

Cabinet – 21 October 2020

Walsall Revised Local Development Scheme

Portfolio: Councillor A Andrew- Deputy Leader and Regeneration Portfolio

Related portfolios: n/a

Service: Regeneration, Housing & Economy

Wards: All

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: Yes

1. Aim

- 1.1 To update the Walsall Local Development Scheme (LDS) to reflect the proposed changes to the published LDS and to reflect updates that have been made to the Local Plan (or Local Development Framework). 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 for economic development and regeneration, protecting land uses and supporting the physical enhancement of the Borough, which have to be carefully prepared, subjected to public scrutiny, and examined by independent Planning Inspectors, before they can be adopted.
- 1.2 Currently the Council is undertaking a significant piece of work with the Black Country Local Authorities to review the Black Country Plan (BCP) - and known currently as the adopted Black Country Core Strategy (2011-2016) - and by updating the LDS the Council will be formalising the proposed changes to the timetable for this work. It is important to communicate to stakeholders of the Black Country Authority's intentions so the aim of the report is to publish a revised timetable for the BCP.

2. Summary

- 2.1 This report sets out the proposed revisions to the Walsall Local Development Scheme (LDS) following two changes that require it to be updated- The revised LDS can be found at **Appendix A** to this report. These changes are the adoption in January 2019 of the Walsall Site Allocation Document (SAD) and Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP), and the proposed amendments to the Black Country Plan timetable. Cabinet last approved the LDS in October 2018. It is now necessary to present the reasons for the proposed revisions to Cabinet in order that the LDS can be re-published and to ensure the Council meets its statutory responsibilities under section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)

- 2.3 The report is a key decision as whilst the revisions to the LDS do not in themselves impact on the Borough as a whole (the Local Plan for which the LDS describes does and is the matter of separate Cabinet decisions at the appropriate time) the revisions will see an increase in the budget required to implement the revisions incurred by the preparation of the Black Country Plan.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Cabinet approves the revised Local Development Scheme (at **Appendix A** to this report) and resolves to bring it into effect as of 21 October 2020.

4. Report detail – Know

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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 October 2018. It has become necessary to revise the LDS for two reasons. Firstly to reflect the adoption of the Walsall Site Allocation Document and Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan. Secondly to update the timetable for the Black Country Plan (BCP) (otherwise known as the review of the Black Country Core Strategy).
- 4.3 The 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 the SAD and AAP was adopted by Full Council in January 2019. The adoption of these two key development plans is providing the Council with a strong framework for decision making that is facilitating the delivery of development to meet Walsall's housing and economic needs to up 2026, and informing the review of the BCP.
- 4.4 The Town Centre 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. The policies within the AAP have been developed in a way that provides flexibility to account for the dynamic and changing nature of town centres and alongside the Walsall Town Centre Masterplan, the AAP provides the mechanism to commit the Council to implementing the AAPs regeneration strategy.

- 4.5 The review of the Black Country Plan (BCP) 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 to 2039. Work on the review of the BCCS 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. 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.
- 4.6 At its meeting 24 October 2018 Cabinet received a report setting out the reasons for an amendment to the then published timetable for the review of the BCP. It detailed that the primary change to the timetable was the removal of the Preferred Option stage and it advocated progression straight to a Draft Plan for consultation. This was to allow more time to understand the very complex evidence that informs the preparation of the Draft Plan. The published timetable within Walsall's LDS is set out in Table 1 below:

Table 1

Plan preparation stage	Timescale
Issues and Options Cabinet Report	June 2017
Issues and Options Report Consultation	July- August 2017
Cabinet consideration of Draft Plan	September 2019
Draft Plan Public Consultation	October-November 2019
Cabinet consideration of Publication version of BCP	June 2020
Publication Public Consultation	July-September 2020
Submission of Plan	October 2020
Examination	Spring 2021
Adoption	Autumn 2021

- 4.7 Since the last update to Cabinet, the collation of evidence to inform the Draft Plan stage has proven to be a more extensive and resource consuming task than was then envisaged. In view of this Walsall chose not to update its LDS during 2019 pending better definition of the timetable when others may have done so but agreed via resolutions of the Association of Black Country Authorities.

4.8 External consultants have been appointed across a range of plan topic areas where their expertise has been drawn upon to produce the necessary evidence. In 2019 the Black Country Local Authorities (ABCA) agreed to publish some of the draft evidence that has been collated to date, this evidence includes:

- Green Belt Assessment and Landscape Sensitivity Assessment
- Black Country Urban Capacity Study Update 2019
- Historic Landscape Characterisation Study
- Site Assessment Methodology Summary
- Utilities Capacity Study
- Ecological Study

For Duty to Cooperate reasons the Black Country has chosen to publish emerging draft evidence for the BCP (found on the BCP website) and it has been used to demonstrate the BCP progression and our emerging housing and employment needs.

4.9 By the fact that the Black Country has not been able to complete the collation of its evidence base and complete its full assessment of the Call for Sites there are delays to the timetable. Most recently the ABCA has received reports outlining the current pressures on the BCP timetable and why it will no longer be possible to achieve the milestone dates set out. The reasons presented for the delay to the timetable include:

- Covid-19: This has had a short term impact on local authority resources and capacity as well as that of the BCP consultants. This has created a 2-3 month delay. Whilst many of the logistical and communication issues are now resolved the time cannot be easily made up. This is affecting all local plans across the UK, as acknowledged by the Governments Chief Planning Officer in April 2020 when he advised local authorities that their Plan timetables will need to be reviewed and re-programmed.
- Covid 19: The medium and longer term economic impacts of Covid-19 and whether the UK will enter into a prorogued recession is still unclear. This may affect the BCP current baseline and forecast positions assumed by our existing (or due to be prepared) evidence. Whilst steps are being taken by the UK Government to minimise the economic impact, any slowdown in housing delivery, the forecast growth of business, or the continued impact on Strategic Centres may change the approach to our viability and delivery evidence. This creates a risk that the evidence will need to be updated after the Draft Plan stage to take account of any significant economic changes, and the proposed revised timetable now allows this to take place.
- West Midlands Interchange: The Black Country has been awaiting the Secretary of State's (SoS) decision on the consent for the West Midlands Interchange (WMI). This was delayed from February 2020 to April 2020. It was important for the BCP to await this decision as it has a direct relationship to how the BCP might consider its needs to provide additional land for employment. The SoS has granted consent for the WMI.

- 4.10 Taking these considerations into account, the Association of Black Country Authorities have been consulted on a revised BCP timetable as set out in Table 2. It is this revised timetable that is now included in the revised LDS at **Appendix A**.

Table 2

Plan preparation stage	Timescale
Publish revised timetable, publish further evidence and re-open 'call for sites'.	July 2020
Publish delivery evidence to update development capacity across the Black Country	December 2020
Cabinet consideration of Draft Plan	July 2021
Draft Plan Public Consultation	August-September 2021
Cabinet consideration of Publication version of BCP	July 2022
Publication Public Consultation	August-September 2022
Submission of Plan	March 2023
Examination	April 2023 - March 2024
Adoption	April 2024

- 4.11 The above timetable has also provided an opportunity ahead of the Draft Plan consultation stage to re-open the 'Call for Site's process. The second call for sites opened on 9 July 2020 and closed on 20 August 2020. At that same time the Black Country published additional evidence in the form of:

- Black Country Waste Study
- Black Country Minerals Study
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Cabinet will recall that the call for sites process is a recognised stage of a plan allocation process as it provides land owners and promoters to put forward land use proposals along with substantiating evidence to be considered in the plans preparation. National planning policy guidance (para 25) states that where insufficient sites are identified to meet development needs, a further call for sites should be carried out. Re-opening the call for sites has provided stakeholders the opportunity to put forward new sites or update site information previously submitted, to inform the plan process. It is also proposed later in the calendar year that the Black Country Authorities will publish further evidence to provide updated and further information to substantiate our housing and employment needs as well as support our Duty to Cooperate neighbouring local authority partners who are taking forward their Local Plans. These local plans may be considering how they can meet the Black Country's needs through the allocation of sites in their plans.

Council Corporate Plan priorities

- 4.12 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.

Risk management

- 4.13 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 must be 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. Without an up to date Local Plan and commitment to review every 5 years, the Council/ Black Country Authorities risks intervention from central government and may compromise our ability to make decisions locally. Notwithstanding the current legislation, the Government is also consulting on a White Paper entitled '*Planning for the Future*' in which it proposes a streamlining and modernisation of the English planning system. Should any of the current proposals be formed into legislation, they could bring about changes to Local Plans and to the preparation of the BCP that in turn may have reputational, financial, timetable and legal implications on this revised LDS. At the time of writing this report, the Black Country Authorities are preparing a response to the White Paper that will be approved via the Association of Black Country Authorities governance ahead of submission by the end of October 2020.

Financial implications

- 4.14 The work to prepare the BCP is being financed and funded jointly by the Black Country Local Authorities and through an external grant from MHCLG (then DCLG) of £560,000 which is due to be expended in full in 2020/21. The Council's contribution to the work on the BCP is being met through existing mainstream revenue budgets which provides the staffing and strategic resource towards the plans preparation and a one- off revenue reserve of £250,000 which is provided for the preparation of the evidence base through external experts and each stage

of the plans preparation including stages of consultation and the Examination in Public.

- 4.15 There is currently a balance of £43,456 remaining of the £250,000 allocated revenue reserve. It is forecast that the balance will be expended in full in 2020/21.
- 4.16 A review of the Black Country Plan budget has taken place in light of the changes to the timetable and possible requirement to 1) review and refresh the evidence base in view of current or future market conditions (during and post Covid-19) and 2) to extend the fixed term nature of some staff employed to work specifically on the Plan to reflect the elongated nature of the timetable. A new budget position will require each local authority to commit £380,000 over the lifetime of the Plan's preparation. This would equate to an additional £130,000 required as a contribution from Walsall Council. Whilst the overall Plan project budget has a contingency sum allowance, it is advisable that in seeking to budget effectively that the Council makes provision for its own additional contingency given the stage at which the Plan is at (pre-Draft Plan) and as such an additional £20,000 (in addition to the £130,000) should be made available; bringing the total value of the Council's available budget to £400,000.
- 4.17 As such the Council has identified £150,000 from, its corporate resources to fund the further preparation of the Black Country Plan.

Legal Implications

- 4.18 Section 15 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires Local Planning Authorities to maintain a LDS.
- 4.19 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.

Procurement Implications/Social Value

- 4.20 There are no procurement or social value implications directly arising from this report.

Property implications

- 4.21 There are no property implications directly arising from this report. The policies and proposals in the BCP 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.

Health and wellbeing implications

- 4.22 There are no health and wellbeing implications directly arising from this report. 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 BCP includes the carrying out of an integrated Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment.

Staffing implications

- 4.23 The Planning Policy Team in Regeneration and Development of the Economy Environment & Communities 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 Directorate. In some cases these other teams will take the lead on the preparation of individual documents or issues.

Reducing Inequalities

- 4.24 Preparation of the BCP includes the carrying out of an integrated Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Health Impact Assessment. One of the objectives of the BCP 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 Council's 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.

Consultation

- 4.25 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).

5.0 Decide

- 5.1 As part of the preparation of the revised LDS the Black Country Authorities have prepared and considered alternative timetable options, having also considered how such timescales meet a range of strategic, political and technical objectives. Having consulted on these options with Black Country senior officers, Portfolio Holders and Leaders the timetable presented in the revised LDS represents the preferred timetable for the reasons considered elsewhere in this report.

6. Respond

- 6.1 Should Cabinet resolved to approve the revised LDS then the new timetable will be published. Offices are continuing to prepare the BCP in parallel to the recommendations of this report.

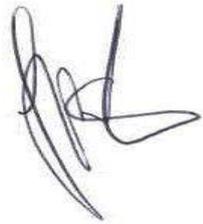
7. Review

- 7.1 The process of plan making is a one involving continual review given the need to collate, present and consult on plans, policies and site allocations. The LDS itself will continue to be kept under review as required by the legislation and reported to Cabinet accordingly.

Authors

Jo Nugent
Place Development Manager
☎ 654752
✉ joanne.nugent@walsall.gov.uk

Simon Tranter
Head of Regeneration, Housing and Economy
☎ 654723
✉ simon.tranter@walsall.gov.uk



Simon Neilson
Executive Director

2 October 2020



Councillor Andrew
Portfolio Holder

21 October 2020

October 2020



WALSALL LOCAL PLAN

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

9th Revision

(Effective from 27 October 2020)

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 October 2018. It has become necessary to revise the LDS to reflect the adoption of the Site Allocation Document and Town Centre Area Action Plan and to update the timetable for the Black Country Plan (otherwise known as the Black Country Plan) 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 https://go.walsall.gov.uk/language/en-us/planning_and_building_control/planning_policy/local_plans/ldf_core_strategy

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:

Walsall Planning Policy Team,
Economy, Environment and Communities Directorate,
Walsall Council,
Civic Centre,
Darwall Street,
Walsall WS1 1DG
Telephone: 01922 658020
Email: PlanningPolicy@walsall.gov.uk

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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 Council¹ 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

¹ Neighbourhood Plans, prepared by local communities under the Localism Act 2011 can also become part of the Local Plan; see <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/planning-advice/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.
- The Walsall Site Allocation Document (SAD) adopted on 7 January 2019
- The Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) adopted on 7 January 2019
- 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 both February 2012² and November 2018.

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.³ Four policies that were not 'saved' ceased to have effect from 8th 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 were to be replaced by the new DPDs..

1.16 In addition to the UDP, the BCCS, the SAD and the APP, 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

² https://go.walsall.gov.uk/ldf_statement_of_community_involvement

³ See https://go.walsall.gov.uk/Portals/0/images/importeddocuments/walsall_udp_saved_gowm_letter_06_dec_2007.pdf

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, the SAD and the AAP.

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 (the 'Walsall SAD') 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 (AAP)

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 (the 'Walsall SAD')

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 is accompanied by an update of Walsall's UDP Proposals Map. The Proposals Map is known as the Adopted Policies Map. The Site Allocation DPD and Walsall Town Centre AAP was adopted on 7 January 2019.

2.6 Rather than include development management policies, as proposed previously, it was concluded 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 (AAPs)

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 has been prepared for Walsall Town Centre. This identifies and allocates sites and opportunities for development and investment and co-ordinates 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. The UDP Inset Plans for the District Centres will be saved and then modified as necessary as replacement DPDs are adopted.

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 then Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership (WBSP), and it aimed 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 versions were adopted in February 2012 and November 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 website⁴. 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. CIL is charged on new developments based on a fixed rate per square metre for each type of land use.

⁴ <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/annualmonitoringreport>

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 15th 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 in the short term, however work is currently taking place to explore how the additional infrastructure that is likely to be required to support the growth proposed in the emerging Black Country Plan will be delivered. It may be that the result of this work will require the introduction of a Charging Schedule.

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

3. PROGRAMME FOR FUTURE DPD PREPARATION

Black Country Core Strategy Review (otherwise known as the Black Country Plan)

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 2039 – 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 current programming for the review of the Core Strategy (now known as the Black Country Plan) is set out in the table below. The timetable has been updated since the previous LDS in 2018 to take account of changes in stages of the plan's production. In commencing the review of the BCCS it has been determined that in order to meet the projected housing and employment needs of the area that an allocations document will be needed. This means that whilst it was intended that the review would continue as a tier 1 strategic plan, the Black Country Plan (BCP) will now become a tier 2 document. 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.

3.6 Along with a change in the approach to the preparation of the BCP there have also been changes made to the stages of the plan in order to support the delivery of the plan in the most expedient timescale possible with such a complex set of land use and policy considerations to resolve. As set out in the LDS 2018 there has been 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 Black Country Plan 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 Black Country Plan has to address and the likelihood that these might be affected by changing circumstances or new evidence⁵ this programme will have to be kept under review.

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.

⁵ For example, the potential impact of Covid-19 on economic projections. The Government was also expected to announce in July 2020 proposals to amend the methodology for assessing housing need.

3.7 This LDS has to be primarily concerned with the programme of work on the DPDs currently in preparation, and the major commitment involved in commencing the review of the Black Country Core Strategy/ the Black Country Plan. 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 Black Country Plan or because of other changes, they will be set out in a future revision of the LDS.

LDS PROGRAMME SUMMARY:
Black Country Core Strategy Review 2017 – 2024

Plan preparation stage	Timescale
Progress to date	
Issues and Options Cabinet Report	July 2017
Issues and Options Report Consultation	July- August 2017
Call for Sites closed	June 2019
Next steps	
Publish revised timetable, publish further evidence and re-open 'call for sites'.	July- August 2020
Publish delivery evidence to update development capacity across the Black Country	December 2020
Cabinet consideration of Draft Plan	July 2021
Draft Plan Public Consultation	August-September 2021
Cabinet consideration of Publication version of BCP	July 2022
Publication Public Consultation	August-September 2022
Submission of Plan	March 2023
Examination	April 2023 - March 2024
Adoption	April 2024

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, Environment and Communities 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, Environment and Communities Directorate – namely but not exclusively the 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 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 Black Country Plan 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 Black Country Plan 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 Black Country Plan, 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.

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 plan 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 Black Country Plan.

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.

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 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. The Black Country Plan 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 Black Country Plan.

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.

The Economy

4.20 The adopted policies of the Local Plan have been prepared during time of economic uncertainty and yet have recognised economic trends and provided evidence through examination that they are flexible to respond to changing circumstances. By their nature the BCCS and Walsall SAD and Town Centre AAP are regeneration strategies to support economic growth (and recovery). The economic crisis in 2008 saw a marked decrease in lending and house building. The subsequent recession showed 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. There was a period during the recovery from recession that has meant there has been

a significant decline in development and fewer resources available from planning obligations in that intervening period.

4.12 Now the UK, the Black Country, and Walsall face further economic uncertainties and challenges following the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. At the time of updating the LDS it is forecast that the UK is entering into a further recession. Said recession is most likely to impact on delivery of current DPD targets and it is assumed to have an impact on the evidence base being collated for the Black Country Plan (BCP). The revised timetable of the BCP has in part being revised to take account of these uncertainties in the Black Country economy, with the revised timetable allowing time ahead of Draft Plan consultation for further evidence to be collected, and ahead of Publication consultation, to refresh the same evidence base.

4.13 Overall it is unfortunate but likely that 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. In addition to any Covid-19 recession the UK has left the Europeans Union and is also due to exit the transition period at the end of 2020; with trade deals still being negotiated at the time of revising the LDS there remains uncertainty of what impact 'Brexit' will have on the local economy when already facing a recessionary period. The preparation of DPDs will endeavour to take account of these circumstances and the LDS may need further revisions accordingly.

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 Black Country Plan 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 was undertaken for each stage of the production of the Site Allocation DPD and Town Centre AAP. This was an iterative process which influenced the plans' development to ensure they deliver sustainable development. The SA was 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 Black Country Plan 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 planned⁶.

5.9 The Black Country Plan 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 website⁷. 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.

⁶ 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>

⁷ <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/annualmonitoringreport>

APPENDIX 1: PROFILES OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENTS

BLACK COUNTRY CORE STRATEGY REVIEW- THE BLACK COUNTRY PLAN

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 Black Country Plan continues to provide a strategy for growth that meets the Black Country’s needs up to -2039 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

Stage	Dates
Start	July 2017
Consultation	
Issues and Options	July – September 2017
Draft Plan	July- September 2021
Publication	August- September 2022
Submission to Secretary of State	March 2023
Examination Begins	April 2023
Adoption	April 2024 1

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’⁸ 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

⁸ https://go.walsall.gov.uk/language/en-us/planning_and_building_control/planning_policy/unitary_development_plan

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
Ref.	Chapter 2: General Principles			
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	
Ref.	Chapter 3: Environment & Amenity			
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	Habitat & Species Protection		ENV1	See also SADPD EN1
ENV20	Local Nature Reserves		ENV1	See also SADPD EN1
ENV21	Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation		ENV1	See also SADPD EN1
ENV22	Protected Species	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	Continued Protection of the Historic Built Environment		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	Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation	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
Ref.	Chapter 6: Housing			
6.1-6.2	Strategic Policy Statement			No
6.3-6.6	Strategic Policy Statement		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	
Ref.	Chapter 7: Transport			
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
Ref.	Chapter 8: Providing for Leisure & Community Needs			
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
Ref.	Chapter 9: Minerals			
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	Branton Hill Lane Quarry, Aldridge		ENV5, MIN2, MIN5, Minerals Key Diagram	But see also SADPD M5 and SAD Policies Map
M3	Birch Lane Quarry, Aldridge		ENV5, MIN2, MIN5, Minerals Key Diagram	But see also SADPD M4 and SAD Policies Map
M4	Working of Etruria Marl and Fireclay		MIN3-5, Minerals Key Diagram	But see also SADPD M7, M8, M9 and SAD Policies Map
M5	Etruria Marl – North of Stubbers Green Road		MIN3-5, Minerals Key Diagram	But see also SADPD M8 (MP9) and SAD Policies Map
M6	Etruria Marl – South of Stubbers Green Road		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	Working of Coal		CSP2, ENV1, MIN4-5	But see also SADPD M9 and

				SAD Policies Map
Ref.	Chapter 10: Waste Management			
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	
Policy	Chapter 12: Walsall Town Centre			
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
Policy	Chapter 13: Aldridge District Centre Inset Plan			
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
Policy	Chapter 14: Bloxwich District Centre Inset Plan			
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
Policy	Chapter 15: Brownhills District Centre Inset Plan			
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	Neighbourhood Resource Centre	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
Policy	Chapter 16: Darlaston District Centre Inset Plan			
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
Policy	Chapter 17: Willenhall District Centre Inset Plan			
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
	Proposals Map & Inset Maps			
	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

Title of SPG	Linked to "saved" UDP Policy	Date Approved	Superseded by
Topic-Based SPG			
Birmingham & Black Country Biodiversity Action Plan	ENV23-24, Appendix 2	2000	
Shutters and Security Grilles	ENV35, Appendix 2	1998	Shop Front SPD April 2015
Area-Wide SPG			
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	

Title of SPG	Linked to “saved” UDP Policy	Date Approved	Superseded by
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	
Site Specific Planning Briefs			
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

- 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://blackcountrycorestrategy.dudley.gov.uk/>

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

Walsall Site Allocation Document

https://go.walsall.gov.uk/site_allocation_document

- Document: **Walsall Site Allocation Document**
Date of Adoption: January 2019

Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan

https://go.walsall.gov.uk/walsall_town_centre_area_action_plan

- Document: **Walsall Town Centre Area Action Place**
Date of Adoption: January 2019

Walsall Supplementary Planning Documents

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'.
Black Country Plan	BCP	The proposed DPD that is currently being prepared via a review of the Black Country Core Strategy. It will update the current Core Strategy and allocate land for housing and employment whilst including policies to protect the environment and important heritage assets.
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 2017 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	NP	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 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.