

## Introduction

### Background

1. South Worcestershire is the area covered by the administrative areas of Malvern Hills District Council, Wychavon District Council and Worcester City Council who are referred to throughout this document as **the South Worcestershire Councils (SWC)**. The South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) is framed by and in turn sets out a clear vision of the area for the period 2006 to 2030, which is set out in the box on page 8. This reflects extensive consultation from 2007, and has been refined and adjusted as the SWDP has developed. The Vision reflects both the aspirations and the firm intentions of the SWC to improve, protect and manage sustainable growth in the area over the coming years. South Worcestershire faces a number of economic, environmental, social and infrastructure challenges that will need to be addressed if the Vision for south Worcestershire is to be realised. To address these challenges, the SWDP seeks to achieve an appropriate balance and synergy between these, including the timely provision of the infrastructure required to support the quantum of development proposed.
2. It is imperative for the future prosperity of south Worcestershire that new development proposed in the SWDP is supported by appropriate and proportionate crucial infrastructure. The Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership's Business Plan (2012) sets out a vision to create the right economic environment to inspire business, encourage investment and create lasting and sustainable employment in Worcestershire. This includes a strategic objective to address "Planning, Development and Infrastructure" needs in the area with a particular focus on ensuring the delivery of key transport infrastructure.
3. The SWC together with Worcestershire County Council embarked on a four-stage process to strengthen their understanding of infrastructure, leading to the production of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to support the SWDP:
  - a. Consolidated the existing information at the SWDP Preferred Options Stage 2011.
  - b. Prepared an Infrastructure Delivery Plan Interim Position Statement to support the SWDP.
  - c. Prepared an Infrastructure Delivery Plan to support the proposed submission version of the SWDP.
  - d. Updated the 2013 Infrastructure Delivery Plan in autumn 2014 to support the SWDP Examination.

The evidence in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan supports the SWDP in general and SWDP 7 and the Infrastructure Schedule set out in Annex I in particular, which is necessary in order to achieve the many objectives relating to infrastructure.