What is an Annual Monitoring Report?

Monitoring and evaluation are both vitally important of councils are to demonstrate their effectiveness and value for money. Recent changes to Government Legislation now mean councils are responsible for their own performance management and are accountable to local communities rather than central government.

Planning delivers the council's objectives for Worcester through the planning policy and development management processes.

The AMR assesses and demonstrates the effectiveness of Worcester's planning policies, monitors Worcester's City Council's performance in implementing Local Plan policies and monitors the council's performance in producing and implementing Local Development Framework policy.

Worcester City Council

Annual Monitoring Report 2010/11

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Inside this document:

Introduction

The primary purpose of this document is to share the performance and achievements of the planning service with the local community. The Annual Monitoring Report achieves this by:

- reviewing the matters which may be expected to affect the development of Worcester or the planning of its development;

- monitoring the effectiveness of policies and proposals in the authority's adopted and emerging local development plans; and

- by providing information on the preparation of planning documents and the extent to which policies set out in these are being achieved (Sections 13 and 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

Housing at Sansome Place

Vacant industrial units by the canal

The AMR is helpful in that it looks to establish the value added by development management, conservation and enforcement activity. For example a statistic like the number of affordable houses delivered would translate into the outcome of 'number of families housed' and/or 'numbers removed from local housing waiting lists'.

Should you wish to find out further details of the legal requirements you can consult Local Planning Regulation 48 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 and Regulation 17 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (SEA) Regulations 2004. The Worcester AMR covers

Executive Summary

In 2010 Worcester produced a joint AMR with Wychavon and Malvern Hills districts. The purpose of this was feed in to the joint development plan process. This year the production of a joint AMR has proven to be unworkable due to the constraints and pressures created by the South Worcestershire Development Plan consultation process. It is envisaged that in 2012 the three authorities will once again produce a joint AMR.

The AMR is made up of nationally set Core Output Indicators and Worcester-specific information , which comprises data and analysis for local indicators . These indicators are drawn from the monitoring framework established in the authority as per the council's adopted local plan, the Balanced Housing Market DPD and Sustainability Appraisals.

The monitoring year 2010/11 saw the continuation of slow economic growth, though did not see economic recession as in the previous monitoring year. Although the impacts of this will still take time to feed through into some indicators, it has had a marked impact on performance against housing and economic indicators. With regard to employment and housing targets Worcester City Council had been awaiting primary legislation as the Localism Bill scheduled to begin its passage through Parliament from Christmas 2010. When enacted it will return powers of plan-making to local planning authorities. As it stands the Regional Spatial Strategy remains part of the Development Plan for the local authorities across South Worcestershire but the weight afforded to it in the case of individual planning applications (and by Inspectors in the case of appeals), will need to be judged against the advice issued by Government and its Chief Planner.

Whilst in this transition phase it will be challenging for planning and delivery work to facilitate a speedy recovery of the housing market when demand starts to pick up.

The Core Output Indicators are tabulated to the right. The AMR comments on possible reasons for the performance against these indicators in 2010/11. A key factor has been the continuing economic recession. Prospects for the housing market, and therefore the rate of future house building in Worcester, remain uncertain. Although the impacts of this will take time to feed through into some indicators, it has had a marked impact on performance against housing indicators in particular.

Key:

Overall performance = ☺ or 😐 or ☹

Change from 2009/10 = ↑ or ↓ or ←→

Monitoring Indicator	Data Source	Worcester Stats 2010/11	Performance 2010/11
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY			
Percentage of households built in the urban area	WHLM, 2010	100%	☺ ←→
COI, BD2: Total amount & type of completed floorspace on PDL	SWELM, 2010	N/A	☹ ←→
COI, H3: New and converted homes built on PDL	SWHLM, 2010	100%	☺ ←→
SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH			
Number of employees jobs	WCEA, 2011	50,500	😐 ←→
Unemployment Count (economic inactivity rate)	WCEA, 2011	12,400	☹ ↓
COI, BD1: Total amount of additional employment by type	N/A	Figure not available	?
COI, BD3: Employment Land Available	SEDM, 2011	33.08	☺ ←→
COI, BD4: Total annual change in the amount of floorspace for town centre uses	N/A	Figure not available	?
HOUSING			
Number of Households in Worcester	DCLG, 2010	42,147	?
Latest Government Population Projection to 2033	ONS, 2010	Estimated population = 94,800 people	?
Average Household Price	WCEA, 2010	2009 = £175,777 2011 = £178,145	☹ ↓
COI, H2a: Net additional homes in monitoring year	WHLM, 2011	176	☹ ↓
COI, H2b: Net additional homes in previous years (since '06)	SWHLM, 2011	1756 Homes built since April 2006	☺ ↓
COI, H4: No. of Gypsy and Traveller Pitches	Worcs County Council	20 Pitches	😐 ←→
COI, H5: No. of affordable houses delivered in 09/10	SWHLM, 2011	13 Homes	☹ ↓
COI, H6: Building for Life	N/A	Unknown	
ENVIRONMENT			
COI E1: No. apps contrary to EA advice	Env. Agency, 2010	None	☺ ←→
COI E2: No. of apps contrary to WWT advice	Worcs Wildlife Trust 2010	None	☺ ←→
COI E2: Sites of Biodiversity importance (hectares)	N/A	Unknown	?
COI E2: Health of SSSI	Natural England, 2010	**See appendix**	**N/A**
COI E3: Renewable Energy Generation	Planning applications	**See appendix**	**N/A**

Profile of Worcester

Worcester is the principle urban area of Worcestershire and is the primary administrative and employment centre in the county. It was of England's first settlements to gain city status by royal charter, in 1189 and is rich in archaeological and heritage sites; archaeological finds have proved that Worcester was involved in many different battles, including important Civil War conflicts.

Geographically, it is located approximately 120 miles (193 km) north west of London and 27 miles (43km) south west of Birmingham in the West Midlands. The City covers an area of approximately 13 square miles, varying between urban, residential and green spaces. The River Severn passes through the centre of the city. Tourism attractions include the Royal Worcester Porcelain Museum, Commandary, Worcester Cathedral, The Racecourse and the Cricket Ground.

New Road– home of Worcestershire CCC

Worcester has good transport links with the rest of the UK. Running close to Worcester, there are motorway links to Birmingham, Wales and the South West via the M5 and M50. Local railway stations provide rail access to London (2.5hrs) and Birmingham (40min). Additional public transport links are provided by way of a regional bus and coach station in the City Centre with frequent local services and a national coach stop by Junction 6 of the M5.

Worcester is an attractive place for businesses due to its links to other cities and countries and its largely rural landscape. The city is a key employment centre with large businesses such as Mazak, Lea and Perrins, Mitsibushi Pancils and Worcester Bosch.

The City has large employment areas in the north and east of the city in close proximity to the M5, while a new Worcester Technology Park is planned to further take advantage of the city's position.

Worcester has a rich cultural tradition through music, with links to Elgar, and through the arts, theatre and museums and also a rich sporting tradition. The city can boast top-flight rugby, cricket and basketball teams, while Worcester City FC currently play in the Conference North.

Population

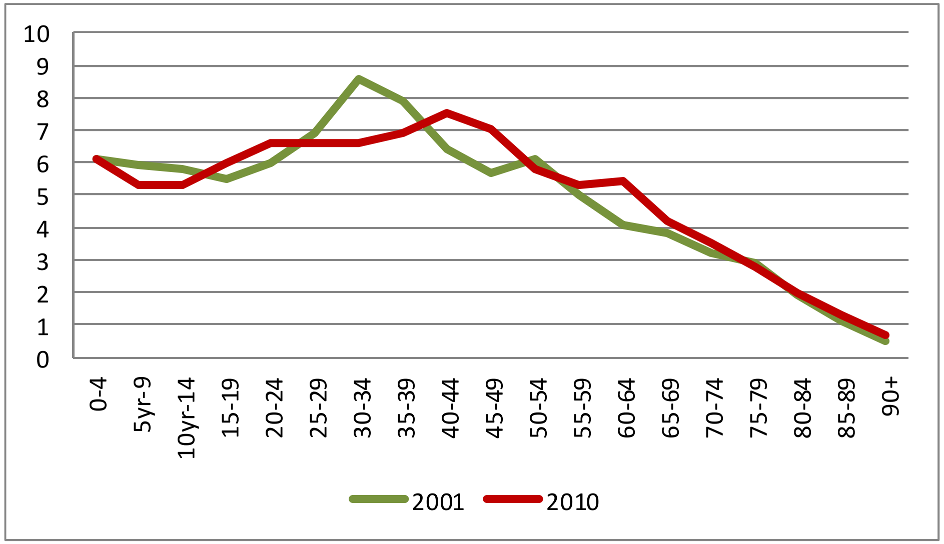
In recent times Worcester City has seen a small net out-migration; however since 2006 the City has recorded small net gains. Despite the out-migration at the turn of the 21st Century the City does register an increase of population due to a higher number of births compared to the number of deaths.

Area (ha)	3,328
Population (2011 estimate)	94,800
Population density (per ha)	2,805
Households	42,147
Average household size	2.24

Worcester Population as of 2010. Source: ONS

The number of young people aged 0 to 17 years in Worcester decreased steadily over the period 2001 to 2010. By 2010 there were over 1,000 fewer 0-17 year olds than at the start of the decade– 20,000 in 2010 compared with 21,100 in 2001. During the same period the 18 to 64 years, often referred to as to as the working age population, has increased by 1,500 people to 60,500. The population of the 65-plus age group rose by 1,000 people, representing an increase of 7.5% The high level of retired persons has a number of implications for the development strategy. The level of development in sustainable locations with access to a range of services and public transport would assist in meeting the needs of the elderly population.

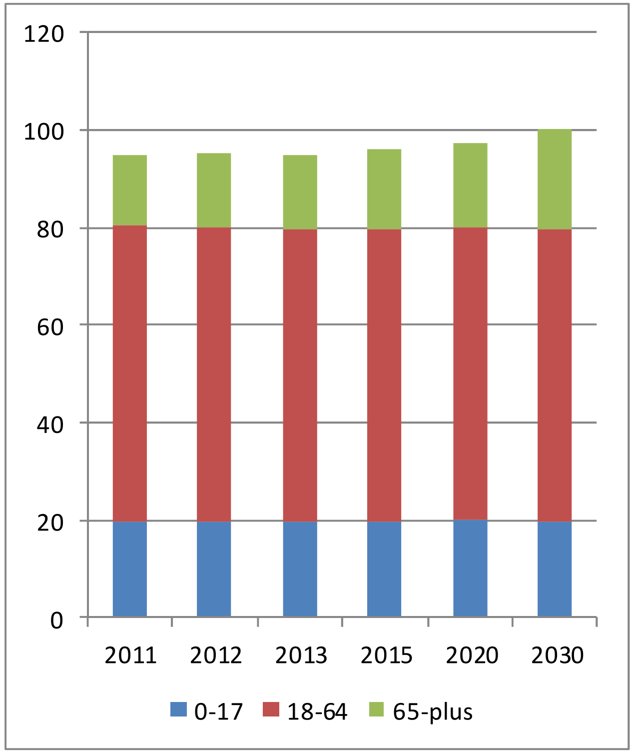
Population distribution by age (000s)– 2001 v 2010



Total Pop at 2001	Forecast Pop at 2011	Forecast Pop at 2026
93,353	94,800	99,100

The graph above shows the change in the distribution of population in Worcester between 2001 and 2010. The chart shows that in 2010 there were fewer people in the 25-40 range, and more people in the 55-90 age range, than in 2001.

"The graph below, projecting population by age-group in Worcester, emphasises the growth of the retirement-age population. While the projections suggest that the numbers of 0-17 and 18-64 year-olds will stay fairly consistent, the number of 65+ year olds is predicted to rise by around 42%. This rise in the elderly population is the main reason why Worcester's population is forecast to hit the 100,000 mark by 2030."



Projected population (000s) by age group

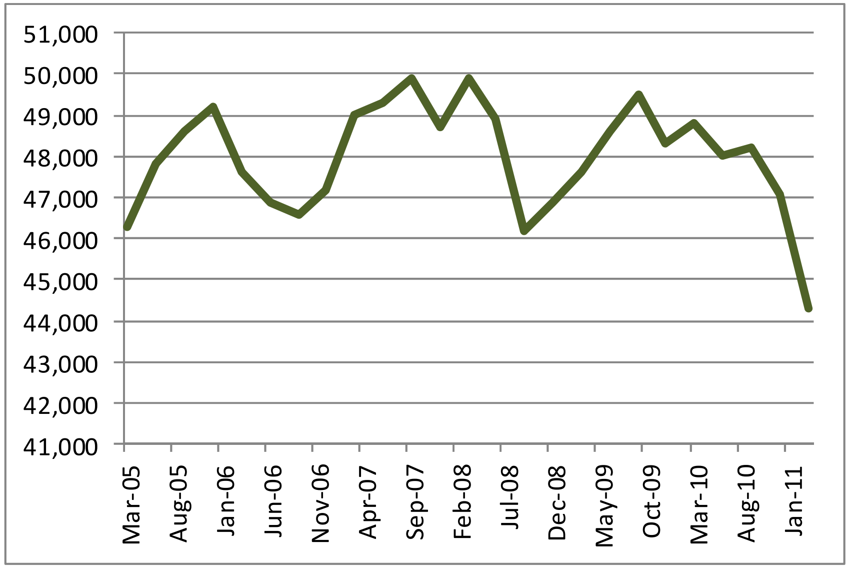
Economy

The city of Worcester has experienced an overall decline of 9.2% in terms of population in employment between March 2010 and March 2011 according to www.nomisweb.co.uk. It is thought that the city has been affected by the reduced availability of credit, the UK economic recession, and the subsequent post-recession period. In 2006/07 77.8% of Worcester city's workers were full time while 22.2 were part time. By 2009/10 the percentage in full-time work had dropped to 68.6% while those in part-time employment rose to 31.4%. This is reflective of, and probably a result of, the difficult economic situation facing the country at the present.

In 2008 there were 50,500 jobs in Worcester city. The largest employment sector is Health, which employs nearly 16% of Worcester's workforce, followed by Retail and Manufacturing. It should be noted that as this data relates to 2008, it does not reflect the full impact of the recession.

Worcester is quite heavily dependent on the public sector for much of its employment- public administration, education and health is the biggest employer in the city, providing over 31% of the city's jobs.

Economically active people in Worcester since 2005



Tourism continues to play an important part in Worcester's economy. In 1998 2,300 people (5.1% of workforce) were employed in tourism in Worcester. By 2008 the figure had risen to 3,800 (7.4% of workforce), an increase of 66.9%.

SECTOR	%
Manufacturing	10.9
Health	15.7
Retail	11.2
Education	10
Accommodation & food services	5.9
Business administration & support services	8.9
Professional, scientific & technical	5.4
Wholesale	2.8
Construction	3.1
Public administration and defence	6
Transport & storage	3.8
Information & communication	3.3
Other service activities	2.5
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2.4
Motor trades	1.9
Finance & insurance	2.5
Property	1.9
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	0

Jobs in Worcester by sector

RETAIL

The Local Plan hierarchy is based on the Management Horizons Europe (MHE) Shopping Index. In terms of retailing, MHE surveys shopping centres in the UK and ranks them according to their relative retail strength and the assessed level of vitality and viability. Based on 2003/4 data Worcester is ranked 54th in the MHE rankings and significantly higher than any other centre in the South Worcestershire Sub-Region

	Number	%
Economically Active	49,600	79.9%
Economically Active - *Male*	26,700	86.7%
Economically Active - *Female*	22,900	73.2%
Economically Inactive	12,400	20.1%
Incapacity Benefit	2,870	4.6%
Business Start-ups (per 10,000 people)	45.8	-

Worcester economic statistics 2010-11

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment in Worcester has risen in recent years, reaching 7.9% at the end of the monitoring year. The unemployment rate reflects the economic difficulties that the country has faced over the last 3-4 years. Economic activity is still high among males in Worcester, whilst female rates are lower. Indeed the rate of male economic activity in Worcester compares favourably with the figures for Worcestershire (85.3%), West Midlands (82.3%) and England (83.0%). The economic activity rate amongst women in the city of 73.2% also compares well to the region and England but compares less favourably to the rest of the county (76.9%).

Unemployment (%) in Worcester since Dec '04 (WCEA)

Year	Businesses
2004	3,135
2005	3,145
2006	3,215
2007	3,240
2008	3,190
Change 07-08	-1.5

Businesses in Worcester 04-08 (WCEA)

Survival of new businesses in Worcester:

1 year = 93.3%

5 year = 47.6%

WCEA 2011

BUSINESSES IN WORCESTER

The table above displays the number of businesses in the city between 2004 and 2008. Although these statistics only catch the very start of the period of economic difficulty currently facing the country they do show a small fall in the number of businesses in the city between 2007 and 2008.

93% of businesses in Worcester survive the first year, with 47.6% surviving 5 years of trading. The 1 year figure compares poorly with neighbouring districts (with the exception of Wychavon) and the national average, while the 5 year figure is broadly in line with local, regional and national averages. Given the economic climate one might expect business survival rates to wane.

Employment Land

In the monitoring year April 2010 to March 2011 0 (zero) hectares of employment land (B1, B2, B8) moved from commitment to completion. This is lower than previous years as in 2010 1.24 ha of land (gross) were made available for new B class while the figure for 2009 was 5.9 ha.

Over the fourteen years between 1996 and 2011 (since the start of the City of Worcester Local Plan) there has been approximately 36,200m² of new gross floor space built in the city. This equates to less than half of the target of making 75 ha of land available during the Local Plan Period.

Indeed rather than creating more , Worcester experienced a net loss of employment land during 2010 to 2011 due to employment sites being converted to other uses and no new employment land being created in the city. As the table below indicates, almost all of the 7.1 ha of gross employment land in Worcester which is potentially being lost to other uses is, rather inevitably, being lost to residential purposes.

COMMITMENTS

The city has 33.08 ha of 'committed employment land'– that is to say land with planning permission for development into employment. There may be a noticeable decline in the next monitoring year, however, as 11.26ha of permissions are set to expire in 2012 if they are not implemented or renewed. There were no significant new employment land planning applications made within the last quarter of the monitoring year.

Ref.	Address	Land Type	Area Lost	Lost to
P09D0488	17-19 Mealcheapen St	B1	0.07 ha	Residential
P08C0223	250 Bransford Road	B8	4.09 ha	Residential
P10C0557	202 Bransford	B1 & B2	1.95 ha	Residential
P10D0543	50 New St	B1	0.025 ha	Residential
P10D0342	St Swithens House	B1	0.49 ha	Residential
P10B0555	152 Bath Road	B1	0.44 ha	Residential
P10D0396	16 Lowesmoor Wharf	B1	0.008 ha	Education
		Total lost:	**7.073 ha**	

Employment land lost to other uses in 2010/11

"29.3 of the 33.08 hectares of **committed employment land** exists between 3 allocated sites: Grove Farm, the former Ronkswood Hospital and land south of Newtown Road"

Boiler testing at Worcester Bosch

Another sign of the difficult economic situation affecting employment land availability in the past year is the amount of land under construction. No land was under construction as of April 2011, compared to **XX** in 2009/10. The next few years are likely to be highly significant, with the next year expected to show further stalling in the progress of employment sites as macro-economic fluctuations continue to filter down to the local level.

EMPLOYMENT LAND SUPPLY

Despite not yet reaching the Local Plan target the city still has a rolling **five-year reservoir of employment land**. However as stated earlier, this may change in the next monitoring year due to the expiry of employment permissions.

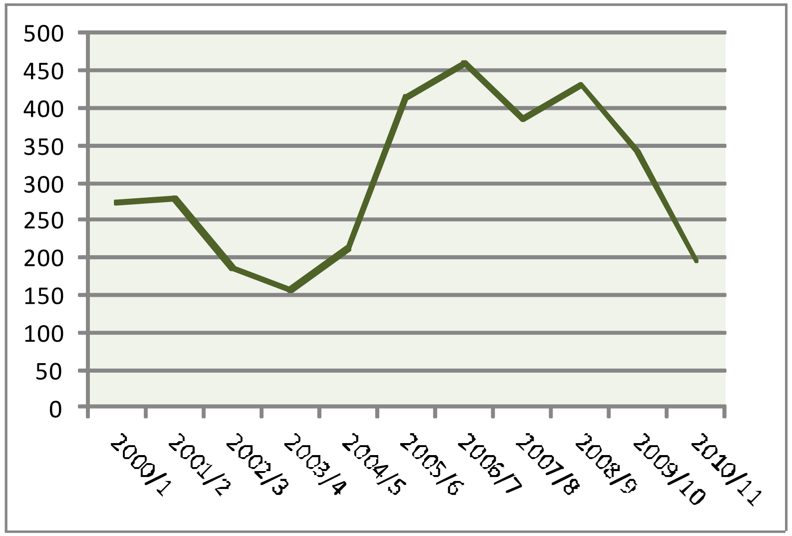
Housing

In the twelve months ending 31 March 2011 a total of 210 dwellings were built in Worcester City. This is 116 dwellings less than the annual average of 326 completed dwellings over the least 11 years. Taking into account demolitions, changes of uses in to and out of dwellings and conversions, the net increase to the dwelling stock during 2010/11 was 205 dwellings. Since 2001 3059 dwellings have been built in the city. This figure is just over of the Balanced Housing Market DPD target of 3027 between 2001 and 2011.

The total amount of new builds in this monitoring period equates to 190 dwellings on 30 sites. Since the high of 2006/7, when 460 dwellings were built in the city, new build rates have been slowly declining.

Compared to the previous 12 months, 2010/11 saw a 39% drop in net built dwellings. The number of extant planning permissions for residential units in Worcester (842) coupled with the number of dwellings currently under construction (377) suggests, however, that this is not necessarily part of a long-term downward trend.

Dwellings built in Worcester since 2000



WHERE IS DEVELOPMENT HAPPENING?

Housing development in Worcester between 1996 and 2011 has been spread across the city, although due to the relative small size of the city, one or two large developments can make it appear that development is concentrated in a certain area. This is the case this year with the Diglis Basin and Royal Worcester Porcelain sites. When viewed by ward around 70% of development in the city has taken place in Cathedral ward.

If these large sites are ignored then the majority of development has occurred in Arboretum and Warndon wards. These wards have however not seen a great deal of development.

There are a number of wards that have seen no new dwellings built.

Ward	Dwellings
Arboretum	24
Battenhall	0
Bedwardine	9
Cathedral	140
Claines	0
Gorse Hill	2
Nunnery	0
Rainbow Hill	2
St Clement	5
St John	1
St Peter's Parish	0
St Stephen	1
Warndon	12
Warndon Parish North	0
Warndon Parish South	14
Total	210

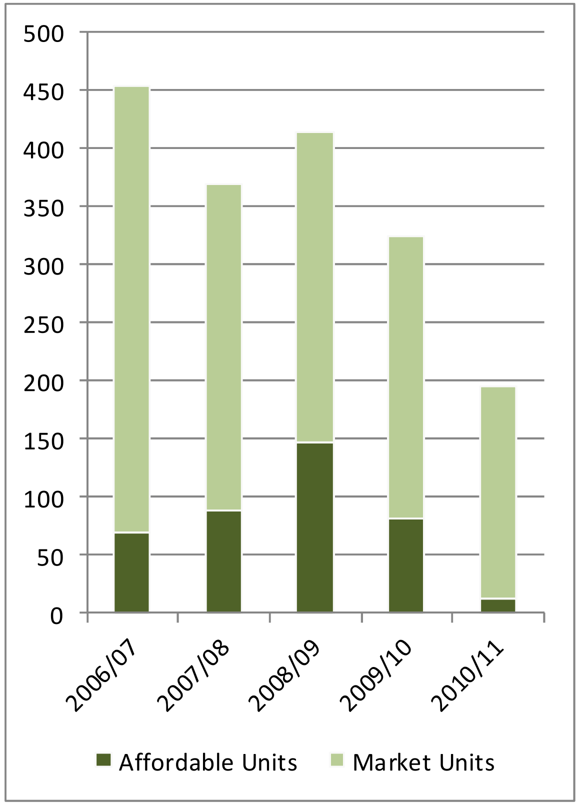
Dwellings built by ward 2010/11

Average House Price	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Worcester City	£98,612	£119,738	£141,017	£159,811	£165,389	£176,296	£188,252	£177,644	£166,246	£178,145

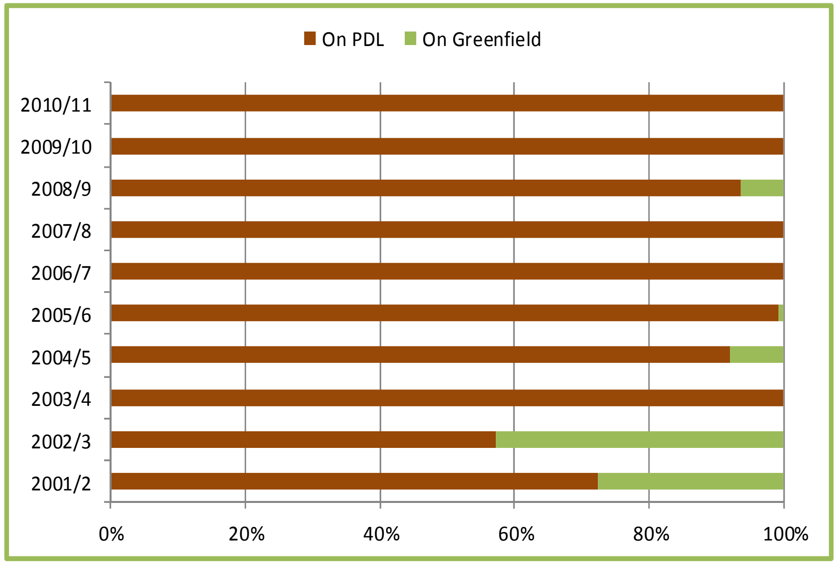
AFFORDABLE HOUSING

20 affordable housing units were completed in 2010-11, all of which are social rented units. A further 49 units have been completed on the Royal Worcester Porcelain site but are standing empty as of 1st April 2011 due a legal dispute between the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) and the developer. As they have yet to pass in to the hands of the RSL they can not count in this year's figures. The Housing department report that a further 24 units passed in to RSL hands through mortgage rescue schemes or purchases.

The figure of 20 units is down from 82 homes in 2009/10 and 149 homes in 2008/09. Since 2006 400 affordable homes have been completed in the city, an average of 80 per year. Current planning permissions for large housing sites do suggest that there will a steady affordable housing supply over the next five to ten years despite the relatively low number of completions this year.



Market and Affordable homes built in Worcester



Percentage of housing built on brownfield v greenfield

PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED LAND

The plan, sets out the principle of maximising the use of previously developed (brownfield) land for new development.

In 2011 the Government removed National Planning Policy for Housing (PPS3) which had set a national target for provision of new housing on 'previously developed land' (PDL) at 60%. It is now the responsibility of Local Planning Authorities to define locally derived targets via the Local Development Framework.

In 2010/11, 93% of gross dwelling completed in Worcester occurred on Previously Developed Land, some 33 percentage points above the previous national target. This is slightly lower than achieved in 2009/10. It is not surprising that the city has managed to achieve 100%, or nearly 100%, brownfield development over the last seven years. This can be attributed to the impact of policy and the fact that the city is constrained by environment and policy so that previously developed land is the main source of development.

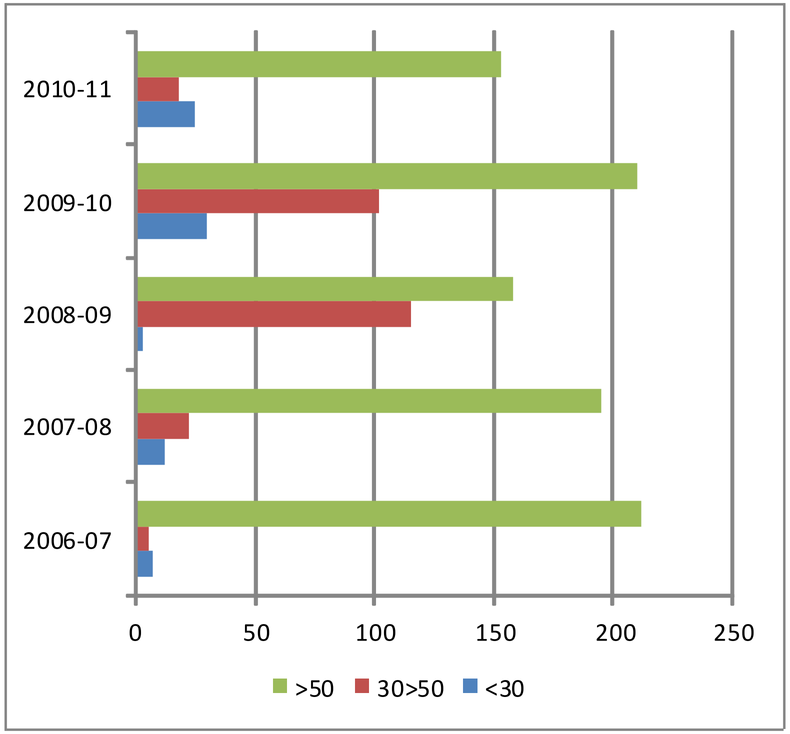
Given existing policy it is expected that this position of close to 100% of dwellings being built on brownfield land within the city will not change significantly over the next few years.

If brownfield sites within Worcester are unable to deliver local housing, employment and service needs in the future , then greenfield sites on the edge of Worcester or in the

'Wider Worcester Area' are likely to fill the void, rather than greenfield sites within the city boundary.

HOUSING DENSITY

The graph below charts site densities since 2006. It is apparent that high density sites, i.e. those over 50 dwellings per hectare, are still the most common. This is broadly in line with Balanced Housing Market policy which states that all housing developments in the city should be built to densities higher than 35 dwellings per hectare, while 'urban' developments should be built to higher than 40 dwellings per hectare and city centre dwellings at higher than 70 dwellings per hectare. 2010/11 shows a marked decrease in the number of sites built with densities of between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare. This indicates a broad alignment with council policy, given the location of the two major developments of Diglis Basin and Royal Worcester Porcelain sites.



Housing site densities since 2006

HOUSING TYPE

The table on dwelling type and size demonstrates the types of dwellings built in 2010/11. Flats (52%) were more popular than houses (48%) and two-bedroomed properties are the most popular size, totalling 60% of all dwellings erected. Very few large family homes were built as dwellings with 3 bedrooms or more totalled just 26% of all completions.

The high number of flats built in 2010/11 can accounted for by the fact that the Diglis Basin site and the Royal Worcester Porcelain site, are currently under construction. Both contain a high number of apartments, which would normally be fairly unusual in Worcester.

Dwelling Type	No. Of Bed Units: 1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed+	Total
Houses & Bungalows	3	46	36	15	100
Flats & Maisonettes	27	81	3	0	110
Total	30	126	39	15	210
Totals as %	14.3	60.0	18.6	7.1	

Dwelling types built in 2010/11

At present the market determines what type and size of dwelling the city requires as the city council has no targets or policies are in place regarding dwelling type. However to accord with guidance new plan-making will be informed by evidence from the Strategic Housing Market Assessment on house type and size to inform policy on housing mix.

House building in Worcester

Core Indicator H1 Plan Period and Housing Targets:

a) 2001 to 2021, 4897 dwellings, Balanced Housing Market DPD

b) 2006 to 2026, 3200 dwellings, Regional Spatial Strategy Option 2 (2006)

Core Indicator H2 (a & b) Net Additional Dwellings in previous years and Net Additional Dwellings in the reporting year:

a) 2790 (2001-2010)

b) 205 (reporting year)

Core Indicator H2 (c & d) Net Additional Dwellings in Future Years and Managed Delivery Target

As of April 2011 the building rate appears to have slowed significantly– the numbers of dwellings under construction was lower than the previous years– 377 as of March 2011 compared with 619 in March 2010

Year	Total Completions	Demolitions	Net Completions	No. on PDL	Percentage on PDL
2000/01	273	18	255	228	83.5
2001/02	279	4	275	202	72.4
2002/03	187	3	184	107	57.2
2003/04	157	3	154	157	100
2004/05	212	6	206	195	92
2005/06	414	6	408	411	99.3
2006/07	460	6	454	460	100
2007/08	384	14	370	384	100
2008/09	431	17	414	403	93.5
2009/10	342	17	325	342	100
2010/11	210	5	205	196	93
TOTAL	3349	99	3252	3085	Ave. 92.1%
RSS Total*	1827	59	1770	1785	Ave. 97.7%

* 2006-2011

Housing completions since 2000

It is unclear what is likely to happen over the next monitoring year, however with the economic difficulties showing few signs of abating it is unlikely that the situation will be significantly better by this time next year.

In order to maintain a robust evidence base for our prediction of 5 year housing land supply we will refresh the housing supply calculation for the City again in Spring 2012.

Core Indicator H3: New and Converted Dwellings on Previously Developed Land:

93% of all dwellings developed either through conversion or new build were built on Previously Developed Land in the 2010/11 monitoring year. This remains a high proportion, and matches the 93% experienced during the previous monitoring year. This figure represents the sixth consecutive year that the proportion has been above 90% and is slightly higher than the average of 92% (2001-2010).

Core Indicator H4: Net Additional Pitches Gypsy and Traveller:

No new pitches were created in the monitoring year.

Core Indicator H5: Gross Affordable housing completions

20 affordable housing units were transferred to registered social landlords in the monitoring period, all of which were new unit completions. This figure is significantly lower than the target of 75.5 units for the monitoring year in the Balanced Housing Market DPD adopted in December 2007. This figure represents a decrease of 69 units compared to last year and a decrease of 127 units compared to 2008/09

POLICY AIMS AND PERFORMANCE

1 To ensure the provision of suitable sites for housing to meet the requirements of the Worcestershire County Structure Plan;

2 maximise the use of PDL and vacant buildings in meeting these requirements

3 ensure that new housing developments are located in such a way as to maximise the opportunities to travel by modes other than the private car

4 ensure that the city's housing requirements are met without the loss of valuable open land; and

5 allow for housing development on suitable (previously-developed) windfall sites and for changes of use/conversions of redundant buildings to housing use

NO CHANGE

The effect the current economic conditions are having on the city's house building rate are apparent. In the year ending 31st March 2011 just 210 units were completed– a reduction of 39% compared to the previous year. The city however has a number of sites with planning permission and continues to provide the vast bulk of its new housing stock on brownfield land.

Despite this, and even factoring in an approximate 1/3 slow down in the predicted build rate, the city is highly likely to meet its Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) target by 2026, therefore satisfying the 'no change' bracket for this criterion (The Secretary of State has not yet used powers to abolish the RSS)

To ensure that a variety of housing types are provided in terms of size, type, location and affordability:

1 To ensure that a proportion of total new housing provision meets the needs of households identified as being in need of affordable housing; and

2 protect, where possible, improve existing housing areas

NO CHANGE

Progress has been made in the provision of affordable homes in the city recently, although this year the number of affordable homes completed, and the proportion of completed units that were affordable, was down on last year.

Five Year Housing Land Supply requirements 1st April 2011 - 31st March 2016		1. Submitted Calculation	2. Contextual	3. Contextual
		Adopted WMRSS	Emerging WMRSS	Emerging SWDP
		Adopted WMRSS 2001 - 2021	WMRSS Phase II 2006 - 2026	Preferred Options 2006 - 2030
5 year target (+ 5%)		997	501	672
Commitments	Under Construction –4%	361	361	361
	Outstanding –4%	809	809	809
	Total	1170	1170	1170
Local Plan Allocations		N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Supply		1170	1170	1170
Balance (Total - 5 year target)		173	670	498
Total calendar housing supply		5.9	11.7	8.7

Worcester's 5 year land supply

Natural Environment

A healthy environment and good design are embodied in Worcester's Local Plan and the emerging SWDP's vision and objectives. A range of indicators can be drawn from in order to provide an assessment of whether the strategy is having an effect over time. Key monitoring themes include design quality, flooding, biodiversity and climate change.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Worcester has one Country Park, three major parks and four local parks which provide 56.72 hectares of open space within the City boundaries. The parks are set out in the table to the right.

Green corridors are defined as sites that provide venues for walking, cycling and horse-riding amongst other uses. Often they can provide a key green link and offer travel routes for local residents and migration routes for local wildlife. There are 15 recognised green corridors with a combined area of 50.72 hectares in Worcester.

Name of Park	Typology	Area (ha)
Oldbury Road	Local park	2.8
Hylton Rd– Henwick Parade	Local park	1.4
Land off Springfield Rd	Local park	1.13
Cromwell Crescent	Local park	2.13
Gheluvelt Park	Major park	7.56
Cripplegate Park	Major park	4.2
Fort Royal Park	Major park	2.1
Worc Woods Country Park	Country park	33.68

Parks in Worcester

The 2006 Strategic Leisure PPG17 Open Spaces audit also identified 42 sites covering 152.48 hectares which are classified as Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space; this does not include green corridors or parks.

BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity brings benefits to the local community through benefitting health, improving the local economy, maintaining environmental quality and providing recreation and educational resources for people of all ages. The management of local sites is important to achieving biodiversity targets with biodiversity being ultimately conserved or lost at the local level.

What is an SSSI?

"Sites of Special Scientific Interest are wildlife or geological sites of national importance. They are key to the conservation of some of our most valued biodiversity and it is therefore essential that they meet their conservation objectives and that we have information on their condition, as a measure of the wider biodiversity of the city"

Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (PPS9) sets out the Government's vision for conserving and enhancing biological diversity in England, together with a programme of work to achieve it. This includes the broad aim that planning, development and regeneration should have minimal impacts on biodiversity and enhance it wherever possible.

The AMR monitors three indicators to assess biodiversity. They are:

1. Sites of Special Scientific Interest

   1 International Site (Lyppard Grange Ponds) and 2 National Sites: Northwick Marsh and River Teme (north bank)

   NO CHANGE

2. Management status of wildlife and geological sites

   14 sites covering almost 119 hectares.

   NO CHANGE

3. Key breed populations: birds, butterflies and newts

   No significant change in numbers of bird, Great Crested Newt, nor of butterfly populations

   NO CHANGE

NAT ENVIRONMENT POLICIES

Local indicators monitor the policies in the Worcester Local Plan and assess whether current policies need to be reviewed or replaced.

Local Indicator 1: Number of refusals based on Green Network Policies

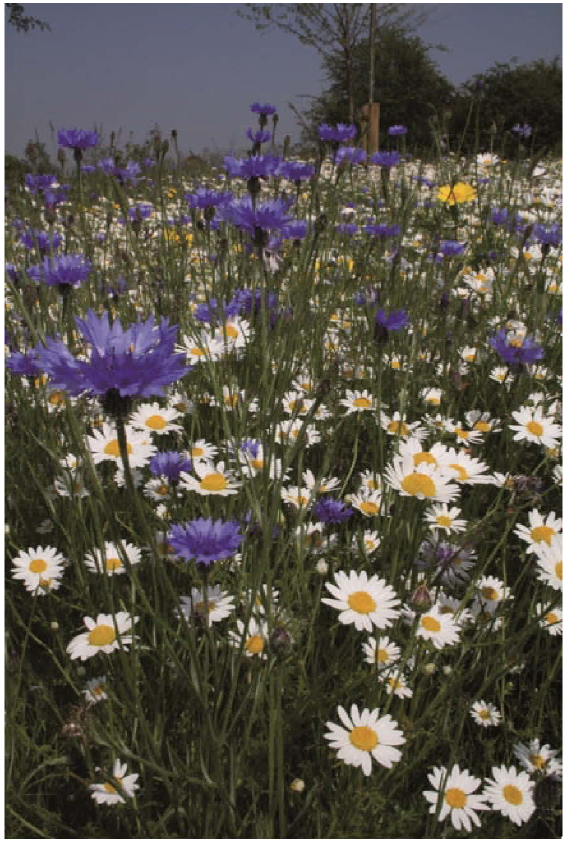
Policy used for refusal	09/10	10/11
NE4 Nature Conservation	0	0
NE5 Landscape Protection	0	3
NE7 Landscaping Scheme	1	0
NE9 The Green Network	1	0
NE11 M5 Protection Corridor	1	0
NE12 Green Belt Area	0	0

Local Indicator 2: Planning applications in Green Belt Areas

During the 2010/11 monitoring period there were no planning applications granted for significant development in the Green Belt.

Local Indicator 3: Number of refusals based on Flood Protection and Water Quality policies

Policy used for refusal	10/11
NE20 Safeguarding Watercourses	0
NE21 & 22 Floodplain (blue & yellow zone)	1
NE23 Floodplain (red zone)	0
Total	1



Wild flowers at Battenhall

POLICY AIMS & PERFORMANCE

Promoting environmental protection, biodiversity and enhancement of wildlife habitats

UNKNOWN

- Lack of historical data, though Urban Design & Conservation Team beginning to improve the data held by the authority.

Providing a positive context for protection and enhancement of open space and encouraging new urban landscape design of a high standard which is appropriate in character and commensurate with historic land form and ecological features

NO CHANGE

- Less work was undertaken to improve the quality of the city's parks than in 2009/10 however improvements continue. As in 2009/10 no development was completed in the Green Belt.

Enhancing the amenity feature of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal, River Severn and protecting the flood plain of the River Severn and its tributaries

SOME IMPROVEMENT

- There have been improvements to public realm in the River Severn corridor, especially landscaping work on the eastern bank improving the experience for pedestrians and cyclists.

Built Environment

It is the council's aim for the historic environment to be maintained and protected. Any development affecting conversation areas, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and archaeological sites should be appropriate and seek to enhance and reflect the character of the protected area.

Worcester has designated 18 conservation areas and areas of historical importance. A full list of the city's conservation areas can be found in the appendix.

Items of Conservational Value

Item	Number
Listed Buildings	701
Scheduled Monuments	25 (of which 3 are also listed buildings)
Buildings at Risk	19 buildings 1 battlefield

Local Indicator 4: Number of refusals based on design and environmental standards

Policy used for refusal	09/10	10/11
BE1 Environmental Standards for Development	31	36
BE2 Character of the City	0	0
Total	31	36

Local Indicator 5: Number of Listed Building and Conservation Area Consultations (CAC) ; and

Local Indicator 6: Number of Archaeological Recommendations and Heritage

- These sections will be completed as soon as information becomes available

Local Indicator 7: Number of permissions granted despite being recorded at application vetting stage as 'deviating in principle from the development plan'

- None recorded during the monitoring period

Local indicator 8: The number of applications refused citing local plan built environment policies

The table below offers a full breakdown of policy use during the monitoring period

Policy Area & Policy Used For Refusal	09/10	10/11
Policies relating to Conservation Areas		
BE4 Percentage for Art	0	0
BE12 Boundary Treatments in Conservation Areas	0	1
Total	0	1
Policies relating to listed buildings		
BE14 Alterations and Extension to listed buildings	0	1
BE16 The setting of listed buildings	0	1
Total	0	2
Policies relating to Buildings of Local Interest		
BE18 Buildings of Local Interest New Development	0	0
BE19 Buildings of Local Interest- Recording	0	0
BE20 Buildings of Local Interest- Salvage	0	0
Total	0	0
Archaeological Constraints to Development		
BE21 Development within Archaeologically Sensitive Areas	0	0
Protection of Nationally and Internationally Important Sites	0	0
Total	0	0

Policy Area & Policy Used For Refusal	09/10	10/11
Policies relating to Historic Environment		
BE26 Historic Landscapes and Features	0	0
BE27 Access to and interpretation of the Historic Environment	0	0
Total	0	0
Policies relating to Environmental Safety and Contaminated Land		
BE29 Light	0	0
BE30 Noise	0	0
Total	0	0
Advertisements and Communications		
BE39 Advertisements affecting Conservation Areas	0	0
BE43 Telecommunications	0	0
Total	0	0

View of the River Severn

POLICY AIMS & PERFORMANCE

1 Encourage a high standard of design in all parts of the city;

2 ensure new development is sensitive and responsive to the neighbourhood and its site context;

3 readdress the damage done in the past by poor schemes insensitive to Worcester's urban form; and

4 encourage development which is energy efficient and conserves natural resources

NO CHANGE

- Building design policies continue to be the primary reason for refusal; however the number of refusals based on these policies has declined in recent years. This reflects an overall trend of steeply declining numbers of major applications for housing development and far fewer planning applications overall. The council has been effective in refusing development contrary to policy.

- There has been little observable progress on building renewable energy capacity in the city

1 Discourage development which would damage the amenities of its locality through activity , form or purpose;

2 ensure the best achievable standards of accessibility to all members of the community;

3 promote the siting of development which reduces the need to travel;

4 protect, preserve and enhance Worcester's architectural and historic heritage both above and below ground;

5 improve the appearance of the main entrances to the city and the principal access ways through it;

6 protect and enhance the historic skyline of the city; and

7 ensure development at the urban edge respects the city's rural setting

NO CHANGE

- There is evidence that due to a continuing trend of redevelopment of Brownfield land in the city the work of the Conservation Area Committee (CAC) and the Archaeology Service are increasingly vital. Although this years figures are not yet available for CAC, overall numbers of consultations have remained fairly consistent in recent years indicating that conservation policy is becoming increasingly effective at discouraging inappropriate development

Transport

Local Indicator 9: Percentage of new residential development less than 30 minutes public transport time from a GP, hospital, primary school, secondary school, employment and retail centre:

100% of new residential developments were built within 30 minutes public transport travel time of the amenities listed above.

POLICY AIMS AND PERFORMANCE

1 Enhance the commercial viability and vitality of the city without compromising the environment;

Transport in and out of Worcester (2008)	
Number of people transporting in to Worcester for employment	14,981
Number of people transporting out of Worcester for employment	19,018
Number of people that both live and work in Worcester	32,097

Bicycle on towpath near Gregory's Mill

2 reduce the need to travel in the longer term, by the co-ordination of land use planning with transport

3 improve the attractiveness and convenience of public transport, cycling and walking

4 ensure people and goods can gain access to existing and potential employment, shopping and leisure facilities by appropriate means

5 make the most efficient use of existing transport infrastructure; and

6 seek to reduce energy consumption and air pollution by encouraging greater use of public transport, cycling and walking

NO CHANGE

All new residential development was within 30 minutes of significant amenities and infrastructure. This is a major benefit to the city, although it should be noted that due to the relatively small size of the city it is unlikely that that anywhere would fail to satisfy this criterion.

Mode	% Worcester	% National
Work at home	7.6	9.2
Train	1.4	4.2
Bus, minibus or coach	4.5	7.5
Motorcycle, moped, scooter	1.2	1.1
Driving car or van	58.2	54.9
Passenger in car or van	7.1	6.1
Taxi	0.3	0.5
Bicycle	4.7	2.8
On foot	14.7	10