also provides more certainty and clarity around the amount, type and location of new development proposed as the Draft Plan will include the proposed policies and allocations, to facilitate more meaningful consultation. The change to the timetable does not result in a delay in the overall anticipated adoption date for the plan.
- 3.10. This approach has been aided by the Government who provide the four authorities with funding through the ‘Joint Working Fund’ in recognition in the commitment from the Black Country to efficient plan making. This revised timetable is summarised in the table below and has been endorsed by the Association of Black Country Authorities at their meeting in June 2018.

**Black Country Core Strategy Review 2017 – 2021**

<b>Issues and Options</b>	
Cabinet	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2017
Issues and Options Report Consultation	3 <sup>rd</sup> July – 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 (10 weeks consultation)

<b>Future Programme</b>	
<b>Draft Plan</b>	
Cabinet	September 2019
Draft plan Consultation	October / November 2019 (6 weeks consultation minimum)
<b>Publication</b>	
Cabinet	June 2020
Publication Consultation	July 2020 (6 weeks consultation minimum)
<b>Submission</b>	
Council Approval for Submission	September / October 2020
Submission to Secretary of State	October 2020
<b>Examination (by planning inspectorate)</b>	Spring 2021
<b>Adoption (by Council)</b>	Autumn 2021

3.11. The adoption year of 2021 is important, as the Plan must cover a period of 15 years from adoption to be found “sound”, and the current end date is 2036. If the adoption year is likely to slip, the Plan would need to roll forward to 2037 or beyond, requiring the provision of additional years of housing supply. It is therefore crucial that resources are dedicated to staffing the work programme and resourcing the consultations.

3.12. The plan-making process will have to address complex issues, which are also dynamic and changing. One possible change has been announced by Government, which - at the time of writing - has published revised household projections and has said it will consult on how these should be used to calculate future housing needs. Changes in projected housing needs would affect not only the amount of land for housing, but also needs for employment, town centres and services, transport and infrastructure, etc. In such circumstances it will be important to keep the programme for the BCCS under Review.

3.13. It is also proposed that as part of the revised LDS the title of the plan should be changed to the ‘Black Country Plan’ instead of the current Black Country Core Strategy Review. . The use of terminology such as ‘Core Strategy’ does not necessary provide enough information for stakeholders outside of planning to understand that this is the plan for the future of the Black Country and it is hoped the change in name will make the plan more accessible to the public.

#### **4. Council Corporate Plan Priorities**

- 4.1. The Council's Corporate Plan (2018 – 2021) sets out the Council's purpose along with the priorities, with the aim of reducing inequalities and maximise potential. Having a programme of plans that look to delivery development in the borough in the right locations directly links to the Council's priority of "*economic growth for all people, communities and businesses*". It also links to the Council priority of ensuring "*communities are prospering and resilient with all housing needs met in safe and healthy places that build a strong sense of belonging and cohesion*" by ensuring we have a programme of plans that continue to identify land to meet our housing needs. Having a programme of plans also supports the Council priority of ensuring our residents have "*increased independence, improved health and can positively contribute to their communities*". Planning documents provide the mechanism for ensuring communities have access to opportunities, services and facilities which can support healthy living and independence. The consultation process behind plan making also provides real opportunities for communities to engage in the future of the borough.

#### **5. Risk management**

- 5.1. It is a requirement of planning legislation as set out in Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) that an LDS is in place and up-to-date to order to submit plans for examination by the Secretary of State. Failure to have a Local Plan that is based on sound evidence could result in the borough having insufficient land to meet the need for housing, employment and other land uses that are necessary to support the economic and environmental well-being of the area. It could also result in development being placed in the wrong locations, leading to an inefficient use of resources, traffic congestion and other harm. Having a Local Plan in place is also essential in order to defend the Council's position in planning appeals.

#### **6. Financial implications**

- 6.1. None arising from this report or its recommendation. The costs of preparing the review are shared on an equal basis between the four Black Country Local Authorities and will be funded from Walsall through the Black Country Core Strategy Reserve. The timetable change to the BCCS Review has been facilitated in part by Government funding that looks to ensure councils are producing plans in a timely manner.

#### **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1. Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as

amended) requires Local Planning Authorities to maintain a LDS.

- 7.2. The need to follow the statutory and policy requirements has informed the timetables for plan production in the LDS, including the need for various assessments, for evidence and for public involvement. As stated above in the section 5 of the report there is a need to have an up-to-date LDS in order to be able to submit plans for examination.

## **8. Procurement Implications**

- 8.1. Not applicable in respect of this report, however there may be instances in the future where the procurement of studies that form the evidence base for plans is required and in such cases all procurement guidelines will be followed.

## **9. Property implications**

- 9.1. No direct implications for Council property have been identified. The policies and proposals in the BCCS Review will apply to any Council land and property which is subject to a development proposal. Liaison with corporate and public sector landlords will be required on an on-going basis and will need resourcing.

## **10. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 10.1 One of the objectives of plan making is to ensure that the siting of new developments contributes to the health and well-being of residents of the borough, for example by being located where they can be accessed by walking and cycling. Preparation of the BCCS Review includes the carrying out of an integrated Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment.

## **11. Staffing implications**

- 11.1 The Planning Policy Team in Regeneration and Development of the Economy and Environment Directorate will provide the majority of resources for Local Plan preparation and the overall management of plan production. Significant contributions on some matters will, however, also come from other teams within the Economy and Environment Directorate – the Delivery & Development Team, Development Management and Transport Strategy. In some cases these other teams will take the lead on the preparation of individual documents or issues.
- 11.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has recently been revised and this places new requirements on Councils, such the introduction of a 5 year housing delivery test, which if failed, requires

Council to produce action plans. The introduction of further requirements of planning authorities by changes in Government policy can take resources away from plan making and the fulfilling of such new requirement will need continued staff resources.

## 12. Reducing inequalities

12.1 Preparation of the BCCS Review includes the carrying out of an integrated Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Health Impact Assessment. One of the objectives of the Core Strategy will be to ensure that jobs, homes and services are provided for all residents of the borough including groups such as gypsies and travellers. All Local Plans need to be produced in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which sets out the Councils commitment to engagement with all communities, including minority ethnic communities, faith based communities, disabled groups and individuals, young people, people on low incomes and the business community. This approach is designed to ensure that those communities that traditionally have not had their say on planning decisions are able to influence the planning process. An EqIA has been produced for the LDS revision.

## 13. Consultation

13.1 The Local Plan documents are being prepared in accordance with the approach to community involvement as set out in legislation and national policy and in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

### Background papers

Walsall Local Development Framework June 2017

[https://go.walsall.gov.uk/Portals/0/images/importeddocuments/lDs\\_revision\\_june\\_2017\\_website\\_.pdf](https://go.walsall.gov.uk/Portals/0/images/importeddocuments/lDs_revision_june_2017_website_.pdf)

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)

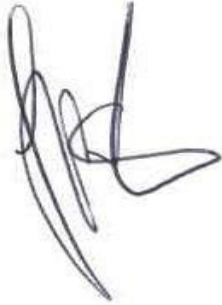
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents>

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) July 2018

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/728643/Revised\\_NPPF\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf)

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12 October 2018



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12 October 2018



November 2018



**Walsall** Council

WALSALL LOCAL PLAN

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

8<sup>th</sup> Revision

(Effective from 1st November 2018)

## SUMMARY

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is the list of documents that comprise the Council's development plan. These are the documents that are used to determine planning applications and for various other statutory purposes. The LDS also specifies the timetable that the Council intends to follow to prepare and revise new and existing development plan documents (DPDs). These documents will form part of the Local Plan (also known as the Local Development Framework - LDF) once they are adopted.

Walsall's LDS was first produced in 2005 and has been revised several times as the council has kept its plans under review. The last revision was in June 2017. It has become necessary to revise the LDS to reflect the likely adoption date for the Site Allocation Document and Town Centre Area Action Plan and to update the timetable for the Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS) Review.

The LDS will be kept under review to help ensure the Council's plans are kept up-to-date. In between reviews the Council's website will include information on progress with the various documents proposed. See

[www.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/local\\_development\\_framework](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/local_development_framework)

A number of terms and abbreviations are used through this document. These are explained in the Glossary at the end.

## HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information about any of the issues raised in this LDS please contact:

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## **The Local Development Scheme**

1.1 Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires local planning authorities to prepare and maintain a scheme to be known as their Local Development Scheme (LDS). This must specify which Local Development Documents (LDDs) are to be Development Plan Documents (DPDs), the subject matter and geographical area to which each DPD is to relate, and the timetable for the preparation and revision of the DPDs.

1.2 It was formerly a requirement for authorities to submit their LDS to the Secretary of State but this requirement was removed as a result of the Localism Act 2011.

1.3 DPDs form part of a portfolio of documents that together comprise the Local Plan. The Local Plan was formerly known as the Local Development Framework (LDF), although this term is not referred to in the legislation. There are three types of LDDs prepared by the Council<sup>1</sup> that can comprise the Local Plan:

- Old-style plans – adopted plans pre-dating the 2004 system, such as UDPs;
- Development Plan Documents (DPDs) – plans that can allocate sites for development and/or set out policies that are used as the basis to determine planning applications; and
- Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) – plans that supplement the policies in an old-style plan or an adopted DPD.

1.4 Adopted DPDs and ‘saved’ policies from old-style plans together comprise the statutory Development Plan. When making decisions on planning applications and for certain other functions, the Council (and planning inspectors or the Secretary of State when applications go to appeal or are called in) have to make determinations in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Statutory development plans are therefore very important plans, which have to be carefully prepared, subjected to public scrutiny, and examined by independent Planning Inspectors, before they can be adopted.

1.5 The intention is that over time, the old-style UDPs and other similar plans will be replaced with new DPDs. These have tended to include a Core Strategy, which provides an overall ‘spatial strategy’ and broad strategic policies for the area, and a Site Allocation Document, which identifies specific sites and areas for development. Planning authorities can also prepare Area Action Plans (AAPs) for particular areas where major change or regeneration is expected to take place. Over recent years Government has encouraged a move towards areas having fewer plans, with one plan fulfilling a variety of roles, but now it appears there is an allowance for flexibility as to what plans are produced, so long as each authority is moving towards having ‘a’ Local Plan that is up-to-date.

1.6 As well as the LDS, the Council also has to have a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), a plan that sets out how the Council will involve local communities in the planning process. The Council also has to produce an Authority’s Monitoring

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<sup>1</sup> Neighbourhood Plans, prepared by local communities under the Localism Act 2011 can also become part of the Local Plan; see <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planning-aid/neighbourhood-planning/what-is-neighbourhood-planning/>. There are no neighbourhood plans in Walsall at present.

Report (AMR) at least annually, to summarise the progress the Council has made on preparing new LDDs, and implementing the policies in adopted LDDs.

1.7 When the Local Plan system under the 2004 Act first came into effect, the LDS was required to include details of all the LDDs being prepared, including the SCI and SPDs, but this is no longer the case. Following the Planning Act 2008, the LDS is only required to contain details of the DPDs in preparation. However, for completeness, in the section below and in Appendix 4 we have included a summary of all of the plans currently in the Walsall Local Plan, and the dates they were adopted.

1.8 The glossary at the end of this LDS gives a fuller explanation of some of the main terminology used in the Local Plan system. To find out more about the planning system you can visit the website of the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) at <https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/planning-and-building>.

1.9 The LDS will be reviewed as necessary. Reviews are needed to take into account changing circumstances, such as where the AMR tells us that policies in adopted plans are not working. There may also be a need to review the LDS when new plans are adopted, or to take account of changes to the planning system, new development trends, or the changing priorities of the Council and its partners. The LDS is also required to be updated to reflect progress on completing new DPDs.

### **Walsall's Local Plan**

1.10 Since the first version of the LDS was produced in March 2005, the Council has produced the following documents:

- The Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS) has been prepared in conjunction with Dudley MBC, Sandwell MBC and Wolverhampton City Council, and was adopted on 3 February 2011.
- SPDs on:
  - (1) Affordable Housing (July 2005, Revised April 2008)
  - (2) Open Space, Sport and Recreation (April 2006)
  - (3) Walsall Waterfront (November 2006)
  - (3) Healthcare (January 2007 but revoked in February 2012)
  - (4) Education (February 2007 but revoked in February 2012)
  - (5) Designing Walsall (February 2008 and revised July 2013)
  - (6) Natural Environment (April 2008 and revised July 2013)
  - (7) Shop Fronts (April 2005)
  - (8) Black Country Air Quality (February 2017- prepared in conjunction with Dudley MBC, Sandwell MBC and Wolverhampton City Council)

1.11 Appendix 4 lists the LDDs that have been completed. In addition, The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted by the Council in June 2006 and revised in February 2012<sup>2</sup>. A revised SCI is anticipated to be adopted by autumn 2018.

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<sup>2</sup>

[http://www.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/local\\_development\\_framework/ldf\\_statement\\_of\\_community\\_involvement.htm](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/local_development_framework/ldf_statement_of_community_involvement.htm)

## **The Statutory Development Plan for Walsall**

1.12 The Council is required by law to determine planning applications in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Statutory development plans are therefore very important plans, which have to be carefully prepared, subjected to public scrutiny, and examined by independent Planning Inspectors, before they can be adopted.

1.13 Until 2004, the statutory development plan for Walsall was contained within a single plan: the Walsall UDP. However, the 2004 planning reforms changed this. The legal definition of the statutory development plan (in Section 38 and Schedule 8 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended) currently comprises 'saved' policies in adopted old plans and the development plan documents adopted or approved for the area. Regional Spatial Strategies were also formerly part of the development plan until they were revoked under the Localism Act 2011.

1.14 The Walsall UDP policies were automatically 'saved' under the transitional arrangements for the new planning system for 3 years from adoption. However, in response to a request from the Council, a Direction issued by the Secretary of State in December 2007 saved almost all of the policies in the plan.<sup>3</sup> Four policies that were not 'saved' ceased to have effect from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

1.15 The adoption of the BCCS in 2011 has meant that some of the 'saved' UDP policies have now been replaced by new policies in the BCCS. However, the 'saved' policies that have not been replaced by the BCCS will remain part of the development plan until they are replaced by policies in future DPDs. Appendix 2 lists the policies in the 2005 Walsall UDP, showing which ones have not been 'saved', which ones have been replaced by policies in the BCCS, and which ones are likely to be replaced by the new DPDs it is proposed to prepare.

1.16 In addition to the UDP and BCCS, the Council has prepared various Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) to elaborate and explain UDP policies. As mentioned above, SPDs no longer have to be included in the LDS, although the SPDs that have been completed, revised or revoked are listed in Appendix 4.

## **The Relationship of Walsall's Local Plan to Other Plans**

1.17 As well as providing the overall planning framework for the area and being consistent with other development plans for adjoining areas, the Local Plan is expected to be sensitive to related local requirements and aspirations. Accordingly, the BCCS embraced the proposals of the Sustainable Community Strategies prepared by the authorities' Local Strategic Partnerships (in Walsall the 'Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership', WBSP), and other local strategies. The Deregulation Act 2015 has removed the statutory requirements for sustainable community strategies to be prepared and for Local Plans to have to have regard to such strategies.

1.16 Future work on the Local Plan could support community aspirations for 'neighbourhood planning'. However, no applications to set up neighbourhood forums or prepare neighbourhood plans have been submitted in Walsall to date. Any neighbourhood plans would need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted BCCS and with the SAD and AAP when they are adopted.

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<sup>3</sup> See [http://www.walsall.gov.uk/walsall\\_udp\\_saved\\_gowm\\_letter\\_06\\_dec\\_2007.pdf](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/walsall_udp_saved_gowm_letter_06_dec_2007.pdf)

## 2. OVERVIEW OF THE APPROACH TO THE LOCAL PLAN

### **Structure of the Local Plan**

2.1 Besides this Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the saved policies of Walsall's UDP that have not been replaced by the BCCS, the basic components of the Walsall Local Plan are as follows.

#### **A) Borough-Wide Documents:**

- Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS)
- Site Allocation DPD (in preparation: this does not include Walsall Town Centre or the five district centres of Aldridge, Brownhills, Bloxwich, Willenhall or Darlaston).

#### **B) Area Action Plans:**

- Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan (in preparation)

#### **C) Supplementary Planning Documents**

- As required (see paragraph 1.8 and Appendix 4, no SPDs are in preparation at the time of writing).

2.2 Other Documents that are or have been the subject of preparation work.

- Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)
- Authority's Monitoring Report
- Charging Schedule for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (was in preparation with the SAD and AAP but has been suspended in light of the Government Review announced in the 2017 Housing White Paper)

### **A) Borough-Wide Documents**

#### **Black Country Core Strategy**

2.3 The key DPD is the Core Strategy, which, as noted previously, has been prepared and adopted jointly with Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton councils to cover all four Black Country boroughs. The Core Strategy seeks to apply a regeneration strategy across the area and bring it together with other local plans and strategies to provide a strategic spatial plan for the area. It sets out the main objectives for the area, a spatial strategy, and core policies, and it explains how these will be implemented and monitored. The BCCS sets out the amounts of development to be planned for and the broad locations where it can be accommodated most sustainably. The broad locations and strategy are illustrated on a spatial strategy diagram and more detailed diagrams illustrate how the strategy might look for strategic centres (including Walsall Town Centre) and for regeneration corridors.

2.4 The BCCS was adopted in February 2011. It has replaced some of Walsall's UDP policies that had previously been saved. This LDS revision sets out the programme for consultation on a review of the BCCS.

## **Site Allocation DPD**

2.5 Whilst the BCCS sets out the strategy for the Black Country, identifies some strategic locations and puts forward important over-arching policies, it does not allocate sites for development. To make such allocations for housing, employment and other uses, to identify assets for protection and to update the UDP it is necessary to have site allocations. This is considered to be particularly important in ensuring that the Borough can safeguard and provide sufficient land for employment, and to support infrastructure planning. The Site Allocation DPD will be accompanied by an update of Walsall's UDP Proposals Map. The Proposals Map will be known as the Adopted Policies Map.

2.6 Rather than include development management policies, as proposed previously, it is now considered that that the necessary policies can be provided through the use of 'saved' UDP policies and national policies, with the possibility of a separate future document when resources allow.

## **B) Area Action Plans**

### **Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan**

2.7 The BCCS confirms that Walsall Town Centre has a strategic role and as one of the Black Country's 'Strategic Centres' (with Brierley Hill, West Bromwich Town Centre and Wolverhampton City Centre) its ability to attract and accommodate investment in shopping, offices, leisure and culture will be of vital importance for the regeneration strategy. However, the work for the BCCS indicated concerns that Walsall would lose market share if it did not compete with developments elsewhere, whilst at the BCCS Examination in Public issues were raised, concerning the locations for investment in the centre, which would most effectively be addressed at the local level. In response, an AAP is being prepared for Walsall Town Centre. This is intended to identify and allocate sites and opportunities for development and investment and to co-ordinate these with the necessary infrastructure as well as with environmental and management improvements (which can be brought forward in parallel with the statutory processes).

2.8 The need for subsequent replacement of the UDP Inset Plans for the smaller Town / District Centres (Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall) will be considered in future reviews of the LDS.

## **C) Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)**

2.9 Walsall has a number of items of SPG prepared under the old planning system, as listed in an appendix to the UDP. This SPG cannot be automatically transferred into a Local Plan document with the status of the new-style SPD, but it can retain its status as a material consideration, as long as it is linked to saved policies in the UDP that are still in operation. Whilst, on the same basis as for SPD, there is no requirement for existing SPG to be set out in the LDS, the SPG that have been linked to the UDP are listed in Appendix 3 for ease of reference.

2.10 SPDs, under the Local Plan system, have been prepared to elaborate upon development plan policies. So far, these have been on saved UDP policies; an SPD



on Affordable Housing has been adopted and then reviewed, and SPDs have been adopted on Open Space, 'Walsall Waterfront', Healthcare, Education Provision, Design and also the Natural Environment. The SPDs on Healthcare and Education provision have subsequently been revoked as they did not comply with the CIL Regulations and there was a lack of supporting up to date evidence. The Design and Natural Environment SPDs have been revised to take account of changes in legislation and policy, including the adoption of the BCCS. A more recent SPD has been produced on Shop Fronts which is based on both UDP and BCCS policies. The latest SPD to be adopted was produced jointly between the four Black country authorities and elaborates on the BCCS policies along with national policies and guidance. The programme for future work on SPDs no longer has to be set out in the LDS, but Walsall's existing SPDs are listed in Appendix 4. No further SPDs are in preparation at the time of writing, however, consideration may be given to future plan making work beyond what is set out in this LDS, and this might include the future production of SPDs.

## **Other Documents**

### **Statement of Community Involvement**

2.11 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) outlines how the Council will involve local communities, stakeholders and others in the preparation of LDDs and the consideration of planning applications. It has regard to the consultation strategies of the Council and the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership (WBSP), and aims to reduce any potential duplication of consultation activity that may be taking place on other initiatives. The original version was adopted by the Council in June 2006 and a revised version was adopted in February 2012. A revised SCI has been consulted on and it is anticipated that this will be adopted by autumn 2018.

### **Authority's Monitoring Report (previously the Annual Monitoring Report)**

2.12 Local authorities are required to produce a report at least once per year on what developments have taken place to measure progress against targets and indicators set out in the development plan as well as by Government. This includes progress on plan-making in terms of the extent to which the programme in this LDS is being met. Walsall's latest Authority's Monitoring Report can be found on the Council's website<sup>4</sup>. Aspects of the BCCS will be monitored jointly with Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton Councils.

### **Charging Schedule for the Community Infrastructure Levy**

2.13 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was introduced as a mechanism to fund the provision of infrastructure such as open space. It was proposed by the Government in part to replace contributions that were previously provided through Section 106 agreements made in conjunction with planning permissions. There are now restrictions on the use of section 106 agreements; in particular they are limited in

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[http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/planning\\_policy/local\\_plans/annual\\_monitoring\\_report.htm](http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/planning_policy/local_plans/annual_monitoring_report.htm)

the extent to which contributions from a number of different developments can be 'pooled'. CIL is charged on new developments based on a fixed rate per square metre for each type of land use.

2.14 It was the intention that the CIL Charging Schedule would be submitted for independent examination by an appointed examiner at the same time as the SAD and AAP was submitted to the Secretary of State. However, the Housing White Paper published on 7th February 2017 stated that the Government will examine the options for reforming the system of developer contributions. . In view of this likelihood of significant changes to CIL taking place before the Council was in a position to adopt and implement a charging regime, Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 accepted the recommendation that the draft Charging Schedule should not be submitted for examination at this time and that work on CIL should be suspended. This was to avoid potentially abortive further work being done. At present there is no agreed timetable for progressing CIL as in the short term, the outcome of Government's consideration of arrangements for developer contributions is still awaited and a decision needs to be made around resourcing the implementation of a charging regime and in the longer term new evidence will be required to establish the infrastructure requirements of delivering the levels of development set out in the BCCS Review.

2.15 The Charging Schedule does not form part of the statutory development plan nor does it have to be included within the Council's LDS.

### **3. PROGRAMME FOR FUTURE DPD PREPARATION**

#### **Walsall Site Allocation Document and Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan**

3.1 The programming of the Site Allocation DPD and Walsall Town Centre AAP (the proposed DPDs referred to above) is summarised in the table below. DPD profiles in Appendix 1 also contain more detailed information on the proposed timescales and chain of conformity for each document. Although not shown in the diagram, the UDP Proposals Map will be replaced by the Site Allocation Document Policies Map and the Town Centre Inset Map replaced by the Town Centre Area Action Plan Policies Map. The UDP Inset Plans for the District Centres will be saved and then modified as necessary as replacement DPDs are adopted.

3.2 The Site Allocation DPD and Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan have now been through examination hearings held by an independent Inspector. The timetable for adoption of the two plans has been delayed due to the need for consultation on the Inspector's Proposed Modifications, which took place between February and April 2018, and the wait for the subsequent Inspectors Report. Following the publication of the Inspectors Report it is expected that the Site Allocation DPD and Walsall Town Centre AAP will be adopted by full Council in January 2019.

#### **Black Country Core Strategy Review**

3.3 When the current Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS) was adopted there was a commitment to review it after 5 years. This was deemed necessary by the Planning Inspectors who examined the Plan to ensure the spatial objectives and the strategy are continually up to date, and also to ensure that the Plan reflects up to date national planning policy and guidance.

3.4 The review of the BCCS will plan for further into the future – up to 2036 – and will provide the updated statutory framework within which the four Black Country Local Planning Authorities will make decisions about the use and development of land.

3.5 The programming for the review of the Core Strategy is set out in the table below. . The timetable has been updated since the previous LDS to take account of changes in stages of the plan's production. In order to help address the issues of the area, such as seeking to meet our housing needs and planning for employment growth, the Black Country Authorities bid for funding from the Government's 'Joint Working Fund'. This bid was successful and provides the resources necessary to fund the detailed assessments to reach the 'Draft Plan' stage within a shorter time than would otherwise have been the case. This is to be achieved by the removal of 'Preferred Options' as a separate stage, so the next stage of consultation will be on the Draft Plan. The rolling of the Preferred Options stage into the Draft Plan allows for more time to understand complex evidence and address fully the consultation responses to the Issues and Options stage without a delay in the overall anticipated adoption date for the plan. The DPD profile on the Core Strategy Review, which can be viewed in Appendix 1, contains more detailed information on the proposed timescales and chain of conformity. In view of the complexity of the issues the Core Strategy has to address and the likelihood that these might be affected by changing circumstances or new evidence<sup>5</sup> this programme will have to be kept under review.

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<sup>5</sup> At the time of writing the Government has published 2016-based projections of household growth and has said it will consult on how these might be used in assessing housing need.

## **Other Documents**

3.6 There is no requirement to set out the programme for future work on any SPDs, on Walsall's SCI, nor on the Authority's Monitoring Report.

3.7 This LDS has to be primarily concerned with the programme of work on the DPDs currently in preparation, i.e. on Site Allocation and on Walsall Town Centre. And the major commitment involved in commencing the review of the Black Country Core Strategy. This is as far as it seems appropriate to take matters in this LDS; future reviews of the LDS will roll things forward. If further LDDS are required as a result of the Core Strategy review or because of other changes, they will be set out in a future revision of the LDS.

## LDS PROGRAMME SUMMARY: 1

### **Site Allocation Document and Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan 2013 -2017**

<b><u>Progress so Far</u></b>	
<b>Issues and Options</b>	
Issues and Options Reports Public Consultation	22nd April - 3rd June 2013 – (6 weeks)
<b>Preferred Options</b>	
Cabinet	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2015
Preferred Options Reports Public Consultation	7 <sup>th</sup> September - 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2015 (8 weeks)
<b>Publication</b>	
Cabinet	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2016
Publication (final draft plan) Public Consultation	7 <sup>th</sup> March – 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2016 (8 weeks)
Cabinet for Pre-Submission Modifications	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Pre-Submission Modifications Consultation	7 <sup>th</sup> November – 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2016 (6 weeks)
Cabinet	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
<b>Examination and Adoption</b>	
Council Approval for Submission	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2017
Submission to Secretary of State	June 2017
Examination (by Planning Inspector)	September/October 2017
Inspectors Proposed Modifications Consultation	26 <sup>th</sup> February – 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2018
<b><u>Future Programme</u></b>	
Adoption (by Council)	January 2019

## LDS PROGRAMME SUMMARY: 2

### **Black Country Core Strategy Review 2017 – 2021**

<b>Issues and Options</b>	
Cabinet	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2017
Issues and Options Report Consultation	3 <sup>rd</sup> July – 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 (10 weeks consultation)
<b>Future Programme</b>	
<b>Draft Plan</b>	
Cabinet	September 2019
Draft plan Consultation	October / November 2019 (6 weeks consultation minimum)
<b>Publication</b>	
Cabinet	June 2020
Publication Consultation	July 2020 (6 weeks consultation minimum)
<b>Submission</b>	
Council Approval for Submission	September / October 2020
Submission to Secretary of State	October 2020
<b>Examination (by planning inspectorate)</b>	Spring 2021
<b>Adoption (by Council)</b>	Autumn 2021

## 4. RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

### **Staff Resources for LDD preparation**

4.1 The broad resource and management arrangements for each LDD are set out in the profiles in Appendix 1. The main resources for Local Plan preparation and the overall management lead will come from the Planning Policy Team in Regeneration and Development of the Economy and Environment Directorate and this is programmed in the relevant Service Plan. Significant contributions on some matters will, however, also come from other teams within the Economy and Environment Directorate – the Delivery & Development Team, Development Management and Transport Strategy. In some cases these other teams will take the lead on the preparation of individual documents or issues.

4.2 In addition there will be important contributions from others within the Regeneration Directorate and other Directorates of the Council.

4.3 Local Plan documents will also be prepared in close liaison with external partners and organisations. The Council will work in partnership with the ‘key partners’ identified in the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to facilitate contact with local communities when it comes to consultation on Local Plan documents.

4.4 The BCCS review is being produced jointly between the four Black Country authorities. This is an effective way of managing resources and sharing expertise but means that the progress on the plan is dependent on joint decision making and in some cases the work of others. As the BCCS review is a multi-dimensional strategy it will require professional input from a range of technical disciplines and statutory consultees at all stages of production

### **Political Management**

4.5 The Council is responsible for approving DPDs, upon the recommendation of Cabinet. Specific responsibility for the Local Plan within the Cabinet will be taken by the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration. Responsibility for approving the LDS rests with Cabinet, although there is delegated authority for officers to make minor changes and up-dates. Cabinet is responsible for approving the SCI and SPDs, as documents that are not part of the Local Plan.

4.6 Walsall’s Cabinet and Council are also responsible for key political decisions on the BCCS review, and the other Black Country authorities equally have responsibility to make key decisions through their own political arrangements. However, the views of the four authorities are coordinated through informal meetings of the Association of Black Country Authorities (ABCA) which brings together Council Leaders and Chief Executives.

### **Financial Resources**

4.7 In addition to the staff resources noted above, a budget will be needed to support Local Plan preparation on an ongoing basis. This will be used, for example, to fund any commissioned survey or consultancy work; the printing of documents; publicity and consultation; and the administrative costs involved in public examinations into DPDs. It is recognised that a significantly increased level of resources will be needed in the years when public examinations will be held – and this will become more frequent as work on the Local Plan proceeds. The Council had successfully attracted

a significant amount of New Homes Bonus and some of this had been allocated to support Local Plan work to date. Further financial contributions towards particular aspects of Local Plan work may also be sought from Government and from other services or other organisations in the future. However, it is important to recognise that the Council is facing a requirement to make savings of £86 million 2017-2020.

4.8 A joint budget has been agreed to undertake the review of the BCCS. This covers all stages of the plan making from the Issues and Options Consultation to examination and adoption. Producing a joint core strategy is a cost effective way to plan for the area. There may be a need to revisit the budget assigned to the review if further or more detailed evidence is required. The budget will be kept under review at all stages on the BCCS review.

### **Factors Influencing Delivery**

4.9 The proposals for DPD preparation set out in this revised LDS are presently considered by the Council to be achievable. However, there is inevitably a level of uncertainty associated with the process especially in terms of future plan production and it is relevant to consider any factors that might affect delivery so that these can be anticipated and planned for as far as possible. The following are seen as the main areas of risk.

### **Staff and Other Resources**

4.10 The Council is very much aware that there will be many conflicting demands on its limited staff resources throughout the Local Plan preparation process. Many of these place unforeseen pressure on staff time for example responding to Government Consultations or responding to planning applications in neighbouring areas. The LDS work programme seeks to allow for this.

4.11 It is recognised that the Planning Policy Team has been under-resourced in terms of staff numbers in recent years and there is a need to try to maintain and enhance staffing levels through the present period of local authority funding restraint. As with other local planning authorities the recruitment and retention of suitably qualified staff remains an issue that could adversely affect the delivery of the Local Plan. This has the potential to be an issue for the BCCS review as all authorities will need to be adequately resourced in order to deliver the review in-line with the timetable set out.

### **Council Procedures**

4.12 The timetable for producing DPDs is very much dependent upon obtaining, where necessary, Council and Cabinet approval for their revision, submission and approval. Although the timetables have been produced with this in mind, factors, including the unforeseen rescheduling of Council meetings and any subsequent changes to 'lead in times' when preparing reports, together with the 'purdah period' during Council elections could have implications for delivering the DPDs in accordance with their anticipated timetables. This will be monitored closely and we will inform the public and relevant stakeholders if it is likely that further amendments to their timetables are required.

## **The Planning System**

4.13 Despite recent amendments, the development plan system remains very complex and demanding. Changes that have happened or been proposed in recent years include CIL, 'neighbourhood planning', amendments to the regime for managing changes of use of land and buildings, and efforts to boost the housing market. The National Planning Policy Framework has recently been revised and this places new requirements on Councils, such the introduction of a 5 year housing delivery test, which if failed, requires Council to production action plans, which can take resources away from plan making.

4.14 The continuing flow of initiatives could result in both planning objectives and the delivery process being reoriented towards meeting targets that might differ from the current strategy for the Black Country as set out in the BCCS. Under the 'Duty to Cooperate', it is necessary to respond to local plans and other proposals both in the areas of Walsall's immediate neighbours and also further afield.

4.15 At the same time, the Government is seeking to place increasing emphasis on plan-making, in terms of legislative requirements (notably the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017), policy requirements (the revised NPPF) and Practice Guidance (such as the proposal to consult on how the latest household projections might be used to prescribe local housing need figures that would support the Government's policy aspirations).

### **Impact of Partners**

4.16 Implementation is dependent on partners, both within and outside the Council. These may not be committed to the formal planning system, may not understand the requirements or may lack the resources or skills to do what's required. These difficulties have already had a significant effect on the programme for the Site Allocation DPD and Town Centre AAP. The BCCS review involves joint working with a number different partners and stakeholders including discussions over cross-boundary issues outside of the Black Country. This may in turn impact on the programme for the BCCS review.

### **Level of Public Involvement**

4.17 It is difficult to predict precisely what the level of public interest and involvement will be for particular LDDs and hence the amount of time and resources that will need to be devoted to consultation. It is possible given the nature of the BCCS Review that there will be substantial public interest in the plans as the four authorities look to plan to meet future needs. The Council's intentions for public involvement are detailed in the SCI and this aims to strike a careful balance between the two objectives of public involvement and speed of preparation.

4.18 The Government has set great store in the need for 'front-loading' the involvement of stakeholders, developers and landowners in the plan preparation process (i.e. this taking place earlier in the process). This is aimed at removing the introduction of new issues and proposals at later stages of the process and thereby hopefully reducing the objections that will need to be considered at a public examination.

### **Capacity of the Planning Inspectorate**

4.19 The Local Plan system envisages a greater number of independent public examinations, although they are expected to be shorter and more focussed. The



capacity of the Planning Inspectorate to achieve this will obviously have implications for the programming of DPDs by all local authorities. As with the Site Allocation DPD and the Town Centre AAP consultation on the modifications closed in April 2018 but because of the Planning Inspectorate's commitments the Inspectors Report were not received until 4 months later.

### **The Economy**

4.20 The economic crisis in 2008 saw a marked decrease in lending and house building. The subsequent recession has shown the relatively narrow base of the Black Country economy and the limited viability of many potential development sites, particularly where these involve previously developed land that may be contaminated or suffer from ground instability. This means there has been a significant decline in development and fewer resources available from planning obligations. A whole range of objectives are likely to be more difficult and take longer to achieve. Public resources, in particular those available to local authorities, are continuing to be reduced. There is now uncertainty as to the economic implications of 'Brexit'.

## 5. INFORMATION, MONITORING AND SUSTAINABILITY

### **The Evidence Base**

5.1 A range of background work needs to be undertaken to produce the new planning documents. All LDDs need to be underpinned by an appropriate evidence base. Any new DPD will be examined by an independent Planning Inspector, and will have to pass the test of 'soundness'. Demonstrating 'soundness' will depend in part on the quality, robustness and credibility of the information and technical work underpinning the DPDs. Any supporting technical papers produced either by, or for, the Council will be made publicly available to assist public involvement in the Local Plan process.

5.2 The Site Allocation DPD and Town Centre AAP are supported by a substantial evidence base, and this has been available to view and comment on throughout the consultation stages and submitted as part of the examination process. The BCCS review requires new technical work to be undertaken at a Black Country level to update the previous evidence base used to inform the strategy. This will involve careful consideration of the Black Country's future growth needs and the ability to accommodate such growth.

5.3 The Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR), and reviews of the LDS, will provide an opportunity to assess whether there are any new areas of technical work that will be needed to support LDD preparation (as well as possibly identifying the need to prepare or review individual LDDs).

### **Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment, etc.**

5.4 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was carried out during the preparation of Walsall's UDP which was consistent with legislation and guidance at that time. For DPDs, the requirements are more rigorous. Current planning legislation requires all DPDs to be subject to a SA, whilst local authorities are also increasingly expected to consider the equality and health impacts of their proposals, with such assessments integrated with the SA. This was done in respect of the existing BCCS.

5.5 An SA has been undertaken for each stage of the production of the Site Allocation DPD and Town Centre AAP. This has been an iterative process which has influenced the plans' development to ensure they deliver sustainable development. The SA has been submitted with the DPDs for examination. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA); Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA); and Health Impact Assessment (HIA) were incorporated into the SA for completeness and to ensure the potential impacts of the plans are fully considered.

5.6 Preparation of the BCCS review will include the carrying out of an integrated Sustainability Appraisal at each formal stage – and at later stages an Equality Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment.

5.7 Changes to the legislation mean that the SCI, SPDs and the CIL Charging Schedule no longer have to be subject to SA.

5.8 Separate legislation from EU Directives, transposed into UK law, also requires the impacts of local authority plans and programmes to be subjected to Strategic Environmental Assessment where there are likely to be significant environmental effects, and to require an 'appropriate assessment' under the Habitats Regulations

where it is determined that there is likely to be harm the integrity of an internationally important biodiversity site. In relevant cases DPDs and also SPDs will need to be screened and discussed with the relevant statutory bodies, to check whether assessments are required including potential impacts outside the area being planned<sup>6</sup>.

5.9 The Site Allocation DPD and Town Centre AAP have been screened to consider the likelihood of any significant effects, as a result of the policies in the proposed Development Plan Documents, upon the Cannock Chase SAC, the Cannock Extension Canal, and the Humber Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar. The HRA report has been submitted as part of the examination. The revised BCCS will also be screened to determine if any of the proposed updates to the strategy since the previous HRA screenings and appropriate assessment could have likely significant effects on European Sites.

### **Monitoring**

5.10 Walsall has, over many years, collected a comprehensive range of monitoring statistics relevant to measuring the performance of development plans. Much of this information has also contributed to monitoring systems covering the West Midlands Region. The Council regards monitoring as an integral part of the planning process and sees an objective-led monitoring system as essential so that the effectiveness of policies and the implementation of proposals can be evaluated and reviewed on an ongoing basis. Walsall's UDP and the BCCS include a comprehensive set of monitoring indicators across all topic areas.

5.11 The findings of the AMR should inform the review of the LDS, including decisions on the need for preparation or review of particular LDDs and the evidence base to support this work. The AMR is publicly available, including on the council's website<sup>7</sup>. The potential for linkages with monitoring carried for other purposes (e.g. for the Sustainable Community Strategy) will be explored and the Black Country councils have agreed to joint monitoring of key parts of the BCCS.

5.12 The scope of the AMR includes:

- Assessing progress with LDD (especially DPD) preparation against the programme set out in the LDS;
- Assessing progress towards targets and implementation milestones within individual LDDs (including the saved policies of Walsall's UDP);
- Providing contextual monitoring information in relation to trends at the national, regional and local levels;
- Reviewing any significant changes in the policy context (e.g. revisions to Government policy) that might have bearing on the Local Plan;
- Identifying the need for review to LDDs in circumstances where policies are not working effectively, objectives are not being met or there is the need for updating.

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<sup>6</sup> See:

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (No. 1633)(the SEA Regulations) <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/contents/made>

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (No. 490) <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/490/contents/made>

<sup>7</sup>

[http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/planning\\_policy/local\\_plans/annual\\_monitoring\\_report.htm](http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/planning_policy/local_plans/annual_monitoring_report.htm)

## APPENDIX 1: PROFILES OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENTS

### SITE ALLOCATION DPD

#### Overview

<b>Role &amp; Content</b>	To identify suitable sites for a variety of future uses within Walsall, providing sufficient land to accommodate housing, employment, transport facilities, town centre developments and outdoor recreation uses in the context of the adopted BCCS.
<b>Coverage</b>	Borough-wide
<b>Status</b>	Development Plan Document
<b>Conformity</b>	With the BCCS.

#### Timetable

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Start	July 2011
Consultation	
Issues and Options	April – June 2013
Preferred Option	September – November 2015
Publication <sup>8</sup>	March 2016
Submission to Secretary of State	June 2017
Examination Begins	September 2017
Inspectors Proposed Modifications	February – April 2018
Adoption	January 2019

#### Arrangements for Production

<b>Political</b>	DPDs will be approved by the full Council advised by Cabinet – particular responsibility will rest with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration.
<b>Internal Resources</b>	Lead by the Planning Policy Team, working with colleagues from other service areas as appropriate.
<b>External Resources</b>	Consultants will work on specific studies, as necessary, including possibly the Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment process and evidence on market-testing and viability.
<b>Community and Stakeholder Involvement</b>	In accordance with the SCI (as revised).

#### Post Production

<b>Monitoring &amp; Review</b>	The effectiveness and continued relevance of the DPD will be kept under review through the Annual Monitoring Report process and reviews brought forward as necessary through future revisions to the LDS.
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<sup>8</sup> Rather than requiring two stages of formal consultation as was done for the (now adopted) BCCS, the change in the regulations in mid-2008 places emphasis on continuous engagement up to publication. However, it was anticipated this would involve 2 stages, akin to 'Issues & Options' and 'Preferred Options' as well as continuing engagement. Following Publication it was necessary to undertake further consultation on Pre-Submission Modifications.

## **WALSALL TOWN CENTRE AREA ACTION PLAN**

### **Overview**

<b>Role &amp; Content</b>	To provide a detailed set of policies and proposals, with a comprehensive delivery programme, for the regeneration and future development of the strategic centre of Walsall. This will replace the Inset Plan in the UDP.
<b>Coverage</b>	The Town Centre Inset Plan Area as in the Walsall UDP 2005, with the boundary of the area to be refined through the AAP process.
<b>Status</b>	Development Plan Document.
<b>Conformity</b>	With the BCCS.

### **Timetable**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Start	July 2011
Consultation	
Issues and Options	April – June 2013
Preferred Option	September – November 2015
Publication <sup>9</sup>	March 2016
Submission to Secretary of State	June 2017
Examination Begins	October 2017
Inspectors Proposed Modifications	February – April 2018
Adoption	January 2019

### **Arrangements for Production**

<b>Political</b>	DPDs will be approved by the full Council advised by Cabinet – particular responsibility will rest with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration.
<b>Internal Resources</b>	Lead by the Planning Policy Team, working with colleagues from other service areas as appropriate.
<b>External Resources</b>	Consultants will undertake the work on the plan, on supporting evidence and assessments (including the Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment process) and on the economic and investment prospects for the town centre and the deliverability of potential development opportunities).
<b>Community and Stakeholder Involvement</b>	In accordance with the SCI.
<b><u>Post Production Monitoring &amp; Review</u></b>	The effectiveness and continued relevance of the DPD will be kept under review through the Annual Monitoring Report process and reviews brought forward as necessary through future revisions to the LDS.

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<sup>9</sup> Rather than requiring two stages of formal consultation as was done for the (now adopted) BCCS, the change in the regulations in mid-2008 places emphasis on continuous engagement up to publication. However, it was anticipated this would involve 2 stages, akin to 'Issues & Options' and 'Preferred Options' as well as continuing engagement. Following Publication it was necessary to undertake further consultation on Pre-Submission Modifications.

**BLACK COUNTRY CORE STRATEGY REVIEW**

**Overview**

**Role & Content** To provide an updated statutory framework within which the four Black Country Local Planning Authorities will make decisions about the use and development of land. To ensure the BCCS continues to provide a strategy for growth that meets the Black Country’s needs up to 2036.  
 To support the Council’s economic and corporate priorities, and enable the progression of regeneration plans and transportation strategies. The final stage of the plan will allocate land for development including housing and for industry and business, as well as including policies to protect the environment and important heritage assets.

**Coverage** The Black Country (Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall & Wolverhampton)

**Status** Development Plan Document

**Conformity** With the NPPF

**Timetable**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Start	July 2017
Consultation	
Issues and Options	July – September 2017
Draft Plan	October/November 2019
Publication	July 2020
Submission to Secretary of State	October 2020
Pre-examination Meeting	If required Spring 2021
Examination Begins	Spring 2020
Adoption	Autumn 2021

**Arrangements for Production**

**Political** DPDs will be approved by the full Council advised by Cabinet – particular responsibility will rest with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration.

**Internal Resources** Lead by the Planning Policy Team and other internal service areas as appropriate, working jointly with Planning Teams from the four Black Country authorities

**External Resources** The review is being undertaken jointly with the colleagues from the four Black Country authorities. Consultants will undertake work on evidence to support the review including studies on the amount of housing and employment land required to meet the future needs of the area. Consultants will also undertake the necessary the Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment.

**Community and  
Stakeholder  
Involvement  
Post Production  
Monitoring &  
Review**

In accordance with the SCI and Duty to Cooperate.

The effectiveness and continued relevance of the DPD will be kept under review through the Annual Monitoring Report process and reviews brought forward as necessary through future revisions to the LDS.

## APPENDIX 2 – WALSALL UDP ‘SAVED’ POLICIES

The purpose of this Appendix is to outline the present position on the policies and proposals of the adopted Walsall Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2005, and how the UDP has been affected by changes following adoption.

The Walsall UDP was adopted in April 2005, and included the following:

- Part I - general Strategic Policy Statements
- Part II – policies on General Principles, Environment & Amenity, Jobs & Prosperity, Strengthening Our Centres, Housing, Transport, Leisure & Community, Waste Management and Minerals
- Town and District Centre Policies – for Walsall Town Centre, Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall
- Proposals Map – site allocations and designations such as Green Belt
- Inset Maps – details of proposals in the Town and District Centres

In 2007, the adopted UDP policies were reviewed by the Secretary of State. A Direction issued in December 2007 confirmed that all but four of the policies in Walsall’s UDP were to be ‘saved’<sup>10</sup>. The four policies that were not ‘saved’ (ENV22, ENV39, H8 and BR3) ceased to have effect from 8 March 2008.

In February 2011, Walsall Council adopted the Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS). This is a joint Core Strategy covering Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton as well as Walsall. It sets out a spatial strategy and strategic policies for the whole of the Black Country. On adoption, the Core Strategy replaced many of the ‘saved’ UDP policies, including much of Part I, although the Proposals Map has not been altered. The UDP policies which have been replaced by new Core Strategy policies ceased to have effect from 3 February 2011.

The table on the following pages summarises the current status of the UDP policies. Policies that are no longer effective either because they have not been ‘saved’ or have been replaced by BCCS policies are struck through (e.g. ~~GP7 Community Safety~~). Where relevant, references to BCCS replacement policies are also given. The ‘saved’ policies not struck through are still in place, and still form part of the statutory development plan for Walsall. The table also indicates where ‘saved’ UDP policies are expected to be replaced by the proposed Site Allocation DPD or Walsall Town Centre AAP (these might be subject to change).

Key to Abbreviations in Table:

UDP = Walsall Unitary Development Plan  
BCCS = Black Country Core Strategy  
SADPD – Site Allocation DPD  
WTCAAP = Walsall Town Centre AAP

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<sup>10</sup> [http://www.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/unitary\\_development\\_plan.htm](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/unitary_development_plan.htm)



**Walsall UDP 2005 – Status of UDP Policies at June 2017**

UDP Policy/ Proposal		Policy not “saved” after 08.03.08	Policy Replaced by BCCS Policy from 03.02.11	Policy to be Replaced by New DPD
<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Chapter 2: General Principles</b>			
2.1-2.4	Strategic Policy Statement		Vision and Sustainability Objectives	
GP1	The Sustainable Location of Development		Vision and Sustainability Objectives	
GP2	Environmental Protection			No
GP3	Planning Obligations			No
GP4	Local Area Regeneration		Vision and Sustainability Objectives	
Fig. 2.1	Regeneration: Main Initiatives			
GP5	Equal Opportunities			No
GP6	Disabled People			No
GP7	Community Safety		CSP4, ENV3	
<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Chapter 3: Environment &amp; Amenity</b>			
3.1, 3.10, 3.12, 3.16- 3.18	Strategic Policy Statement		Vision and Sustainability Objectives, CSP3-4, ENV1-4, ENV7	

3.2-3.9, 3.11, 3.13- 3.15	Strategic Policy Statement			No
ENV1	The Boundary of the Green Belt			SADPD GB1
ENV2	Control of Development in the Green Belt			SADPD GB2
ENV3	Detailed Evaluation of Proposals in the Green Belt			SADPD GB2
ENV4	Major Developed Sites in the Green Belt			SADPD GB2
ENV5	Stabling and Riding of Horses and Ponies			No
ENV6	Protection and Encouragement of Agriculture			No
ENV7	Countryside Character			No
Fig. 3.1	Countryside Area Profiles			No (this figure is not cross-referenced in the UDP text so is for information only)
ENV8	Great Barr Hall & Estate and St. Margaret's Hospital			SADPD EN7
ENV9	Environmental Improvement Initiatives			No
ENV10	Pollution			No
ENV11	Light Pollution			No
ENV12	Hazardous Installations			No
ENV13	Development Near Power Lines, Substations & Transformers			No
ENV14	Development of Derelict and Previously-Developed Sites			No
ENV15	Forest of Mercia			Replaced as no longer considered relevant (the programme is no longer operational and the boundaries

				are not shown on the SADPD Policies Map)
ENV16	Black Country Urban Forest			No (however, this programme is no longer operational)
ENV17	New Planting			No
ENV18	Existing Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows			No
ENV19	<del>Habitat &amp; Species Protection</del>		ENV1	See also SADPD EN1
ENV20	<del>Local Nature Reserves</del>		ENV1	See also SADPD EN1
ENV21	<del>Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation</del>		ENV1	See also SADPD EN1
ENV22	<del>Protected Species</del>	x	ENV1	
ENV23	Nature Conservation and New Development			No
ENV24	Wildlife Corridors			No But see also SADPD EN1
Fig 3.2	Wildlife Corridors			A revised map of wildlife corridors is contained in the SADPD (Map 7.3) and in the Technical Appendix
ENV25	Archaeology			No
ENV26	Industrial Archaeology			No
ENV27	Buildings of Architectural Interest			No
ENV28	The Local List of Buildings of Historic or Architectural Interest			No

ENV29	Conservation Areas			SADPD EN5 and TCAAP AAPLV5 - 7 (but saved for use in District Centres)
ENV30	Registered Parks and Gardens			No
ENV31	<del>Continued Protection of the Historic Built Environment</del>		ENV2	
ENV32	Design and Development Proposals			No
ENV33	Landscape Design			No
ENV34	Public Art			No
ENV 35	Appearance of Commercial Buildings			No
ENV36	Poster Hoardings			No
ENV37	Small Poster Panel Advertisements			No
ENV38	Telecommunications Equipment			No
ENV39	<del>Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation</del>	x	ENV7	
ENV40	Conservation, Protection and Use of Water Resources			No But see also SADPD EN3 and TCAAP AAPINV7
Fig. 3.3	Flood Zones			The SADDP Policies Map, SADPD Map 7.8, TCAAP AAPINV7 and AAP Technical Appendices show more detailed and up to date flood zones

Ref.	Chapter 4: Jobs & Prosperity			
4.1-4.2	Strategic Policy Statement		EMP1-3	
4.4, 4.5	Core Employment Areas and Best Quality Sites		EMP2 and EMP3	SADPD IND1 – IND3
4.6	The Service Sector			No
JP1	New Employment Sites			SADPD IND1, IND2, IND5
JP2	Improving the Employment Land Supply		EMP1	
JP3	Rail-Served Sites		TRAN3	
JP4.1	East of M6 Junction 10			SADPD IND2
JP4.2	James Bridge (former IMI Works)			SADPD IND2
JP5	Core Employment Areas			SADPD IND1 - 5 (but saved for use in District Centres as a small part of Willenhall District Centre is a Core Employment Area)
JP6	Best Quality Sites			SADPD IND1, IND2 and IND5
JP7	Use of Land and Buildings in Other Employment Areas			SADPD IND1 - 5 (but saved for use in District Centres)
JP8	Bad Neighbour Industrial Uses			No

Ref.	Chapter 5: Strengthening Our Centres			
5.1—5.3	Strategic Policy Statement		CEN1-2	
5.4-5.11	Strategic Policy Statement			No
S1	Definition of Town Centre Uses			No
S2	The Hierarchy of Centres			No
Fig. 5.1	Shopping Provision in Walsall Borough April 2004			No (this figure is for information only as the centres are shown on the Policies Map: note also that Darlaston Green (34) was deleted as a local centre by the BCCS)
S3	Integration of Developments into Centres			No
S4	The Town & District Centres: General Principles			No
S5	The Local Centres			SADPD SLC1 and SLC2
S6	Meeting Local Needs			No
S7	Out-of-Centre and Edge-of-Centre Developments			No
S8	Housing in Town Centres			No
S9	Amusement Centres & Arcades			No
S10	Hot Food Take-Aways			No
S11	Drive-Through Facilities			No
S12	Petrol Filling Station Shops			No
S13	Nurseries, Garden Centres and Builder's Merchants			No
S14	Farm Shops			No
S15	Banking and Cashpoint Facilities			No
S16	Internet Shopping			No

S17	Shopmobility			No
<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Chapter 6: Housing</b>			
6.1-6.2	Strategic Policy Statement			No
<del>6.3-6.6</del>	<del>Strategic Policy Statement</del>		HOU1-4	
H1	Renewal of Existing Residential Areas			No
H2	Land Allocated for New Housing Development			SADPD HC1
H3	Windfall Sites and Conversion of Existing Buildings			SADPD HC2 and WTCAAP AAPLV1 (but saved for use in District Centres)
H4	Affordable Housing		HOU3 (parts a), b) c) d) e) and f))	No Parts g) h) i) and j) of UDP to be saved
H5	Housing for People with Special Needs			SADPD HC3 (but saved for use in District Centres)
H6	Nursing Homes and Rest Homes for the Elderly			No
H7	Hostels and Houses in Multiple Occupation			No
H8	Accommodation for Travelling People	x	HOU4	
H9	Minimum Densities		HOU2	
H10	Layout, Design and Dwelling Mix		HOU2, ENV2-3	
<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Chapter 7: Transport</b>			
7.1, 7.2-7.3, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8 7.9	Strategic Policy Statement		TRAN1-2, TRAN4	
7.4	Strategic Policy Statement			No

T1	Helping People to Get Around			No
T2	Bus Services			SADPD T2 and WTCAAP AAPT3 (but saved for use in District Centres)
T3	The Rail and Metro Network			SADPD T3 and WTCAAP AAPT3 (but saved for use in District Centres)
Fig. 7.1	Rail Network (Existing and Proposed)			SADPD T3, WTCAAP AAPT3 (but saved for use in District Centres)
T4	The Highway Network			SADPD T4, WTCAAP AAPT4 (but saved for use in District Centres)
Fig. 7.2	Strategic Highway Network and District Distributors			SADPD Map 10.1, WTCAAP Policies Map (but saved for use in District Centres)



T5	Highway Improvements			SADPD T5, WTCAAP AAPT4 (but saved for use in District Centres)
T6	Traffic Calming			No
T7	Car Parking			No but see also AAPT5
T8	Walking			No but see also AAPT1
T9	Cycling			No but see also AAPT5
T10	Accessibility Standards – General			No
T11	Access for Pedestrians & Cyclists			No
T12	Access by Public Transport			No
T13	Parking Provision for Cars, Cycles and Taxis			No
<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Chapter 8: Providing for Leisure &amp; Community Needs</b>			
8.1-8.2, 8.4-8.6	Strategic Policy Statement		CSP1, CSP3-4, ENV4, ENV6, CEN1-5	
8.3, 8.7- 8.9	Strategic Policy Statement			No
LC1	Urban Open Spaces			SADPD OS1 and WTAAP AAPLV8

				(but saved for use in District Centres)
LC2	Proposed Open Space			SADPD OS1
LC3	Children's Play Areas			No
LC4	Allotment Gardens			No
LC5	Greenways			SADPD LC5 and WTAAP AAPT1 (but saved for use in District Centres)
LC6	Sports Pitches			No
LC7	Indoor Sport Including Health & Fitness Centres			No
LC8	Local Community Facilities			No
LC9	Canals		ENV4	But see also SADPD EN4 and TCAAP AAPLE4
LC10	Wolverhampton University, Walsall Campus, Broadway			SADPD UW1
LC11	Land for Cemetery Extension, Bentley Lane			SADPD LC11
<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Chapter 9: Minerals</b>			
9.1-9.11	Strategic Policy Statement		TRAN3, WM4-5, MIN1-5, Minerals Key Diagram	
M1	Minerals Safeguarding Areas		MIN1, Minerals Key Diagram	But see also SADPD M1 and SAD Policies Map, and TCAAP AAPINV7 and

				AAP Policies Map
M2	<del>Branton Hill Lane Quarry, Aldridge</del>		ENV5, MIN2, MIN5, Minerals Key Diagram	But see also SADPD M5 and SAD Policies Map
M3	<del>Birch Lane Quarry, Aldridge</del>		ENV5, MIN2, MIN5, Minerals Key Diagram	But see also SADPD M4 and SAD Policies Map
M4	<del>Working of Etruria Marl and Fireclay</del>		MIN3-5, Minerals Key Diagram	But see also SADPD M7, M8, M9 and SAD Policies Map
M5	<del>Etruria Marl – North of Stubbers Green Road</del>		MIN3-5, Minerals Key Diagram	But see also SADPD M8 (MP9) and SAD Policies Map
M6	<del>Etruria Marl – South of Stubbers Green Road</del>		MIN3-5, Minerals Key Diagram	But see also SADPD M8 (MP6) and SAD Policies Map
M7	Birch Coppice			SADPD M9 (MP3) and SAD Policies Map
M8	Brownhills Common		CSP2, ENV1, MIN4-5, Minerals Key Diagram	But see also SADPD M8 (MP5) and SAD Policies Map
M9	<del>Working of Coal</del>		CSP2, ENV1, MIN4-5	But see also SADPD M9 and

				SAD Policies Map
<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Chapter 10: Waste Management</b>			
10.1-7	Strategic Policy Statement		CSP3, ENV7, WM1-5	
WM1	Consideration of Proposals for Waste Management Activities		WM1-2, WM4	But see also SADPD W2, W3, W4
WM2	Control of Landfill, Land Raising and Other Waste Deposition		WM4, MIN5	But see also SADPD W4
WM3	Special Wastes		WM3	
WM4	Provision of Recycling Facilities in Development Schemes		WM5	
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Chapter 12: Walsall Town Centre</b>			
WA1	Primary Shopping Area			TCAAP AAPS1 - 2
WA2	The Market			TCAAP AAPS3
WA3	Other Town Centre Uses			TCAAP AAP1 and AAPLV1
WA4	Walsall College of Art and Technology – St Paul's Campus			TCAAP AAPLV2
WA5	Conservation Areas and Areas of High Townscape Value			TCAAP AAPLV5 - 7
WA6	Community Safety - CCTV			TCAAP AAPLV6
WA7	Development/ Investment Opportunities			TCAAP Chapter 8
WA8	Hatherton Street/ Littleton Street/ Albert Street			TCAAP Chapter 8
WA9	Intown			TCAAP Chapter 8
WA10	Lower Hall Lane/ Digbeth/ Old Square			TCAAP Chapter 8

WA11	Upper Rushall Street/ Ablewell Street/ The Ditch			TCAAP Chapter 8
WA12	Town Wharf			TCAAP Chapter 8
WA13	Littleton Street West/ Wisemore/ Garden Street/ Portland Street			TCAAP Chapter 8
WA14	Town Centre Transport Interchange			TCAAP AAPT1 - 3
WA15	Bus Services			TCAAP AAPT3
WA16	Rail Services			TCAAP AAPT3
WA17	Road Improvements			TCAAP AAPT4
WA18	Provision of Car Parking			TCAAP AAPT5
WA19	Pedestrians, Cyclists and Disabled People			TCAAP AAPT1
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Chapter 13: Aldridge District Centre Inset Plan</b>			
AL1	Primary Shopping Area			No
AL2	Environmental Improvement			No
AL3	The Croft			No
AL4	The Precinct			No
AL5	Land at High Street/ Little Aston Road			No
AL6	Rail Station			No
AL7	Pedestrian and Cycle Routes			No
AL8	Traffic Circulation and Bus Priority			No
AL9	Car Parking			No
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Chapter 14: Bloxwich District Centre Inset Plan</b>			
BX1	Primary Shopping Area			No
BX2	The Market			No
BX3	Conservation Areas			No
BX4	Urban Open Spaces			No
BX5	Environmental Improvements			No
BX6	Development/ Investment Opportunities			No

BX7	The Market Centre			No
BX8	South East End of High Street			No
BX9	Improved Passenger Rail Facilities			No
BX10	Improvements to Bus Facilities			No
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Chapter 15: Brownhills District Centre Inset Plan</b>			
BX11	Pedestrian and Cycle Routes			No
BX12	Traffic within the District Centre			No
BX13	Car Parking			No
BR1	Primary Shopping Area			No
BR2	Brownhills Market			No
BR3	<del>Neighbourhood Resource Centre</del>	x		
BR4	Redevelopment/ Refurbishment Schemes			No
BR5	Heritage			No
BR6	Public Art			No
BR7	Environmental Enhancement			No
BR8	Retail Development Opportunities			No
BR9	Leisure, Service and Community Development Opportunities			No
BR10	Transport Interchange			No
BR11	Traffic within the Centre			No
BR12	Bus Facility Improvements			No
BR13	Pedestrian Routes			No
BR14	Cycle Access and Parking			No
BR15	Car Parking Provision			No
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Chapter 16: Darlaston District Centre Inset Plan</b>			
DA1	Primary Shopping Area			No
DA2	Darlaston Market			No
DA3	Environmental Enhancement			No
DA4	Urban Open Spaces			No

DA5	Housing Developments			No
DA6	Other Town Centre Uses			No
DA7	Bus Facilities			No
DA8	Pedestrians and Cyclists			No
DA9	Car Parking			No
<b>Policy</b>	<b>Chapter 17: Willenhall District Centre Inset Plan</b>			
WH1	Primary Shopping Area			No
WH2	The Market			No
WH3	Environmental Enhancement			No
WH4	Development/ Investment Opportunities			No
WH5	Rail Station and Transport Interchange			No
WH6	Buses			No
WH7	Pedestrians			No
WH8	Provision for Cyclists			No
WH9	Traffic Management			No
WH10	Parking			No
	<b>Proposals Map &amp; Inset Maps</b>			
	UDP Proposals Map			SADPD Policies Map
	Walsall Town Centre Inset Map			WTCAAP Policies Map
	Aldridge District Centre Inset Map			No
	Bloxwich District Centre Inset Map			No
	Brownhills District Centre Inset Map			No
	Darlaston District Centre Inset Map			No
	Willenhall District Centre Inset Map			No

## APPENDIX 3: SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

### Introduction

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) prepared before 2004 does not have the same status as a supplementary planning document (SPD) prepared under the current development planning system, which when adopted, forms part of the LDF. However, where it can be demonstrated that existing SPG is linked to a 'saved' UDP policy, and has gone through a process similar to that required for SPDs, it can still be a 'material consideration' for relevant planning applications.

In Walsall, the general principles for the preparation of SPG under the previous development plan system were that the SPG should accord with policies of the Walsall UDP, and that the SPG was approved by the Council after a period of public consultation. Therefore, where previously prepared SPG is still linked to a saved UDP policy and remains relevant, it will still have the status of a 'material consideration'.

The following table lists the existing SPG that is still in place, with references to the UDP policies it supports. However, it is recognised that some of the SPG is now out-of-date, for example, where sites covered by development briefs have been developed or where policies or legislation have changed. If resources allow, the Council will carry out a review of existing SPG as well as SPDs, with a view to cancelling obsolete guidance.

### **Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – Remaining SPG at June 2011**

<b>Title of SPG</b>	<b>Linked to "saved" UDP Policy</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Superseded by ....</b>
<b>Topic-Based SPG</b>			
Birmingham & Black Country Biodiversity Action Plan	ENV23-24, Appendix 2	2000	
Shutters and Security Grilles	ENV35, Appendix 2	1998	Shop Front SPD April 2015
<b>Area-Wide SPG</b>			
Walsall Town Centre Strategy	WA1-19, Appendix 2	1998	Walsall Town Centre AAP when adopted
Strategy for Bloxwich Town Centre	BX1-13, Appendix 2	2000	
Brownhills Town Centre Action Plan	BR1-2 BR4-15, Appendix 2	1999	
Brownhills Town Centre Townscape Master Plan	BR1-2 BR4-15, Appendix 2	1999	
Darlaston Town Centre Plan	DA1-9, Appendix 2	1999	
Barr Beacon Countryside Area Profile	ENV7, Appendix 2	1993	
Longwood Gap Countryside Area Profile	ENV7, Appendix 2	1994	



<b>Title of SPG</b>	<b>Linked to “saved” UDP Policy</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Superseded by ....</b>
Rough Wood Chase Countryside Area Profile	ENV7, Appendix 2	1996	
Area of Special Townscape Character, Thornhill Road / Middleton Road / Foley Road East, Streetly	ENV32, Appendix 2	2003	
<b>Site Specific Planning Briefs</b>			
Butts Centre, Butts Road / Cecil Street, Walsall	Appendix 2	2001	
Land at Castle Street / Booth Street, Darlaston	Appendix 2	1988	
Strategy for Digbeth / Old Square, Walsall Town Centre	WA7, WA10, Appendix 2	2000	Walsall Town Centre AAP when adopted
Planning Brief for Site G, Land to West of Essington Road, New Invention, Willenhall	Appendix 2	1988	
Land at Granville Street, Willenhall	Appendix 2	2001	
Revised Development Guidelines – Land at High Bridges, Lichfield Road, Pelsall	Appendix 2	2002	
Land at Hollyhedge Lane, Walsall (Revised)	Appendix 2	1998	
Development Brief: Former Site of Kings Hill JMI School, Old Park Road, Darlaston. (Revised)	Appendix 2	2000	
Design Guidelines - Land at Littleton Street East / Hatherton Street / Lower Forster Street, Walsall	Appendix 2	1998	
Land at Middlemore Lane, Aldridge	Appendix 2	2002	
Land at Mill Street / Cannon Street, Walsall	Appendix 2	2001	
Noose Lane Opportunity Area: Planning Brief	Appendix 2	1992	
Planning Guidelines For Former Portobello	Appendix 2	2002	

School, School Street, Willenhall			
Development Guidance – Land at Roebuck Road (Revised)	Appendix 2	2003	
Planning Guidelines for the Rowley View Nursery Site, Moxley	Appendix 2	2003	
Land at Sherlock Close, Lane Head, Willenhall	Appendix 2	1993	
Development Guidelines – Land West of Sherlock Close, Lane Head, Willenhall	Appendix 2	2002	
Revised Development Guidelines – Land West of Sherlock Close, Willenhall	Appendix 2	2004 (Draft)	
Development Guidelines – Land at Stroud Avenue, Willenhall	Appendix 2	2003	
Development Guidance – Land at Sunningdale Way	Appendix 2	2004	
Development Brief – Land at Taylor Avenue/ Walker Road/ Well Lane/ Guild Avenue, Walker Road, Victoria House/ Church Place, Blakenall Close (Blakenall New Deal for Communities)	Appendix 2	2003	
Development Guidelines – Land at Turnberry Road	Appendix 2	2004	

## APPENDIX 4: ADOPTED LOCAL PLAN DOCUMENTS

### Walsall's Unitary Development Plan (Saved Policies)

[http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/annotated\\_2011\\_udp\\_-\\_february\\_2011.pdf](http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/annotated_2011_udp_-_february_2011.pdf)

- Document: **Walsall Unitary Development Plan (annotated version)**  
Date of Adoption: March 2005 ('saved' December 2007)

### Black Country Core Strategy

[http://www.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/local\\_development\\_framework/ldf\\_core\\_strategy.htm](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/local_development_framework/ldf_core_strategy.htm) &

<http://blackcountrycorestrategy.dudley.gov.uk/>

- Document: **Black Country Core Strategy**  
Date of Adoption: February 2011

### Walsall Supplementary Planning Documents

[http://www.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/local\\_development\\_framework/ldf\\_supplementary\\_planning\\_documents.htm](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/local_development_framework/ldf_supplementary_planning_documents.htm)

- Document: **Affordable Housing SPD**  
Date of Adoption: July 2005, Review Adopted April 2008
- Document: **Open Space, Sport and Recreation SPD**  
Date of Adoption: April 2006
- Document: **Walsall Waterfront SPD**  
Date of Adoption: November 2006  
Note this will be superseded by the Town Centre AAP when it is adopted.
- ~~• Document: **Healthcare SPD**  
Date of adoption: January 2007 *Revoked February 2012*~~
- ~~• Document: **Education SPD**  
Date of adoption: February 2007 *Revoked February 2012*~~
- Document: **'Designing Walsall' Design Guide SPD**  
Date of adoption: ~~February 2008~~ July 2013 (revision)
- Document: **Natural Environment SPD**  
Date of adoption: ~~April 2008~~ July 2013 (revision)
- Document: **Shop Front SPD**  
Date of adoption: April 2015
- Document: **Black Country Air Quality SPD**  
Date of adoption: February 2017

## APPENDIX 5: GLOSSARY

Authority's Monitoring Report	AMR	A report that assesses progress with the implementation of the LDS and the extent to which the policies in LDDs are being achieved. Formerly known as the Annual Monitoring Report.
Area Action Plans	AAP	These plans focus on areas which are subject to significant change and will benefit from having development plan status. As with other DPDs, they will be subject to independent examination.
Area Partnerships		Six Area Partnerships have previously been established across Walsall Borough to seek to encourage agreement on how local areas might be managed and improved. They bring together representatives of the Council, local residents, businesses and partner organisations. As of May 2017 these have been replaced by four 'Localities'.
Core Strategy	BCCS	The DPD that sets out the vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the Borough (in this case for the Black Country, i.e. Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton as well as Walsall)).
Community Infrastructure Levy	CIL	The legislation enabling the introduction of CIL came into force in April 2010. It allows local authorities to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their area. The money can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure that is needed as a result of development. The Housing White Paper of February 2017 has committed to a Government Review and an announcement in the 2017 Autumn Statement.
Development Plan Document	DPD	One of a number of documents that are part of the development plan for the Borough and which are subject to independent examination.
Local Development Document	LDD	One of a number of documents that make up the LDF, including Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents.
Local Development Framework	LDF	The folder of Local Development Documents that will constitute the planning policies for the Borough. Also known as the 'Local Plan'.
Local Development Scheme	LDS	A project plan for preparing the documents that will make up the LDF. It will be reviewed at least annually.
Localities		Walsall Council has often sought to work locally to encourage involvement in the management and improvement of all areas of the borough. As of May

217 the previous 'Area Partnerships' have been replaced by four 'Localities'. These maintain the previous approach of bringing together representatives of the Council, local residents, businesses and partner organisations.

Neighbourhood Plans		Plans prepared by local communities (as Neighbourhood Planning Forums) under the Localism Act 2011.
Regional Spatial Strategy	RSS	The former strategic plan for the whole region. The West Midlands RSS was revoked in May 2013.
Statement of Community Involvement	SCI	A document setting out how local communities, stake-holders and other interested people and organisations will be involved in the process of producing LDDs. The SCI will itself be subject to public consultation, but no longer has to be independently examined.
Supplementary Planning Document	SPD	A document that elaborates on policies in DPDs and does not have development plan status. It still requires community involvement in line with the SCI or minimum regulations but is not subject to independent examination.
Supplementary Planning Guidance	SPG	Existing planning documents prepared under the old planning system which elaborate upon UDP policies, many of which will be retained as 'material considerations'.
Sustainability Appraisal	SA	The evaluation of the effect of proposals on sustainable development in environmental, economic and social terms. Includes Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) where this is required.
Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership	WBSP	The Local Strategic Partnership for Walsall Borough, which brings together different parts of the public, private and community sectors to co-ordinate policies and actions across key economic, social and environmental issues.
Walsall Sustainable Community Strategy	SCS	This is a twelve year, borough wide plan produced by WBSP. It is a blue print for Walsall's future that highlights the immediate and the long-term opportunities to try to meet the aspirations of local people. The Deregulation Act 2015 has removed the requirement for such a strategy or for it to have to be taken into account in the preparation of Local Plans.
Walsall Unitary Development Plan	UDP	The 'old style' development plan for the Borough, which was adopted in 2005. Following the changes

introduced by the 2004 Planning Act, most of the policies have been “saved” although some have subsequently been replaced by policies in the BCCS. The remaining policies will eventually be replaced by other ‘new style’ LDF documents to be prepared in the future.

## Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for Policies, Procedures and Services

<b>Proposal name</b>	<b>Walsall Revised Local Development Scheme September 2018</b>		
<b>Directorate</b>	Regeneration and Development		
<b>Service</b>	Planning Policy		
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Charis Blythe		
<b>Proposal planning start</b>	01/08/2018	<b>Proposal start date (due or actual date)</b>	01/11/2018

<b>1</b>	<b>What is the purpose of the proposal?</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>	<b>New / revision</b>
	To provide an up-to-date on the timetable for the plans that make up the Local Plan		
	Policy	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	Procedure	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Revision</b>
	Guidance	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	Is this a service to customers/staff/public?	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	If yes, is it contracted or commissioned?	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	Other - give details	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>What is the business case for this proposal? Please provide the main purpose of the service, intended outcomes and reasons for change?</b>		
	<p>The Local Planning Authority is required by Planning legislation to have an up-to-date Local Development Scheme (LDS) that sets out the programme for producing or revising the Local Plan.</p> <p>An update is needed to the LDS to reflect the change in timetable for the production of the Black Country Core Strategy Review.</p>		
<b>3</b>	<b>Who is the proposal likely to affect?</b>		
	<b>People in Walsall</b>	<b>Yes / No</b>	<b>Detail</b>
	<b>All</b>	<b>No</b>	The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans which will include proposals that could impact on people in Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts could be will be assessed on an individual plan level.
<b>Specific group/s</b>	<b>No</b>	The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans which will include proposals that could impact on people in Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts could be will be assessed on an individual plan level.	



<b>Council employees</b>	<b>No</b>	The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans which will include proposals that could impact on people in Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts could be will be assessed on an individual plan level.
<b>Other (identify)</b>	<b>No</b>	The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans which will include proposals that could impact on people in Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts could be will be assessed on an individual plan level.
<b>4</b>	<b>Please provide service data relating to this proposal on your customer's protected characteristics.</b>	
	<p>The Local Plan covers all of the borough and therefore all sections of the community.</p> <p>The 2011 Census and Walsall Equality profile along with more recent data where appropriate will provide the starting point for information on customers with protected characteristics. This will be used at an individual plan making level to understanding how proposals within the plans would impact on customers with protected characteristics. will also be used as a source of information</p> <p><b>Interest Groups who represent different racial, ethnic or national groups in the area</b></p> <p>Walsall is home to a diverse range of different communities the 2011 Census indicates that black people and people of minority ethnic origin currently make up around 17% of the population (see Figure 24 below). People of Asian origin are the largest minority group, accounting for around 15% of the population.</p> <p>Walsall has established communities of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople. 287 people and 0.2% of households were recorded as Gypsy or Irish Travellers in the 2011 Census.</p> <p><b>Religious groups in the area:</b></p> <p>People in Walsall have a greater level of religious affiliation than in England and Wales overall, with almost three quarters (73.9%) identifying with a religion compared with only two thirds (67.7%) nationally. While the majority of Walsall people still view themselves as Christian (59.0%), the proportion has fallen substantially since 2001 as it has nationally, and people of Muslim faith are the next biggest group (8.2%).</p> <p><b>Disability Groups:</b></p> <p>The 2011 Census results suggest that a high proportion of households in Walsall (39.4%) have at least one person with a disability or long term illness, a higher proportion than the regional and national average (35.7% and 33.6% respectively). More than one in five people in Walsall (20.7%) said they had a health condition that limits their day to day activities, of which 10.4% said they were limited a lot, and 10.3% said they were limited a little.</p>	



5	<b>Please provide details of all engagement and consultation undertaken for this proposal. (Please use a separate box for each engagement/consultation).</b>																						
The LDS is not subject to consultation. All plans that form part of the Local Plan will have to be prepared in accordance with the approach to community involvement as set out in legislation and national policy, and in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.																							
<b>Consultation Activity.</b>  N/A																							
<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="209 600 635 678"><b>Type of engagement/consultation</b></td> <td data-bbox="635 600 1121 678"></td> <td data-bbox="1121 600 1273 678"><b>Date</b></td> <td data-bbox="1273 600 1449 678"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="209 678 635 763"><b>Who attended/participated?</b></td> <td colspan="4" data-bbox="635 678 1449 763"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="209 763 635 842"><b>Protected characteristics of participants</b></td> <td colspan="4" data-bbox="635 763 1449 842"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="5" data-bbox="209 842 1449 920"><b>Feedback</b></td> </tr> </table>					<b>Type of engagement/consultation</b>		<b>Date</b>		<b>Who attended/participated?</b>					<b>Protected characteristics of participants</b>					<b>Feedback</b>				
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6	<b>Concise overview of all evidence, engagement and consultation</b>																						
N/A																							
7	<b>How may the proposal affect each protected characteristic or group? The effect may be positive, negative, neutral or not known. Give reasons and if action is needed.</b>																						
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="196 1630 555 1742"><b>Characteristic</b></th> <th data-bbox="555 1630 746 1742"><b>Affect</b></th> <th data-bbox="746 1630 1321 1742"><b>Reason</b></th> <th data-bbox="1321 1630 1489 1742"><b>Action needed Yes / No</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="196 1742 555 2072"><b>Age</b></td> <td data-bbox="555 1742 746 2072"><b>Neutral</b></td> <td data-bbox="746 1742 1321 2072">The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans which will include proposals that could impact on people in Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts</td> <td data-bbox="1321 1742 1489 2072"><b>No</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Affect</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Action needed Yes / No</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans which will include proposals that could impact on people in Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts	<b>No</b>											
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		could be will be assessed on an individual plan level.	
<b>Disability</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans which will include proposals that could impact on people in Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts could be will be assessed on an individual plan level.	<b>No</b>
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans which will include proposals that could impact on people in Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts could be will be assessed on an individual plan level.	<b>No</b>
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans which will include proposals that could impact on people in Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts could be will be assessed on an individual plan level.	<b>No</b>
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans which will include proposals that could impact on people in Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts could be will be assessed on an individual plan level.	<b>No</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans which will include proposals that could impact on people in	<b>No</b>

		Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts could be will be assessed on an individual plan level.	
<b>Religion or belief</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans which will include proposals that could impact on people in Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts could be will be assessed on an individual plan level.	<b>No</b>
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans which will include proposals that could impact on people in Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts could be will be assessed on an individual plan level.	<b>No</b>
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans which will include proposals that could impact on people in Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts could be will be assessed on an individual plan level.	<b>No</b>
<b>Other (give detail)</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans which will include proposals that could impact on people in Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts could be will be assessed on an individual plan level.	<b>No</b>
<b>Further information</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	The revised LDS will not directly impact on any groups. The LDS sets out the timetable for the production and revision of Local Plans	<b>No</b>

			which will include proposals that could impact on people in Walsall. Who these plans will impact and what the impacts could be will be assessed on an individual plan level.	
<b>8</b>	<b>Does your proposal link with other proposals to have a cumulative effect on particular equality groups? If yes, give details.</b>			(Delete one) <b>No</b>
	N/A			
<b>9</b>	<b>Which justifiable action does the evidence, engagement and consultation feedback suggest you take?</b>			
	<b>A</b>	<b>No major change required</b>		
	B	Adjustments needed to remove barriers or to better promote equality		
	C	Continue despite possible adverse impact		
	D	Stop and rethink your proposal		

<b>Action and monitoring plan</b>				
<b>Action Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Outcome Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
August 2019	Review the EqIA that is incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal for the Black Country Core Strategy Review and complete a Council EqIA form to be submitted as part of the Cabinet Report seeking authorisation for consultation on the Draft plan.	Charis Blythe	Sept 2019	The EqIA for the draft plan will provide the opportunity to develop an action and monitoring report.

Sept 2020	The Council will need to ensure the LDS is up-to-date and reflects the timetable of plan making in order to submit the Black Country Core Strategy for examination. If necessary the LDS will be revised providing a chance to ensure that protected characteristics are not affected by the process.	Charis Blythe	Oct 2020	If the LDS needs to be updated an EqIA will be completed when the Cabinet Report seeking approval for any revision is drafted.
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Update to EqIA	
Date	Detail

## Contact us

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