

# Appendix 2: Evidence Base

SWDP Public Consultation Document

### **South Worcestershire Development Plan Evidence Base**

The South Worcestershire Development Plan must be based on up to date and robust information to ensure that the policies and proposals within it have a sound basis. The 'soundness' of Development Plan Documents is one of the key matters that will be tested at examination.

The South Worcestershire Development Plan takes into account Government planning policy set out in Planning Policy Statements and Planning Policy Guidance; Saved Policies of the Worcestershire County Structure Plan and the Malvern Hills, Worcester and Wychavon adopted Local Plans; and the various themes and priority outcomes of the Sustainable Community Strategies covering South Worcestershire.

The South Worcestershire Development Plan is also based on technical evidence including feedback from infrastructure / service providers, specific technical reports (see list below) including the required Sustainability Appraisal as well as feed back from various public consultations. The following provides a list of evidence reports that have informed the preparation of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Preferred Options.

### **Sustainable Community Strategy**

#### **Draft Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire. Worcestershire Partnership, September 2010.**

This will set out a single strategic vision for the future of the County which will allow those organisations delivering services to priorities delivery in the context of reduced resources. The responses to consultation, on a draft document, in the spring of 2011 have informed the final countywide Sustainable Community Strategy that was published over the summer of 2011.

#### **Worcester Forward. Worcester Alliance, 2010.**

The Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcester is the main vehicle for achieving the vision, a First Rank Cathedral and University City. This strategy contains the outcomes the Alliance desires for Worcester, all of which will improve the lives of the people who live in, work in and visit Worcester. This strategy will remain in place until the draft Sustainability Community strategy for Worcestershire is approved.

#### **Our Future. Together. Malvern Hills Partnership, May 2008.**

The Partnership has a vision for Malvern Hills District where residents can enjoy a good standard of living, access well paid and fulfilling jobs and live in houses which are affordable and suits their needs. This strategy will remain in place until the draft Sustainability Community strategy for Worcestershire is approved.

### **Wychavon Community Strategy, shaping the future together. Wychavon District Council, October 2007.**

This contained the vision and priorities for the Wychavon district from 2007 to 2010. It set out how the organisations involved in preparing it would work together to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in or visits the district. Wychavon District are now working with the Worcestershire Partnership to develop a single Community Strategy for Worcestershire.

### **Sustainability Appraisal**

#### **Sustainability Appraisal Report. Enfusion, August 2008 and September 2011. Integrated Appraisal incorporating: Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment/Equality & Diversity Impact Assessment/ Health Impact Assessment.**

Sustainability Appraisal assists in promoting a sustainable approach to development through an on going dialogue and assessment process during the preparation of Development Plan documents. Whilst Strategic Environmental Assessment specifically considers the potential impacts of planning proposals on the environment and is a requirement of European legislation. In England the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment processes are dealt with in an integrated manner affording environmental, social and economic issues the same level of consideration in the Sustainability Appraisal process.

### **Generic Evidence**

#### **Focused Sub-Regional Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy Evidence Base to inform the South Worcestershire Development Plan. Stefan Preuss and John Pattinson, November 2010.**

This review focused on those bits of the Regional Spatial Strategy evidence base that are relevant to the future planning of South Worcestershire and resulted in a number of topic papers highlighting the specific evidence that should be taken into account when developing South Worcestershire Development Plan policies.

#### **The Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey. Malvern Hills, Worcester and Wychavon District Councils, latest edition March 2010.**

The survey applied a set of criteria to assess the sustainability of each settlement and their potential role as a local service centre. The results of the survey have been used to establish a hierarchy of rural villages as set out in policy SWDP1.

### **Employment & Retail**

**South Worcestershire Town Centres and Retail Strategy. DPDS, September 2007, and South Worcestershire Town Centres and Retail Strategy Update. DPDS, December 2010.**

These studies consider the potential for additional retail floor space in each of the South Worcestershire Town Centres. Convenience (food) and Comparison (non food) retailing are considered separately.

**South Worcestershire Employment Land Reviews. Roger Tym & Partners, March 2011. GVA Grimley, February 2008.**

These reports consider the need to allocate land specifically for employment (offices, factories and warehousing) generating uses and whether existing site allocations for these uses are likely to be developed within the plan period. The evidence in these reports has informed planning policies for economic prosperity.

**Worcester City Employment Land Review. Scott Wilson, June 2007.**

This report is similar to the two South Worcestershire Employment Land Reviews but only considers the needs of Worcester City.

**Worcestershire County Economic Assessment 2010/11. Worcestershire County Council, January 2011.**

This report is the principal county level assessment of the local economy and has informed the development of planning policy both for economic prosperity and for policies intended to ensure the development of sustainable communities.

**Worcestershire Works, Promoting Growth – Creating Jobs. An Enterprise partnership for Worcestershire, December 2010.**

This is a prospectus for a new organisation 'Worcestershire Works'. This is a business led enterprise partnership that will over time guide economic development, and strategic decision making, in Worcestershire.

### **Population & Housing**

**Affordable Housing Development Viability Study. Adams Integra, September 2008. Supplementary Market Review and Property Prices Report. Adams Integra, July 2010.**

These reports provide evidence to support affordable housing policies. They consider all aspects of development viability and the impact of potential affordable housing requirements on viability, to establish the maximum amount of affordable housing that can be delivered from market housing allocations.

### **Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. Worcestershire County Council, February 2008.**

This report has considered the specific needs of travelling communities for additional sites and pitches and has informed the Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople policy.

### **House Prices in South Worcestershire. Worcestershire County Council, January 2011.**

This monitoring report provides an up to date (annual) summary of house prices in the area.

### **Joint Response to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment and Archaeological Service.**

This documents the known historic features that may be affected if sites in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment were allocated for development. This information has informed the selection of preferred option sites.

### **South Housing Market Area – Strategic Housing Market Assessment. Rupert Scott, April 2007. Local Housing Needs Report for South Worcestershire. Rupert Scott, April 2007. Worcestershire Strategic Housing Market Assessment. GVA, September 2011.**

These reports provide the principal evidence for assessing the need for new homes. These reports therefore have informed all the strategic planning policies within the South Worcestershire Development Plan.

### **Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. Malvern Hills, Worcester and Wychavon District Councils, latest edition May 2011.**

The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment is a continuous process with new additions of this report published at least annually. This assessment helps to identify the most suitable land for future development, i.e. land that is available and deliverable before 2030.

### **Worcestershire Demographics Report 2011 with a South Worcestershire Appendix. Worcestershire County Council, January 2011.**

This report provides up to date information on population trends, i.e. births, deaths, migration and household formation. This information has informed the overall scale of development proposed by the South Worcestershire Development Plan.

### **Worcestershire Migration Report. Worcestershire County Council, September 2010.**

This report provides detailed evidence about people choosing to move into or out of Worcestershire.

### **Worcestershire Older Persons Housing Report. The Housing and Support Partnership, April 2009.**

This report reviews the housing and related support needs and aspirations of older people living in Worcestershire for the next 20 years.

## **Infrastructure**

### **Green Infrastructure Interim Report. Environmental Stakeholders in Worcestershire, November 2009.**

This report collates a comprehensive range of environmental information which will be used in the production of a county wide Green Infrastructure Framework.

### **Local Transport Plan 3. Worcestershire County Council, February 2011.**

This is the County Council's strategy for travel within the county for the next twenty years. It will influence future investment in transport infrastructure and has informed the South Worcestershire Development Plan policies for transport and infrastructure.

### **South Worcestershire Public Open Space Alignment Study. PMP, May 2007.**

This report reviews previous assessments carried out separately by the three Local Planning Authorities of the need for different types of public open space and has informed the Open Space, Sport and Recreation policy.

### **South Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework. Nortoft, July 2010.**

This report assesses the need for, and delivery mechanisms to provide, the essential community infrastructure to support new homes. Together with the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework and the Council's playing pitch strategies this report provides the evidence to inform planning policies for sports provision.

### **Worcester Transport Strategy 2008 – Regional Funding Allocation Bid 2008. Worcestershire County Council, December 2008.**

This document identifies the transport related infrastructure that will be required to support development in and around the City of Worcester. This information has informed the development of the infrastructure and implementation and phasing policies.

**Worcestershire Infrastructure Study. Baker Associates, March 2009.**  
**Worcestershire Infrastructure Study Addendum. Baker Associates, April 2009.**

This report identifies the existing capacity of infrastructure within Worcestershire and assesses the requirement for new infrastructure that will arise if development takes place.

### **Environment**

**Environmental Constraints Study. Faber Maunsell (for Worcestershire County Council), January 2008.**

This report considered the strategic level water cycle constraints on future development.

**Green Belt Review. Nicholas Pearson Associates, July 2010.**

This report provides a comprehensive review of the existing Green Belt in South Worcestershire and briefly discusses the potential for additional Green Belt designations.

**Green Infrastructure Study. Faber Maunsell, July 2007.**

The scope of this report was limited to six kilometres beyond the Worcester City Council boundary and this report informed the preferred directions of future growth for the city.

**Green Infrastructure Study for the Growth Areas – A Desktop Site Analysis. Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, September 2008.**

This study reviews sites put forward for development and identifies ecological constraints and opportunities. This information has helped to determine which sites are most suitable for development and where development should be avoided if at all possible.

**Level 1 – Historic Environment Statement For The main Towns and Other Towns. Worcestershire County Council, September 2008.**

This study identifies the main historic features in and around the South Worcestershire towns, excluding Worcester, which need to be considered during the formulation of planning policy.

**Historic Environment Assessment for the South Worcestershire Area. Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, May 2010.**

This assessment provides a strategic level historic environment evidence base that highlights key historic environment character and sensitivities. The report provides the context for site specific assessments and identifies locations that require detailed investigations.

### **Planning for Climate Change in Worcestershire. Worcestershire County Council, May 2008.**

This report considers policy relevant to climate change adaptation and considers issues such as biodiversity, water resources, energy supply and flood risk.

### **Planning for Renewable Energy in Worcestershire. Worcestershire County Council, January 2009.**

This report considers the potential for the production of renewable energy in Worcestershire as well as the limitations imposed by landscape, biodiversity and heritage.

### **Planning for Water in Worcestershire. Worcestershire County Council, December 2008.**

This report explains the water management issues facing Worcestershire over the next twenty years and provides best practice examples of, planning for, and managing, water resources.

### **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. JBA Consulting, November 2009.**

This report identifies which locations are most and least likely to experience flooding. This evidence has been used to help select the most suitable locations for development. The second part of this report has provided a more detailed assessment of the consequences for flood management if specific sites were developed.

### **The Water Cycle Study. JBA Consulting, September 2010.**

This report has informed the selection of broad locations for future development, i.e. those locations where there will be least impact on water quality, water resources, water infrastructure and flood risk. The report also highlights the potential for mitigating any negative effects on the water environment from potential development.

### **Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment Portfolio. Worcestershire County Council, January 2011.**

This is a suite of three documents; Shaping the New Worcestershire, A New Look at the Landscapes of Worcestershire and Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment – Process, Products and its Role in the Planning System. These documents have informed the broad locations for future development and the Green Network policy.

## **Leisure**

### **South Worcestershire Hotel Study. Humbert Leisure, August 2009.**

This report considers the potential and need for additional hotels. The most suitable broad locations and types of hotel accommodation are identified in this report.



## **Annual Monitoring Reports**

### **South Worcestershire Annual Monitoring Report. Malvern Hills, Worcester and Wychavon District Councils, December 2010.**

This is the principal monitoring document produce by the South Worcestershire Local Planning Authorities. It sets out what effect the existing Local Plan Policies are having, reports the progress made in preparing Development Plan Documents and provides information for national government returns, such as the National Land Use Database.

### **South Worcestershire Housing Land Monitor. Malvern Hills, Worcester and Wychavon District Councils, April 2010.**

This report reviews progress in implementing planning policies and planning permissions for new homes. This review is the principal source of information for five year housing land supply calculations. These calculations are a major influence on developers and in planning decisions for approval or refusal of applications for new homes. The information in this report supports the development of the Annual Monitoring Report.

### **South Worcestershire Sustainable Economic Development Monitor. Malvern Hills, Worcester and Wychavon District Councils, April 2010.**

This report reviews progress in implementing planning policies that support economic development and highlights changes in the area that effective local businesses and job opportunities for local residents. This review is the principal source of employment land supply calculations. The information in this report supports the development of the Annual Monitoring Report.