



SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Submission:

**Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
(Integrated Appraisal)**

Addendum Report

September 2014

enfusion



**MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL, WORCESTER CITY
COUNCIL, WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN:
SUBMISSION**

**Sustainability Appraisal Report
(Integrated Appraisal)**

for and on behalf of Enfusion Ltd

<i>date:</i>	<i>v01 Draft August 2014 V02 Final September 2014</i>	
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**SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN:
SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (SA)
Integrated Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental
Assessment, Equalities Impact Assessment and Health Impact
Assessment
SA ADDENDUM REPORT**

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1.0 Introduction and Purpose of the SA Addendum Report

Submission of the SWDP and Stage 1 Examination

- 1.1 In May 2013, the three South Worcestershire Councils (SWCs) submitted the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) (January 2013) for independent examination in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Stage 1 hearings were held in October 2013 and the Inspector's Interim Conclusions (IC-EX/400b¹) included concern that there was not a reliable basis for identifying the level of housing need in South Worcestershire over the Plan period. The SWCs were asked to undertake further analysis in order to derive an objective assessment of housing need (OAHN) over the Plan period.
- 1.2 The Stage 1 hearings reconvened in March 2014 and the Inspector's Further Interim Conclusions recommended that the SWCs adopt an OAHN of 28,370 dwellings. This is an increase of 5,170 dwellings above the housing figure of 23,200 presented in the Submission SWDP (and as had been subject to Sustainability Appraisal). The SWCs issued a call for sites that resulted in some 500 sites being nominated by early April 2014. Some of these sites were already known to the SWCs; others were completely new. Accordingly, the SWCs undertook an assessment process, using the planning criteria set out and published in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, to include the previous objection sites, in order to identify a package of additional sites able to satisfy the revised housing requirement.
- 1.3 An initial screening assessment was made of each of the sites that came forward or omission sites that have come forward during the SWDP process. This took account of factors including availability, level of flood risk, environmental constraints, and the sites position in the proposed SWDP settlement hierarchy (SWDP 2). Each site was also considered for consistency with the SWDP spatial strategy and objectives. Those sites that satisfied this initial deliverability screening were further considered for more detailed assessments including full viability, transport modelling, infrastructure implications, and SA during June and July 2014.

Previous SA of the SWDP

- 1.4 The SA (Integrated Appraisal) Report (November 2012) that accompanied the publication of the Proposed Submission South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) for public consultation (11 January – 22 February 2013) was prepared in accordance with the following requirements:
 - Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations² 2004 implementing the European SEA Directive³
 - Paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework⁴ 2012

¹ Available on SWDP examination webpage http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?page_id=5393

² http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/pdfs/ukxi_20041633_en.pdf

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/sea-legalcontext.htm>

- 1.5 It was apparent from some of the representations made to the public consultation on the Proposed Submission SWDP, that there was a need to provide more clarity on the SA process and its role to inform preparation of the plan. An SA Addendum Report was prepared in consideration of these comments and the length of time over which the Plan and SA Documents have been prepared (including changes to the planning system). Whilst the information provided in the SA Reports since 2007 constitutes the information required by the SEA Regulations, the SA Report (November 2012) and the SA Addendum (July 2013) bring together the information into a more readable format. This includes a chronology table that sets out the consideration of site options, including their SA, through the time period of plan preparation.

SA of Revised Housing Requirement

- 1.6 In consideration of the Examination Inspector's recommended substantive increase to the housing requirement for the SWDP identified through the Stage 1 Examination, further SA was undertaken to inform the preparation of the package of sites. The purpose of this further SA Addendum Report is to explain the need for additional SA, set out the methods used, and report the findings of the SA and how these influenced the further development of the Plan with regard to housing sites.

Structure of this SA Addendum Report

- 1.7 The following section 2 summarises the SA methods used. The potential site changes, deletions and additions are explained and the detailed screening for SA significance is set out in Appendix A with the updated chronology for the sites provided in Appendices B and C. Section 3 summarises the findings of the SA with detailed SA matrices provided in Appendices D, E and F. A final section 4 summarises the SA work undertaken in June - August 2014 as a result of the revised housing requirements and how this has helped inform the further preparation of the SWDP.

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

2.0 Methods

Screening for SA and Site Options Considered

- 2.1 Proposed changes, deletions and additional sites for the SWDP were subject to screening for significance with regard to SA. Professional judgment was used to identify whether any of the proposed site options and Main Modifications to the SWDP would have significant effects on sustainability issues and objectives. Since there was a recommended substantive increase in housing numbers (from 23,200 to 28,400) that would affect most towns and settlement areas, all the options being considered by through plan-making were subject to fresh SA. The options considered and the reasoning for screening for SA are set out in Appendix A: Screening and SA of Options for Changes, Deletions and Additions to Proposed Sites.

Sustainability Appraisal of Site Options

- 2.2 The earlier SA Addendum Report (July 2013) that accompanied the proposed Submission SWDP (January 2014) sets out in one document how the scope of the SA had been identified and kept updated (paragraphs 2.2 – 2.13), and how the SA Framework of objectives for sustainable development was used to assess emerging aspects of the Plan (section 3 and Appendix C). This includes explanation of how an integrated approach has been taken to sites assessment and SA for the urban capacity and rural allocation (previously known as non-strategic) housing sites. The details of the sites assessment method and its correlation with the SA Framework of objectives are provided in Appendix B.
- 2.3 For this SA Addendum Report (August 2014) the same approach was taken to the SA of options for the emerging proposed sites. Due to their relative large size options for Urban Extensions were subject to detailed SA and recorded in separate matrices (Appendix D). The options for Urban Capacity and Rural Allocation sites were re-appraised according to settlement areas – in the same way as had been undertaken previously during 2011-13.
- 2.4 The potential sites were appraised against the baseline conditions and characteristics of each area, taking into account any specific significant effects associated with any individual site and considering the cumulative effects of all the sites on the area. A SA matrix with symbols presenting findings for each SA topic was prepared for each settlement area and including summary commentary for significant effects (Appendices E and F).

Plan Changes, Deletions and Additional Sites

- 2.5 Ongoing sites assessment studies and the emerging findings of the SA informed this stage of the development of the SWDP during June to August 2014 to prepare the Main Modifications. Site options were selected to minimise any potential adverse effects and to best promote positive development opportunities. The potential cumulative effects on settlement areas, including communities, socio-economic and environmental factors, were also taken into consideration. Appendices B and C in this SA Report

present the chronology of the identification, assessment, refinement and development of site options throughout the period of the development of the SWDP. The final column in the matrix lists those sites that are proposed to be taken forward into the Main Modifications of the SWDP.

Sustainability Appraisal of SWDP with Main Modifications

2.6 The Main Modifications to the SWDP are a consequence of the Examination Inspector's uplift in the housing requirement. Changes to Policy SWDP3 reflect the revised total housing need. Changes to other Policies reflect the amended allocations assessed and identified in order to meet with the increased housing need. The changes are summarised in the table following:

Table 2.1: Summary of SWDP Main Modifications⁵

Policy	Summary of Main Modifications
SWDP 3	<p>Reflects the revised total projected housing need figure for the plan period from the previous figure of 23,200 to the newly assessed need of 28,400 new dwellings.</p> <p>Provides further detail on the amended distribution of "policy on" housing targets across the plan area, which is also broken down into market housing and affordable housing. The new provision totals 28,400 new dwellings across the areas as summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wider Worcester Area (WWA): Worcester City – 6,750 of which 1,500 is Affordable Housing (AH) ▪ WWA: Malvern Hills & Wychavon – 5,450 of which 2,250 is AH ▪ Malvern Hills (excluding WWA) – 5,900 of which 1,800 is AH ▪ Wychavon (excluding WWA) – 10,300 of which 3,350 is AH <p>Retail floorspace provisions have been increased from 50,662m² to 52,894m²</p> <p>Policy wording has been amended to reflect the uplift in supply, and the phasing of development table has been deleted.</p>
SWDP 43	<p>Proposed changes to existing allocations in the Plan:</p> <p>SWDP43/2 Gregory's Bank industrial estate from 140 to 164 dwellings SWDP43/4 Old Northwick Farm 40 to 45 dwellings SWDP43/7 Sansome Walk Swimming Pool 40 to 33 dwellings SWDP43/9 Old Brewery Service Station, Barbourne Road from 6 to 12 dwellings SWDP43/14 Former Ronkswood Hospital from 200 to 181 dwellings</p> <p>The following new site allocations are being proposed:</p> <p>SWDP43a 73 - 77 Bromwich Road 11 dwellings SWDP43b Martley Road 18 dwellings</p>

⁵ A number of proposed new allocations have the benefit of a planning permission or at least a resolution to grant one subject to a Section 106 legal agreement. Please see Main Modifications documentation.

	<p>SWDP43c Malvern Gate, Bromwich Road 45 dwellings SWDP43d Land at Ambrose Close 24 dwellings SWDP43e Land at Hopton Street 30 dwellings SWDP43f County Council Offices, Sherwood Road 15 dwellings SWDP43g County Council Offices, Bilford Road 15 dwellings SWDP43h Laugherne Garage, Bransford Road 10 dwellings SWDP43i Crown Packaging Site, Main site, Perry Wood Walk 200 dwellings SWDP43j Crown Packaging Site, Woodside Offices and Car Park, Perry Wood Walk 40 dwellings SWDP43k Land off Bromyard Terrace 30 dwellings SWDP43l Battenhall Road (Former NALGO Sports Ground) 20 dwellings SWDP43m Tolladine Golf Course (Club House & Putting Green) 9 dwellings SWDP43n Earls Court Farm (Community Land) 13 dwellings SWDP43o Royal Mail Sorting Office, Westbury Street 20 dwellings SWDP43p Langdale Drive 10 dwellings SWDP43q Zig Zag site, St John's 10 dwellings SWDP43r The Bridge Inn, Lowesmoor Terrace 15 dwellings SWDP43s Rose Avenue 8 dwellings SWDP43t Coach Park adjacent to Barley Crescent (4-4a, Tolladine Road) 7 dwellings SWDP43u Royal Worcester Porcelain site 8 dwellings SWDP43v Brickfields Road 10 dwellings SWDP43w 23-24 Foregate Street 10 dwellings SWDP43x Christian Meeting Room, Diglis Lane 17 dwellings SWDP43y Land at White Ladies Close 37 dwellings SWDP43z East Bank Drive (Phase 3) 38 dwellings</p>
SWDP 45	<p>Proposed changes to existing allocations in the Plan: Broomhall Community from 2450 to 1739 Temple Laughern from 975 to 1805 The following new urban extension is being proposed: Swinesherd Way (300 dwellings) Policy wording has been amended to reflect the uplift in housing provisions, including amendments to ensure that development does not attract large scale offsite shopping trips; and to acknowledge that the green network has a multi-functional role.</p>
SWDP 46	<p>The following new site allocation is being proposed: SWDP46x Land off Defford Rd, Pershore 21 dwellings</p>
SWDP 47	<p>Proposed changes to existing allocations in the Plan: SWDP47/1 Land to the North Of Pershore from 600 to 695 dwellings</p>
SWDP 49	<p>Proposed changes to existing allocations in the Plan: B SWDP49/2 Stonebridge Cross Business Park amended to C SWDP49/3 Stonebridge Cross Business Park The following new site allocation is being proposed: SWDP49/ X Yew Tree Hill 765 dwellings</p>
SWDP 50	<p>Proposed changes to existing allocations in the Plan: SWDP50/1 – subsumed within 50/2 following planning permission</p>

	The following new site allocation is being proposed: SWDP50x Land at Aldington Lodge, Offenham Road, Evesham 60 dwellings
SWDP 52	Proposed changes to existing allocations in the Plan: SWDP52/4 Homestead, Halfkey from 6 to 5 dwellings The following new site allocations are being proposed: SWDP52i Land at Lower Howsell Road (former allotments) 81 dwellings SWDP52d Land at Mill Lane, Poolbrook 62 dwellings SWDP52f Pickersleigh Grove (part of Hayslan Fields) 44 dwellings SWDP52m Former Railway Sidings, Peachfield Road 20 dwellings SWDP52s Victoria Road Car Park 21 dwellings SWDP52w Land off Brook Farm Drive, Poolbrook 77 dwellings SWDP52y Broadlands Drive, Malvern 33 dwellings
SWDP 53	Policy wording has been amended to reflect the uplift in housing provisions from 250 to 300
SWDP 56	Policy wording has been amended to reflect the uplift in housing provisions from 700 to 800
SWDP 57	Proposed changes to existing allocations in the Plan: SWDP57/1 Land opposite Morningside from 30 to 43 dwellings The following new site allocations are being proposed: SWDP57a Land at Mistletoe Row, Oldwood Road 44 dwellings SWDP57c Land south of the Oaklands, Tenbury 35 dwellings
SWDP 58	The following new site allocations are being proposed: SWDP58c Upton Marina (Previously Upton-upon-Severn, Holly Green / Ryall and Tunnel Hill Area) 70 dwellings SWDP58d Land at Welland Road (Tunnel Hill) 43 dwellings
SWDP 59	Proposed changes to existing allocations in the Plan: SWDP59/2 Land west of Apostle Oak Cottage, Abberley Common from 10 to 14 dwellings SWDP59/4 Land adjacent to the Primary School, Great Witley from 23 to 27 dwellings SWDP59/7 Allocation deleted as site no longer available SWDP59/8 Land adjacent to the Lawns including Bight Farm (combined / extended sites 6.4ha), Kempsey 190 dwellings SWDP59/9 Land to the west of Bell Lane / south of Martley Road, Lower Broadheath from 40 to 48 dwellings SWDP59/11 Strand Cottages, Peachley Lane, Lower Broadheath 6 dwellings – boundary extension SWDP59/14 Land off Banks Road, Badsey from 30 to 39 dwellings SWDP59/17 Land to the east of Kingsdale Court, Broadway from 12 to 13 dwellings SWDP59/25 The Racks (east), Ombersley from 14 to 34 dwellings The following new site allocations are being proposed:

	<p>SWDP59a Land at Walshes Farm, Clows Top Road, Abberley Common 15 dwellings SWDP59b Land at Church House Farm, Clifton upon Teme 17 dwellings SWDP59d Land at Braithwaites Yard, Hallow 9 dwellings SWDP59zk Land at the Royal Oak Public House, Hallow 8 dwellings SWDP59zzi Land South of Greenhill Lane, Hallow 30 dwellings SWDP59e 123a Main Road, Kempsey 10 dwellings SWDP59f Land north of Brookend Lane (adjacent to the Limes), Kempsey 120 dwellings SWDP59* Land adjacent to Henwick Mill House, Martley Road, Lower Broadheath 42 dwellings SWDP59i Land north of Marlbank Road (southern portion), Welland 24 dwellings SWDP59k Land adjacent to Primary School, Martley 14 dwellings SWDP59l Land at Lawn Farm, Drake Street, Welland 50 dwellings SWDP59zl Land between Old Post Office and Church Farm, Drake Street, Welland 30 dwellings SWDP59x (WY003) Land opposite Horsebridge Avenue, Badsey 36 dwellings SWDP59 x (WY008) Land between Leasowes Road and Laurels Road, Offenham 50 dwellings SWDP59 x (WY009) Spencer Commercial Services Ltd, Evesham Road, Offenham 9 dwellings</p>
<p>SWDP 60</p>	<p>Proposed changes to existing allocations in the Plan:</p> <p>SWDP60/5 Former Allotments, Winsmore 35 dwellings SWDP60/18 Land east of Boot Inn on Radford Rd (& 39-07) Flyford Flavell from 12 to 16 dwellings SWDP60/19 Land adjacent to Crest Hill, Harvington from 5 to 9 dwellings SWDP60/24 Land off Main Street, behind Nos 43 to 57, Sedgeberrow from 12 to 20 dwellings SWDP60/27 Land at Shine Hill, adjacent to The Lanterns, South Littleton from 6 to 30 dwellings</p> <p>The following new site allocations are being proposed:</p> <p>SWDP60a Land at Stoney Lea, Broadwas 8 dwellings SWDP60b Land adjacent to the Crown Public House, Powick & Collett's Green 45 dwellings SWDP60c Land south of Sparrowhall Lane, Powick & Collett's Green 39 dwellings SWDP60d Land at Kiln Lane, Leigh Sinton 53 dwellings SWDP60t Land off Bransford Road, Rushwick 50 dwellings SWDP60 x Land between Pentalow and Berrycroft, Blacksmiths Lane, Croptorne 8 dwellings</p>
<p>SWDP 61</p>	<p>Proposed changes to existing allocations in the Plan:</p> <p>SWDP61/1 East of Chapel Meadow, Alfrick from 13 to 14 dwellings SWDP61/2 Land west of Main Street, Bishampton from 6 to 12 dwellings</p> <p>The following new site allocations are no longer being pursued in the Main Modifications but are still considered through the SA:</p>

	Land off Pearl Lane, Astley Cross (near Stourport) 62 dwellings Land off Low Road, Church Lench 6 dwellings Land off Hoden Lane, Cleeve Prior 6 dwellings Land east of Church Lane, Crossway Green 5 dwellings
SWDP 17 (Appendix 1)	Policy wording has been amended to reflect updated evidence and to remove any ambiguity and add clarity. This includes the specification that the policy relates to Travelling Showpeople as well as Gypsies and Travelers.

- 2.7 Proposed Main Modifications to Policy SWDP3 to reflect the Examination Inspector's recommendation to increase the housing requirement and the amended distribution of housing across the plan area categorised into market and affordable housing, and this was subject to a fresh SA. The proposed Main Modifications to Policy SWDP17 seek to remove ambiguity and add clarity, and as such are not significant with regard to SA; the previous SA of SWDP17 remains valid.
- 2.8 The proposed Main Modifications to Policies SWDP 43, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60 and 61 reflect the changes, deletions and additions to allocations made in order to meet with the uplifted housing requirements. For the Urban Extensions, the housing increases proposed to Temple Laughern were significant and subject to fresh SA; the proposed Urban Extension Swinesherd Way was new and therefore subject to SA (Appendix D).
- 2.9 For the proposed Main Modifications to the Urban Capacity and Rural Allocations, the SAs undertaken of the site allocation options were revisited. Consideration was given to the proposed Main Modifications to the allocations now identified within each settlement area and with particular attention to any changes arising for cumulative effects. Professional judgment was used to determine whether the SA findings from the site options appraisals had changed significantly with the proposed allocations now identified. Commentary in italics was added to the detailed SA matrices (Appendices D- F).

3.0 SA Findings

Introduction

- 3.1 For certain SA Objectives, it was found that the effects identified were common to all potential site options regardless of what scale or type of development was proposed (i.e. non strategic (urban capacity and rural allocations) and strategic sites (urban extensions). These include the following:
- Quality design and sustainable construction - the effects are anticipated to be neutral. This is because there is the potential for all development to be of high quality design and be sustainably constructed since the NPPF requires that all development should achieve high quality and inclusive design, establish a strong sense of place, respond to local character and create safe and accessible environments. In addition, any new development will need to meet with the requirements of Policy SWDP 21: Design.
 - Development at the site is likely to increase waste temporarily in the short-term during construction but also permanently in the long-term by additional households generating waste day to day. However, the NPPF requires that waste is minimised and therefore it is considered that any development could minimise waste and the effects on waste are considered to be neutral. All sites are expected to be able to take advantage of existing waste infrastructure given the location within or close to an existing settlement. Mitigation is also available in the form of Policy SWDP 33: Waste which requires that proposals for new development will be required to incorporate adequate facilities into the design to allow occupiers to separate and store waste for recycling and recovery unless existing provision is adequate.
- 3.2 Appendix D presents the detailed SAs for the new and significantly changed Urban Extensions. Appendices E and F present the SAs of the potential site options for Urban Capacity and Rural Allocations. The findings of the initial SAs informed the plan-making and decision-making process. The SAs were re-visited with the proposed Main Modifications to Allocations identified to determine whether the changes had significantly affected the findings of the SA, particularly with regard to cumulative effects. This is reported through commentary in italics provided in the matrices. The findings of the SA of the proposed Main Modifications to specific Policies are summarised in the following paragraphs, together with an updated SA on the implementation of the SWDP with the proposed Main Modifications.

SA of Main Modifications to Policies

Worcester Urban Extensions - SWDP 45: Directions for Growth Outside the City Boundary (formerly SWDP 8: Direction for Growth Outside the City Boundary)

WC004 – East of Swinesherd Way (300 dwellings) (new)

- 3.3 The proposed allocation at East of Swinesherd Way will have a significant long-term positive effect on housing with indirect minor positive effects on health and well-being. There is also the potential for minor positive effects on economy and employment through provision of additional high quality homes that could retain the existing, and attract a new, workforce.
- 3.4 Until lower level studies and assessments are carried out, the effects on biodiversity and geodiversity, historic environment and pollution are considered to be uncertain at this stage. However, the site partly falls within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) impact risk zone (outermost)⁶, and given the size of the proposed development there may be a potential risk of negative effects through disturbance from recreational activity and/ or increased water abstraction although this is not certain. The proposed number of dwellings seeks to reflect the constraints of the site with development avoiding those areas.
- 3.5 Development may increase congestion and generate enough use to bring this part of the transport network over capacity⁷). This could lead to minor negative cumulative effects on traffic and transport as well as indirect negative effects on air quality and communities and health. The site contains electricity pylons with overhead cables and is bounded on two sides by the M5 and the A4440. This indicates that there are likely to be minor negative health effects with regard to noise, light and air quality on any new residential development.
- 3.6 The site is located outside of the main development boundary for Worcester City and is separated from boundary by the A4440. Therefore, integration with the existing community of Worcester City may be difficult to achieve and access to and ability for the new development to support existing local services/ infrastructure in the town centre on foot, by cycling or use of public transport may also be difficult. As a result, there is the potential for minor negative effects on SA Objectives 2 and 3. Further negative effects on infrastructure have been identified as development could lead to the loss of green infrastructure that is considered to be of average value in need of restoration and investment.
- 3.7 There is potential for minor negative effects on the SA Objectives of climate change, landscape and townscape and water. This site is Greenfield and it will result in the loss of agricultural land. Air, light and noise pollution along with emissions contributing to climate change are likely to increase - particularly in the short-term during the construction phase. The site is also partly located

⁶ Defra (2014) Magic – Statutory Rural Designations. Online at <http://magic.defra.gov.uk> [accessed June 2014].

⁷ CH2MHILL (2014) SWDP2 – Phase 1 – Impacts on Transport Network Performance

within a zone of medium to high flood risk and in an area susceptible to surface water flooding⁸. In addition, the site is located outside of the main development boundary and is within a significant gap.

- 3.8 Overall, the proposed Main Modifications to the policy have the potential for long-term major positive effects on housing with no significant negative sustainability effects identified.

SWDP45/2 Temple Laughern (Worcester West urban extension) 2,150 dwellings and 5 ha employment)

- 3.9 The initial SA considered the effects of approximately 975 dwellings. The proposed level of residential development has now been increased to 2,150. A revised detailed appraisal has been carried out to take account of the increased number of dwellings and this is presented in Appendix D. A summary of the findings is presented below. The proposed allocation at Temple Laughern will have a significant long-term positive effect on housing with indirect minor positive effects on health and well-being. There is also the potential for major positive effects on economy and employment through providing additional employment land and additional high quality homes, which could retain the existing and attract a new workforce.
- 3.10 Given that the site is located adjacent to the main development boundary of Worcester City, it is anticipated that there are sufficient employment opportunities/infrastructure/ services (health, food stores, leisure etc.) available to accommodate any increase in population. The location of the site means that development is likely to support existing local services/ infrastructure and the viability and vitality of the town centre leading to minor positive effects on SA Objectives 2 and 3. Its location is also likely to allow for integration with the existing community in Worcester City. However, development at the site could also lead to minor negative effects against SA Objective 3 with regard to loss of green infrastructure which is considered to be of average value in need of restoration and investment with parts considered to be in need of protection and investment (area to the north-west corner and south-west corner)⁹.
- 3.11 Air, light and noise pollution along with emissions contributing to climate change are likely to increase - particularly in the short-term during the construction phase leading to minor negative effects on the SA Objectives of pollution and climate change. Although lower level studies and assessments have not been carried out to determine if there are underlying pollution issues at the site, taking into account the scale of the development proposed, the overall effects are considered to be minor negative. The southern part of the site is adjacent to the A44, which means there are likely to be minor negative health effects with regard to noise, light and air quality on any new residential development to the south of the site.

⁸ Worcester City Council, Malvern Hill District Council and Wychavon District Council (2014) South Worcester Development Plan Maps – Interactive Policy Map.

⁹ Worcester City Council, Malvern Hill District Council and Wychavon District Council (2014) South Worcester Development Plan Maps – Interactive Policy Map.

- 3.12 The allocation has the potential to have short to long-term negative effects on travel and transport. The proposed development could lead to a large increase in traffic, particularly heavy goods vehicles on local roads, which could lead to congestion and reduce road safety. However, the site is considered to have good access to public transport as a result of its location adjacent to the main development boundary of Worcester City.
- 3.13 There is potential for minor negative effects on the SA Objectives of climate change, landscape and townscape, historic environment and water. The site is Greenfield and will result in the loss of agricultural land and the potential loss of a Listed Building. The site is also adjacent to a Scheduled Monument with the potential for indirect negative effects on this asset and its setting. The site is also partly located within a zone of medium to high flood risk to the north and northeast and in the centre with a few isolated areas susceptible to surface water flooding¹⁰. In addition, the site is located outside of the main development boundary and is adjacent to a significant gap.
- 3.14 It is assumed that the effects on biodiversity and geodiversity will be uncertain until lower level studies and assessments are carried out. There are no internationally or nationally designated sites for nature conservation on or adjacent to the site¹¹. However, the site does contain a traditional orchard local priority habitat¹², which could lead to minor negative effects if lost through development. In addition, the site falls within two SSSI impact risk zones (outermost in both cases)¹³, and given the large size of the proposed development there may be a potential risk of negative effects through disturbance from recreational activity and/ or increased water abstraction. The site is adjacent to an existing site of regional or local wildlife importance¹⁴ and as a result could provide opportunities to deliver greater connectivity and create a wildlife corridor to expand the habitats. This could lead to minor positive effects if connectivity is achieved.
- 3.15 Overall, the proposed Main Modifications to the policy have the potential for long-term major positive effects on housing, employment and the economy, with no significant negative sustainability effects identified.

SWDP 49: Droitwich Spa Urban Extension WY045 - Yew Tree Farm (800 dwellings) (new)

- 3.16 The proposed allocation at Yew Tree Farm will have a significant long-term positive effect on housing with indirect minor positive effects on health and well-being. There is also the potential for minor positive effects economy and employment through providing additional high quality homes, which could retain the existing and attract a new workforce.

¹⁰ Worcester City Council, Malvern Hill District Council and Wychavon District Council (2014) South Worcester Development Plan Maps – Interactive Policy Map.

¹¹ Defra (2014) Magic – Statutory Rural Designations. <http://magic.defra.gov.uk> [accessed June 2014].

¹² Defra (2014) Magic – Statutory Rural Designations. <http://magic.defra.gov.uk> [accessed June 2014].

¹³ Defra (2014) Magic – Statutory Rural Designations. <http://magic.defra.gov.uk> [accessed June 2014].

¹⁴ Worcester City Council, Malvern Hill District Council and Wychavon District Council (2014) South Worcester Development Plan Maps – Interactive Policy Map.

- 3.17 Given that the site is located adjacent to a Main Town (i.e. Droitwich) set out in the SWDP, it is anticipated that there are sufficient employment opportunities/infrastructure/ services (health, food stores, leisure etc.) available to accommodate any increase in population. The location of the site means that development is likely to support existing local services/ infrastructure and the viability and vitality of the town centre leading to minor positive effects on SA Objectives 2 and 3. Its location is also likely to allow for integration with the existing community in Droitwich. However, development at the site could also lead to minor negative effects against SA Objective 3 with regard to loss of green infrastructure that is considered to be of average value in need of restoration and investment¹⁵.
- 3.18 Air, light and noise pollution along with emissions contributing to climate change are likely to increase - particularly in the short-term during the construction phase leading to minor negative effects on the SA Objectives of pollution and climate change. Lower level studies and assessments have not been carried out to determine if there are any underlying pollution issues at the site although given the large scale of the development proposed, the overall effects are considered to be minor negative.
- 3.19 The allocation has the potential to have short to long-term minor negative effects on travel and transport. The proposed development could lead to a significant increase in traffic, in particular heavy goods vehicles on local roads, which could lead to congestion and reduce road safety. However, there is good access to public transport and this should help mitigate potential negative effects.
- 3.20 There is potential for minor negative effects on the SA Objectives of climate change, landscape and townscape and water. This is because the site is Greenfield in nature and will result in the loss of agricultural land. The site also has a few isolated areas which are susceptible to surface water flooding¹⁶ although it is expected that this can easily be mitigated at the development management level. In addition, the site is located outside of the main development boundary and is adjacent to the Green Belt.
- 3.21 Until more detailed studies and assessments are carried out, the effects on biodiversity and geodiversity and historic environment are considered to be uncertain at this stage. However, the site does contain a small area of deciduous woodland priority habitat¹⁷, which could lead to minor negative effects if lost through development. In addition, the site falls within a SSSI impact risk zone (outermost)¹⁸, and given the large size of the proposed development there may be a potential risk of negative effects through disturbance from recreational activity and/ or increased water abstraction although this is not certain. The site is also adjacent to an existing site of

¹⁵ Worcester City Council, Malvern Hill District Council and Wychavon District Council (2014) South Worcester Development Plan Maps – Interactive Policy Map.

¹⁶ Worcester City Council, Malvern Hill District Council and Wychavon District Council (2014) South Worcester Development Plan Maps – Interactive Policy Map.

¹⁷ Defra (2014) Magic – Statutory Rural Designations. <http://magic.defra.gov.uk> [accessed June 2014].

¹⁸ Defra (2014) Magic – Statutory Rural Designations. <http://magic.defra.gov.uk> [accessed June 2014].

regional or local wildlife importance¹⁹ and as a result could provide opportunities to deliver greater connectivity and create a wildlife corridor to expand the habitats. This could lead to minor positive effects if connectivity is achieved.

- 3.22 Overall, the proposed Main Modifications to the policy have the potential for long-term major positive effects on housing, with no key negative sustainability effects identified.

SWDP 43: Worcester City Allocations (formerly SWDP 6: Worcester City Allocations)

A1. Housing (Dwellings Total: 1113)

- 3.23 Most of the sites are within or adjacent to the development boundary, contain Brownfield and so are more likely to support the SA Objectives regarding strengthening communities, climate change, infrastructure, and landscape and townscape. There is concern that the loss of Greenfield land within the centre of Worcester could have negative cumulative effects on landscape and townscape if green/ open space is not provided elsewhere but most development is located on Brownfield land and so the cumulative effects are considered to be uncertain at this stage.
- 3.24 Sites within or close to the City centre are more sensitive to development in terms of heritage assets and also flood risk given the presence of the River Severn. Most of the sites suffer from flooding issues and development at all sites is likely to have a negative cumulative effect on flooding if not properly mitigated. In addition, given the number of sites that may affect heritage assets, areas of historical importance and their settings, there is also potential for minor negative long-term cumulative effects on the historic environment if development is not carefully mitigated.
- 3.25 Further negative cumulative effects resulting from increases in traffic resulting from development at all sites could exacerbate existing air quality issues particularly where the AQMA is designated but sites within or adjacent to the AQMA will have a greater effect upon it. Moreover, there is a risk of negative cumulative effects on a number of SSSIs in and around Worcester in particular Lyppard Grange Ponds, Northwick Marsh and River Teme SSSIs from increased recreational activity and/or increased water abstraction resulting from development at all sites. The Transport Assessment²⁰ indicates that the level of projected development is likely to make the road network more congested and lead to longer travel times. These effects are particularly relevant on roads leading to the City Centre, the A4440 and motorway junctions. Development is likely to lead to minor long-term negative cumulative effects.
- 3.26 Overall, the proposed development is considered to support the SA Objectives for housing, economy and employment and health, with major

¹⁹ Worcester City Council, Malvern Hill District Council and Wychavon District Council (2014) South Worcester Development Plan Maps – Interactive Policy Map.

²⁰ CH2MHILL (2014) SWDP2 – Phase 1 – Impacts on Transport Network Performance

positive cumulative effects for housing. Key cumulative negative effects are indicated:

- on water in those sites identified as located within areas at risk from flooding (surface and fluvial)
- individually and cumulatively on the AQMA
- on the historic environment given the location of the majority of sites and the presence of known heritage assets

A2. Mixed Use (Dwellings and Employment Land Total: 317 dwellings and 11 ha of employment land)

- 3.27 The sites that are within the development boundary and contain Brownfield land are more likely to support the SA Objectives regarding climate change, infrastructure, and landscape and townscape. However, most of the sites contain Greenfield land and may result in the loss of agricultural land leading to minor negative effects on climate change and landscape and townscape. Given the mix of uses proposed, there are likely to be major positive long-term effects on housing, economy and employment and communities.
- 3.28 Most of the sites suffer from surface water flooding issues and development at all sites is likely to have a negative cumulative effect on flooding if not properly mitigated. Increases in traffic resulting from development at all sites could exacerbate existing air quality issues particularly with regard to Worcester's AQMAs. There also could be negative cumulative effects on the historic environment in light of the number of sites that contain, are within or are adjacent to heritage assets and their settings.
- 3.29 There is a risk of negative cumulative effects on a number of SSSIs in and around Worcester in particular Lyppard Grange Ponds, Northwick Marsh and River Teme SSSIs from increased recreational activity and/or increased water abstraction resulting from development at all sites.
- 3.30 The Transport Assessment²¹ indicates that the level of projected development is likely to make the road network more congested and lead to longer travel times. These effects are particularly relevant on roads leading to the City Centre, the A4440 and motorway junctions. Development is likely to lead to minor long-term negative cumulative effects.
- 3.31 Overall, the proposed development is considered to have major positive cumulative effects for housing, economy and employment and communities. Key cumulative negative effects are indicated:
- on water in those sites identified as located within areas at risk from flooding (surface and fluvial)
 - individually and cumulatively on the AQMA

²¹ CH2MHILL (2014) SWDP2 – Phase 1 – Impacts on Transport Network Performance

SWDP 44: Worcester City Centre (formerly SWDP 7: Worcester City Centre)

B. Opportunity Zones (Dwellings Total: 8)

- 3.32 All the sites are within Worcester city centre and are Brownfield so likely to support the SA Objectives regarding strengthening communities, climate change, infrastructure, and landscape and townscape. Also there is an opportunity to remove large scale structures that have a negative effect on the townscape and the historic centre. Most of the sites suffer from surface water flooding issues but it is likely that these can be easily mitigated.
- 3.33 Increases in traffic resulting from development individually and cumulatively could exacerbate existing air quality issues particularly where the AQMAs are designated. Until lower level studies and assessments are carried out, the cumulative effects on biodiversity and geodiversity are considered to be uncertain at this stage. All development is considered to support the SA Objectives for housing and economy and employment.
- 3.34 Overall the proposed development is considered to have major positive cumulative effects for housing and communities with no key negative sustainability effects identified.

SWDP 46: Pershore Allocations (formerly SWDP 18: Pershore Allocations)
(Dwelling Total: 17)

- 3.35 Sites within and adjacent to the development boundary are more likely to support the SA Objectives regarding strengthening communities, infrastructure, and landscape and townscape. Land to the east and south of Pershore (SWDP 2 - Other Town) are more susceptible to flooding issues. Development at all sites is likely to have a negative cumulative effect on flooding if not properly mitigated, although proposed development management policies 28, 29 & 30 should provide appropriate mitigation if implemented positively. There may be possible health implications for new residential development alongside the A4104 with cumulative traffic increases resulting from development at all sites having a potential negative effect on air quality.
- 3.36 Until lower level studies and assessments are carried out, the cumulative effects on biodiversity and geodiversity, historic environment, landscape and townscape and pollution are considered to be uncertain at this stage. All development is considered to support the SA Objectives for housing and economy and employment with indirect minor positive effects on health.
- 3.37 Overall the proposed development is considered to have major positive cumulative effects for housing, with no key negative effects identified.

SWDP 50: Evesham Allocations (formerly SWDP 11: Evesham Sites) (Dwelling
Total: 60)

- 3.38 The sites which contain Brownfield within the development boundary are more likely to support the SA Objectives regarding strengthening communities, climate change, infrastructure, and landscape and townscape. Some of the sites suffer from minor surface water flooding issues. Development at all sites is likely to have a negative cumulative effect on flooding if not properly mitigated, although proposed development management policies 28, 29 & 30 should provide appropriate mitigation if implemented positively. Large increases in traffic resulting from development at all sites could exacerbate existing air quality issues particularly where the AQMA is designated. Until lower level studies and assessments are carried out, the cumulative effects on biodiversity and geodiversity and historic environment are considered to be uncertain at this stage. All development is considered to support the SA Objectives for housing and economy and employment.
- 3.39 Overall the proposed development is considered to have major positive cumulative effects for housing, with no key negative cumulative effects identified.

SWDP 52: Malvern Allocations (formerly SWDP 13: Malvern Sites) (Dwelling
Total: 343)

- 3.40 The sites that contain Brownfield land within the development boundary are more likely to support the SA Objectives regarding strengthening communities, climate change, infrastructure, and landscape and townscape. Most of the sites contain or are adjacent to heritage assets and as a result, development at all sites is likely to have a negative cumulative effect on the historic environment if not properly mitigated.
- 3.41 There is a risk of negative cumulative effects on a number of SSSIs around Malvern, in particular the Malvern Hills SSSI, resulting from increased recreational activity from development at all sites. Possible health issues have been identified for new residential development on sites adjacent to sewage works and/or the main railway line which will require appropriate mitigation to reduce/ prevent negative effects regarding noise, light, air quality and odour.
- 3.42 Large increases in traffic resulting from the combined large quantum of development proposed in and around Malvern could lead to congestion. Until lower level studies and assessments are carried out, the cumulative effects on pollution are considered to be uncertain at this stage. All development is considered to support the SA Objectives for housing and economy and employment.
- 3.43 Overall the proposed development is considered to have major positive cumulative effects for housing, with key negative cumulative effects identified:

- on historic environment taking into account the number of sites which contain or are adjacent to a heritage asset
- on biodiversity regarding possible increased recreational activity particularly on the Malvern Hills SSSI

SWDP 57: Tenbury Wells Allocations (formerly SWDP 20: Tenbury Wells Sites)
(Indicative Dwelling and Employment Total: 162 dwellings and 0.88 ha of employment land)

- 3.44 As most sites are located on both Greenfield and agricultural land and also contain green infrastructure, minor negative effects were identified against the SA Objectives of climate change and landscape. The projected growth is considered likely to increase congestion and travel times in the area, with the potential for minor negative cumulative effects, and minor negative indirect effects on air quality and health. Until lower level studies and assessments are carried out, the cumulative effects on biodiversity and geodiversity, historic environment and pollution are considered to be uncertain at this stage. All development is considered to support the SA Objectives for housing and economy and employment with indirect minor positive effects on health.
- 3.45 Overall the proposed development is considered to have major positive cumulative effects for housing with no key negative sustainability effects identified.

SWDP 58: Upton-upon-Severn Allocations (formerly SWDP 21: Upton-upon-Severn Allocations) (Dwelling Total: 113)

- 3.46 None of the sites are situated within the development boundary of Upton-upon-Severn which is considered to provide a range of services and employment opportunities and act as local service centre. The majority are located within the Ryall & Holly Green settlement which is considered to be a Category 3 settlement with access to at least one key service and a daily bus service to Upton-upon-Severn. Given that most of the sites are located close to and have access via public transport to Upton-upon-Severn, it is anticipated that the sites are likely to support the SA Objective relating to strengthening communities.
- 3.47 As most sites are located on Greenfield and/or agricultural land and also contain green infrastructure, minor negative effects were identified against the SA Objectives of climate change and landscape. The projected growth is considered likely to increase congestion and travel times in the area, with the potential for minor negative cumulative effects, and minor negative indirect effects on air quality and health. All development is considered to support the SA Objectives for housing and economy and employment with indirect minor positive effects on health.
- 3.48 Overall the proposed development is considered to have major positive cumulative effects for housing with no key negative sustainability effects identified.

SWDP 59: Category 1 Village Allocations (formerly SWDP 23 Category 1 Village Sites) **Malvern Hills Village Sites** Dwellings Total: 517
Wychavon Village Sites Dwellings Total: 181

- 3.51 Development at all of sites could mean that new infrastructure will be needed to support the growth across the collective Malvern and Wychavon Category 1 Villages but it is assumed that all development will make appropriate and timely provision/ contribution to necessary supporting infrastructure in line with the NPPF and with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to accompany the South Worcester Development Plan. In addition, all development is proposed within or adjacent/ close to existing settlement boundaries and therefore is likely to support existing local services and the viability and vitality of the villages and also allow for integration with the existing community. Therefore, the cumulative effects against SA Objective 3 are considered to be minor positive. Additional high quality and affordable housing to be provided at all sites is likely to lead to major cumulative long-term positive effects on housing with indirect minor positive effects on health and employment.
- 3.52 For the proposed Category I Village Allocations, a key assumption was made with regard to SA Objective economy and employment and the potential effects that development at each site would have upon it. Category 1 Villages have at least four key services and most provide employment opportunities as defined in 'The Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey' (South Worcester SWCs, 2012)²² and have good access to designated towns²³ for other employment and other services required. Therefore, it is assumed that there are sufficient employment opportunities and other services to accommodate an increase in population. As a result, it was considered that there is potential for minor positive effects economy and employment from development at each site through providing additional high quality homes, which could retain the existing and attract a new workforce. In addition it was anticipated that increases in population can also increase spending on local services and facilities which can benefit the local economy.

Summary of cumulative effects identified for the Category 1 Malvern Hills Villages

- 3.53 The cumulative effects against the SA Objectives for historic environment, climate change and landscape and townscape are expected to be minor negative. This is because development across the majority of the sites will result in the loss of Greenfield and agricultural land around and within the village boundaries. A large number of the sites proposed are likely on the most part to indirectly affect the setting of Listed Buildings and the character and appearance of a number of Conservation Areas through development if not carefully designed.

²² Worcester City, Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District Councils (2012) The Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey. Online at <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Report-and-Appendices-VFRTS-December-2012.pdf> [accessed June 2014]

²³ Worcester, Tewkesbury, Droitwich, Pershore, Evesham, Redditch, Bromsgrove, Alcester, Malvern - Worcester City, Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District Councils (2012) The Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey. Online at <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Report-and-Appendices-VFRTS-December-2012.pdf> [accessed June 2014]

- 3.54 Until lower level studies and assessments are carried out, the cumulative effects on biodiversity and geodiversity, and pollution are considered to be uncertain at this stage. Pollution resulting from growth is thought to be less of an issue as the development is dispersed throughout a number of villages.
- 3.55 One of the key villages selected for a large quantum of development (approximately 320 dwellings) is Kempsey. This village is considered to have a high level of sustainability as it has high levels of services and facilities provision (at least 4 key services) and high levels of public transport provision (access to all journey types)²⁴. It also has good access to the A38 and Worcester City. As a result it is expected that it can accommodate the large quantum of development proposed with the development having major positive cumulative effects against the SA Objective for housing, infrastructure and indirect health benefits.
- 3.56 The level of development could also noticeably help to sustain the viability and vitality of the village. Potential increases in the level of traffic could be a major concern with noise, light and air quality from the development along A38 causing health problems for new residents but it is envisaged that this could be readily mitigated. The loss of a large amount of Greenfield land and agricultural land could have negative permanent long-term effects on the surrounding landscape, the setting of the village of and possibly climate change. No other effects against the SA Objectives are considered to be significant given the location of the development sites.

Summary of cumulative effects identified for the Category 1 Wychavon Villages

- 3.57 The cumulative effects against the SA Objectives for water, climate change and landscape and townscape are expected to be minor negative. This is because development across the majority of the sites will result in the loss of Greenfield and agricultural land around and within the village boundaries. Cumulative increases in impermeable surfaces resulting from development at all sites could exacerbate existing and create new surface water flooding issues. Almost all of the sites will result in the loss of green infrastructure considered to be of between average and premium value.
- 3.58 Until lower level studies and assessments are carried out, the cumulative effects on biodiversity and geodiversity, historic environment and pollution are considered to be uncertain at this stage. Pollution resulting from growth is thought to be less of an issue as the proposed development is dispersed throughout a number of villages.

²⁴ Worcester City, Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District Councils (2012) The Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey. Online at <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Report-and-Appendices-VFRTS-December-2012.pdf> [accessed June 2014]

SWDP 60: Category 2 Village Allocations (formerly SWDP 24 Category 2 Village Sites)

Malvern Hills Village Sites Dwellings Total: 195

Wychavon Village Sites Dwellings Total: 83

- 3.59 Development at all of sites could mean that new infrastructure will be needed to support the growth across the Malvern and Wychavon Category 2 Villages but it is assumed that all development will make appropriate and timely provision/ contribution to necessary supporting infrastructure in line with the NPPF and with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to accompany the South Worcester Development Plan. In addition, all development is proposed within or adjacent to existing settlement boundaries and therefore is likely to support existing local services and the viability and vitality of the villages/ town and also allow for integration with the existing community. Therefore, the cumulative effects against SA Objective 3 are considered to be minor positive. Additional high quality and affordable housing to be provided at all sites is likely to lead to major cumulative long-term positive effects on housing with indirect minor positive effects on health.
- 3.60 For the proposed Category 2 Village Allocations, a key assumption was made with regard to SA Objective economy and employment and the potential effects that development at each site would have upon it. Category 2 Villages have at least two key services which includes a shop but most do not provide employment opportunities as defined in 'The Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey' (South Worcester SWCs, 2012)²⁵. Therefore, it was assumed that the majority of the community travels to a designated town²⁶ for employment and to access other services. As a result, all residential development at Category 2 Villages is not considered to have a significant effect on the SA Objective of economy and employment.

Summary of cumulative effects identified for Category 2 Malvern Hills Villages

- 3.61 The cumulative effects against the SA Objectives for climate change and landscape and townscape are expected to be minor negative. This is because development across all sites will result in the loss of Greenfield and agricultural land adjacent to the village/town boundaries. Almost all of the sites will result in the loss of green infrastructure considered to be of between average and good value. There is also the potential for minor negative cumulative effects with regard to increases in traffic resulting from development at all sites and as the villages generally have poor access to public transport. Congestion as a result of growth is thought to be less of an issue in light of the small quantum of development and as it will be dispersed across different villages.

²⁵ Worcester City, Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District Councils (2012) The Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey. Online at <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Report-and-Appendices-VFRTS-December-2012.pdf> [accessed June 2014]

²⁶ Worcester, Tewkesbury, Droitwich, Pershore, Evesham, Redditch, Bromsgrove, Alcester, Malvern - Worcester City, Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District Councils (2012) The Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey. Online at <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Report-and-Appendices-VFRTS-December-2012.pdf> [accessed June 2014]

- 3.62 Until lower level studies and assessments are carried out, the cumulative effects on biodiversity and geodiversity, historic environment and pollution are considered to be uncertain at this stage. Pollution resulting from growth is thought to be less of an issue as the development is dispersed throughout a number of villages. Furthermore, given the quantum of development proposed and the need to meet the requirements of the NPPF, it was considered unlikely that there would be any significant effects against the SA Objective regarding water.

Summary of cumulative effects identified for Category 2 Wychavon Villages

- 3.63 The cumulative effects against the SA Objectives for climate change and landscape and townscape are expected to be minor negative. This is because development across all sites will result in the loss of Greenfield and agricultural land adjacent to the village/town boundaries. Almost all of the sites will result in the loss of green infrastructure considered to be of between average and premium value. There is also the potential for minor negative cumulative effects with regard to increases in traffic resulting from development at all sites and as the villages generally have poorer access to public transport. Congestion as a result of growth is thought to be less of an issue in light of the small quantum of development and as it will be dispersed across different villages.
- 3.64 Until lower level studies and assessments are carried out, the cumulative effects on biodiversity and geodiversity, historic environment and pollution are considered to be uncertain at this stage. Pollution resulting from growth is thought to be less of an issue as the development is dispersed throughout a number of villages. Furthermore, given the quantum of development proposed and the need to meet the requirements of the NPPF, it was considered unlikely that there would be any significant effects against the SA Objectives regarding water.

SWDP 61: Category 3 Village Allocations (Formerly SWDP 25 Category 3 Village Sites)

Malvern Hills Village Sites Dwellings Total: 14

Wychavon Village Sites Dwellings Total: 23

- 3.65 For the proposed Category 3 Village Allocations, a key assumption was made with regard to SA Objective economy and employment and the potential effects that development at each site would have upon it. Category 3 Villages have at least one key service (other than a parish/ village hall) but most do not provide employment opportunities as defined in 'The Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey' (South Worcester SWCs, 2012)²⁷. They do however have access to at least a daily public transport service to access a designated town²⁸. Therefore, it was assumed that employment and other

²⁷ Worcester City, Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District Councils (2012) The Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey. Online at <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Report-and-Appendices-VFRTS-December-2012.pdf> [accessed June 2014]

²⁸ Worcester, Tewkesbury, Droitwich, Pershore, Evesham, Redditch, Bromsgrove, Alcester, Malvern - Worcester City, Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District Councils (2012) The Village Facilities and

services will be accessed from the designated towns. As a result, residential development at Category 3 Villages is not considered to have a significant effect on the SA Objective of economy and employment.

- 3.66 Development at all of sites could mean that new infrastructure will be needed to support the growth across the collective Malvern and Wychavon Category 3 Villages but it is assumed that all development will make appropriate and timely provision/ contribution to necessary supporting infrastructure in line with the NPPF and with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to accompany the South Worcester Development Plan. In addition, all development is proposed adjacent to existing settlement boundaries and therefore is likely to support existing local services and the viability and vitality of the villages/ town and also allow for integration with the existing community. Therefore, the cumulative effects against SA Objective 3 are considered to be minor positive. Additional high quality and affordable housing to be provided at all sites is likely to lead to major cumulative long-term positive effects on housing with indirect minor positive effects on health.

Summary of cumulative effects identified for Category 3 Malvern Hills and Wychavon Villages

- 3.67 In consideration of the low numbers of housing proposed for the Category 3 Villages, the SA did not identify any significant cumulative effects.

SWDP3: Employment, Housing and Retail Provision Requirement and Delivery

- 3.68 The Main Modifications proposed to Policy SWDP3 reflect the overall uplift in housing and the SA of this amended policy reflects the overall cumulative effect of the SAs of each individual amended policy addressing the changes, deletions and additions of potential site allocations. Overall, the SA found that the housing uplift would still have major positive effects for housing, employment and retail allocations. There will be support and enhancement for established urban centres and smaller market towns through the proportionate distribution of the proposed additional development.
- 3.69 Potential minor short-term negative effects on existing communities are indicated from the increased housing. This is likely to be particularly associated with accessibility and travel/transport with longer term residual effects for journey times throughout the SWDP area and routes in/out of Worcester City.

4.0 Summary

- 4.1 At the Examination into the submitted SWDP, the Inspector recommended that the SWCs adopt an uplift in housing to a new total of 28,370 dwellings. This is an increase of 5,170 dwellings above the figure of 23,200 presented in the Plan. The SWCs made a call for sites and undertook an assessment process in order to identify a package of additional sites able to satisfy the revised housing requirement. The emerging options for these sites were subject to SA using the same approach and methods as previously used and detailed in published SA Reports.
- 4.2 The SAs of sites options found that there would be major positive and cumulative effects for housing. For some settlement areas, negative cumulative effects were indicated as a result of the potential large quantum of development with regard to the following:
- Traffic and transport; accessibility
 - Historic environment – assets and settings
 - Water and areas at risk from flooding
 - Biodiversity from increased recreational activity
- 4.3 The findings of the SAs informed the site assessment and selection process. Site options were selected or rejected to maximise opportunities for socio-economic benefits and to minimise adverse effects on environmental factors. As the preferred site options emerged, the SAs were revisited and it was found that many of the potential negative cumulative effects identified had been mitigated through avoidance, for example, the quantum of development had been reduced (particularly for the rural areas and with concomitant reduction in effects from transport) or those sites in flood risk areas had not been progressed.
- 4.4 The revised SAs found that overall the Main Modifications to the SWDP as a result of the uplift in housing numbers will continue to have major positive effects in the longer term for housing. Overall, there will be additional pressures on infrastructure and the environment but there are strong development management policies within the SWDP. If these are implemented positively, negative effects should be mitigated. Where possible (numerous proposed site allocations already have planning permission) additional allocations have been distributed according to the proposed Development Strategy in order to minimise negative effects.
- 4.5 Minor negative effects are uncertain in some areas as their significance is dependent upon lower level planning and more detailed studies for the form and layout of proposed development, for example, details of local biodiversity and heritage. The Development Management Policies will help ensure that appropriate mitigation is made. Residual cumulative negative effects are indicated in the longer-term for accessibility and travel/transport with longer journey times throughout the SWDP area and routes in/out of Worcester City.

- 4.6 The SA has been used in an iterative way to inform the development of the Main Modifications. The additional housing proposed will continue to have major positive effects with support and enhancement for established urban centres and the smaller market towns. The increase in transport will continue to be a challenge but SWDP4 Moving Around South Worcestershire, together with SWDP5 Green Infrastructure, will help to promote more sustainable transport modes.