

Birmingham City Council

Sustainability Appraisal of the Birmingham Plan

Scoping Report - Autumn 2012 update



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Birmingham City Council

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Scoping Report - Autumn 2012 update

AMEC Environment & Infrastructure
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November 2012



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Non-Technical Summary

Purpose of this Report

AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Ltd (AMEC) was appointed in 2012 to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Birmingham Plan, being an important part of the statutory planning framework to guide Birmingham's development into the future.

This Scoping Report documents the first main stage (Stage A) of the SA (incorporating SEA) process for the Birmingham CSDPD. It will assist in the development and appraisal of the Birmingham Plan, and enable the performance of the policies to be monitored against the existing baseline conditions.

The original scoping report was consulted upon for a minimum period of five weeks with the statutory environmental consultees (Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage), and other relevant organisations. This allowed consultees to consider the contents of this report, and to make any comments where necessary.

Sustainable development is one of the core principles of planning. The general thrust of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is aimed at contributing towards sustainable development through the planning system. There is a presumption in favour of sustainable development "*which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking.*" There are three dimensions as to how the government aims to achieve sustainable development which gives rise to the need for the planning system to perform in a number of roles. The *three roles, as set out in the NPPF, are as follows:*

- ***“Economic role*** - *contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;*
- ***Social role*** - *supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and*
- ***Environmental role*** - *contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.”*¹

¹ Communities and Local Government (2012) **National Planning Policy Framework** p. 2

The NPPF makes reference to the UK Sustainability Strategy *Securing the Future*² which sets out the five ‘guiding principles’ of sustainable development. They are as follows:

- Living within the Environmental Limits;
- Ensuring a Strong Health and Just Society;
- Achieving a Sustainable Economy;
- Promoting Good Governance; and
- Using Sound Science Responsibly.

The Birmingham Core Strategy should be based on these sustainable development principles.

Sustainability Issues Affecting the City

The following sustainability were identified as particularly important in advancing the environmental, economic and social progress of the City.

Sustainability Theme	Key Sustainability Issues
1. Resource Use	New additional water management measures or water resources needed to ensure there is sufficient water for new housing proposed in the current and revised Regional Spatial Strategy. Resource Use is linked to issues related to water quality.
2. Sustainable Design, Construction and Maintenance	There are several examples of good design in Birmingham, but more could be done in the future to regenerate certain parts of the City. Sustainable Design, Construction and Maintenance is linked to issues related to energy efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation and housing.
3. Renewable Energy	Use of renewable energy could be significantly improved. Renewable Energy is linked to issues related to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
4. Energy Efficiency	Recent developments have shown evidence of energy efficiency, but the large number of old properties in the City will need improving to make them more energy efficient, building on current initiatives. Energy Efficiency is linked to issues related to renewable energy, sustainable design construction and maintenance, housing and social and environmental responsibility.
5. Sustainable Transport	Although the city has good public transport infrastructure, it needs expanding and upgrading to help minimise the high level of car use in Birmingham. A commitment is set out to achieve this. Emphasis will be placed on ‘smarter travel’, discouraging unnecessary journeys and encouraging people to use public transport. Congestion is a significant issue at certain times on both road and rail. Sustainable Transport is linked to issues related to air quality, reducing the need to travel, health, climate change mitigation and adaptation.

² Defra (2005) **Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy**

Sustainability Theme	Key Sustainability Issues
6. Reducing the Need to Travel	<p>A very small proportion of people who work and live in the city (one tenth) work from home and therefore avoid travelling to work. There is little evidence of people being actively encouraged to work from home. More emphasis needs to be placed on 'smarter travel', discouraging unnecessary journeys and encouraging people to use public transport.</p> <p>Reducing the need to travel is linked to issues related to sustainable transport, air quality, health, climate change mitigation and adaptation and noise.</p>
7. Waste Reduction and Minimisation	<p>Landfill diversion rates are increasing in the City, and past targets for recycling have been met.</p> <p>The percentage of waste sent to landfill within the City has declined between 2002/03-2010/11 from 23% to 10.37%. Given European and National targets it is likely this trend will continue.</p> <p>Waste Reduction and Minimisation is linked to issues related to air quality, soil quality, natural landscape and built and historic environment.</p>
8. Efficient Use of Land	<p>Good use is being made of previously developed land as a very high proportion of new housing and office development has taken place on previously developed land.</p> <p>Efficient Use of Land is linked to issues related to soil quality, natural landscape, built and historic environment, biodiversity culture, sport and recreation and sense of place.</p>
9. Reducing Climate Change	<p>Birmingham's residents and businesses emit over 6.6 million tonnes of CO₂ per year. If global emissions are not reduced Birmingham could see average annual temperatures rise by 1.5°C by 2020 and winter rise by 1.3°C and 3.7°C and 2.9°C 4.5°C by 2080.</p> <p>Reducing Climate Change is linked to issues related to sustainable transport, reducing the need to travel, air quality, biodiversity health and natural landscape.</p>
10. Managing Climate Change	<p>Birmingham City Council has a good record of taking on board Environment Agency comments in terms of permitting development in flood risk areas. There is limited information on this objective although it is recognised by the City Council that measures will need to be put in place to manage the unavoidable impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Managing Climate Change is linked to issues related to sustainable transport, reducing the need to travel, air quality, biodiversity health and natural landscape.</p>
11. Sense of Place	<p>Birmingham people are positive about their city; according to the Community Cohesion Strategy, opinion polls show that three quarters of people think it is a good place to live. No public open space is currently being lost, and environmental improvements have been made and continue to be made to various parts of the City.</p> <p>Sense of Place is linked to issues related to built and historic environment, natural landscape, housing, health, biodiversity, culture, sport and recreation and crime.</p>
12. Built and Historic Environment	<p>Birmingham has a large amount of land designated as Conservation Areas, some of which are nationally recognised such as the Jewellery Quarter and Bourneville. The City also has an extensive number of archaeological remains Listed Buildings and Registered Parks & Gardens.</p> <p>Built and Historic Environment is linked to issues related to sense of place, housing, sustainable design, construction and maintenance, crime and poverty.</p>
13. Natural Landscape	<p>Although much of Birmingham is built up, there is a significant amount of open land within the City including areas of agricultural land to the north east and south west of the City. The City falls within the National Character Areas (NCAs) of Arden to the south and Cannock Chase and Cank Wood to the north. The assessment of these areas for the Countryside Quality Counts project for Natural England indicates that they are subject to a high rate of change. Most of Birmingham is built up, but 15% of the City is designated as Green Belt..</p> <p>Natural landscape is linked to issues related to biodiversity, health, soil quality, sense of place, culture, sport and recreation, climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>

Sustainability Theme	Key Sustainability Issues
14. Biodiversity and Geodiversity	<p>The City has 2 SSSIs and a number of other designated sites which cover approximately 10% of the City.</p> <p>The West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership has developed a number of area based projects which look at different ways of protecting biodiversity by reducing fragmentation of habitats and species. These areas are known as Biodiversity Enhancement Areas. In such areas biodiversity should improve.</p> <p>There is one Local Nature Reserve designated in order to protect its geodiversity.</p> <p>Biodiversity is linked to issues related to air quality, soil quality, water quality, natural landscape, health).</p> <p>Geodiversity is linked to issues related to water quality, soil quality and natural landscape.</p>
15. Air Quality	<p>Air quality is an issue as the whole City is designated as an Air Quality Management Area(AQMA); the main source pollutant being nitrogen dioxide as a result of pollution from vehicle emissions. There is a strong correlation between traffic congestion and poor air quality. Given the allocation of an AQMA, air quality should improve within the City.</p> <p>Air Quality is linked to issues related to biodiversity, health, sustainable transport reducing the need to travel, climate change mitigation and adaptation).</p>
16. Water Quality	<p>The chemical and biological quality of rivers and waterways in Birmingham is generally poor compared to the West Midlands and England as a whole.</p> <p>Water Quality is linked to issues related to resource use, soil quality, health, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation).</p>
17. Soil Quality	<p>There is very little high quality soil due to the built-up nature of Birmingham; however there are some small areas of Grade 3 agricultural land in the north of the City. The history of land use within the City including landfill sites, extensive manufacturing and transport leads to the potential for land contamination.</p> <p>Soil Quality is linked to issues related to biodiversity, waster quality, natural landscape, and health.</p>
18. Noise	<p>Noise pollution is a problem in some parts of the city, with Birmingham airport and traffic being the principal sources. It is anticipated this trend will continue.</p> <p>Noise is linked to issues related to sustainable transport and housing.</p>
19. Social and Environmental Responsibility	<p>No information has been identified on this topic.</p> <p>Social and Environmental Responsibility is linked to issues related to equality, community involvement, learning and skills, economy and equality, waste reduction and minimisation.</p>
20. Economy and Equality	<p>Birmingham is the major employment centre for the West Midlands Recent trends show an increase in service sector jobs, a continued decline in manufacturing jobs and an increase in unemployment.</p> <p>Birmingham still has a high proportion of economically inactive people e.g. students, people caring full-time for relatives. Unemployment is higher than the national average. The economic activity rate for Black and Minority Ethnic residents is far higher than that for white residents.</p> <p>There is significant disparity in terms of average household income between Birmingham's constituencies.</p> <p>Economy and Equality is linked to issues related to poverty, learning and skills, equality, housing and community involvement.</p>
21. Learning and Skills	<p>The proportion of people in Birmingham with few or no qualifications is above the national average, but improvements are being made in educational achievement. The percentage of Birmingham residents with a NVQ level of 3 or above has been increasing since 2002³.</p> <p>The percentage of residents on Job Seekers Allowance has increased significantly since November 2007. Whether this trend will continue is likely to depend on wider national economic trends.</p> <p>Learning and Skills is linked to issues related to economy and equality, community involvement, equality, poverty and social and environmental responsibility</p>

³ https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/1a/2038431965/subreports/quals_time_series/report.aspx

Sustainability Theme	Key Sustainability Issues
22. Community Involvement	<p>Birmingham experiences very varied election turnouts from constituency to constituency, ranging from a 44.2% in Ladywood, to a 60.4% in Sutton Coldfield. The Sustainable Community Strategy indicates that in 2006, 40% of people agreed that they can influence decisions that affect their local area, an improvement of 22% from 2004.</p> <p>Community Involvement is linked to issues related to economy and equality, learning and skills, poverty, sense of place and housing.</p>
23. Equality	<p>Birmingham has a relatively youthful population composed of people from a wide variety of national, ethnic and religious backgrounds. There are inequalities relating to access to services such as to jobs and health services, which is partly to do with geographical location, but partly to do with social and economic disadvantage. There is generally good accessibility in most places at most times for those households without a car, due to the extensive bus network. Two particular problems have been identified with access for unemployed people to attend job interviews and with access to major NHS hospitals by public transport.</p> <p>Equality is linked to issues related to economy and equality, learning and skills, community involvement, poverty, crime and housing.</p>
24. Poverty	<p>About 40% of Birmingham's residents live in areas that are in the most deprived 10% in England. Concentrations are very high in wards to the east, north and west of the City Centre and also in Tyburn and Kingstanding Wards to the north of the M6 motorway. Unemployment rates are above the national average.</p> <p>Poverty is linked to issues related to health, crime, community involvement, learning and skills and equality.</p>
25. Health	<p>The number of residents feeling in poor health is higher than the national average, and people in Birmingham have generally less healthy lifestyles than the English average. Life expectancy in Birmingham is below the England average.</p> <p>Health is linked to issues related to air quality, water quality, biodiversity, natural landscape, culture, sport and recreation, equality and crime.</p>
26. Crime	<p>Birmingham has the lowest overall crime rate of the eight major English cities. There have been over 5,300 less victims of crime based on figures for April to June 2012, compared to the same period in 2009.</p> <p>Crime is linked to issues related to poverty, equality, learning and skills and housing.</p>
27. Housing	<p>Birmingham faces several issues relating to housing: there are large numbers of homeless people, social housing is in need of updating and relocating, and the number of households is increasing.</p> <p>House prices in Birmingham peaked in January 2008 and sharply declined through to 2010, and now have stabilised. Clearly however sales volumes have declined by over 50% since October 2006. This suggests that the affordability of housing for poorer families and first-time buyers has declined due to other national economic conditions.</p> <p>Housing is linked to issues related to poverty, equality, built and historic environment, natural landscape, sense of place, resource use, energy efficiency and sustainable design, construction and maintenance.</p>
28. Culture/Sport/ Recreation	<p>Birmingham has many strengths in this area and is internationally recognised for sports and exhibitions.</p> <p>The City's popularity amongst international visitors has increased and is now the fourth most popular city in the UK.</p> <p>Culture/Sport/Recreation is linked to issues related to health, poverty, community involvement, biodiversity, natural landscape, sense of place and efficient use of land.</p>

Sustainability Objectives

A range of SA objectives were developed in light of the baseline data and key sustainability issues identified for the City. These can be used to indicate the outcomes that the Birmingham Plan should be seeking to achieve, and to check whether the Plan objectives, policies and proposals are the most sustainable.

Topic	SA Objective
Resource Use.	1. Use natural resources such as water and minerals efficiently.
Sustainable design, construction and maintenance.	2. Promote and ensure high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design, construction and maintenance of buildings, where possible exceeding the requirements of the Building Regulations.
Renewable Energy.	3. Encourage development of alternative and renewable resources.
Energy Efficiency.	4. Reduce overall energy use through energy efficiency.
Sustainable Transport.	5. Increase use of public transport, cycling and walking as a proportion of total travel and ensure development is primarily focused in the major urban areas, making efficient use of existing physical transport infrastructure.
Reduce the need to travel.	6. Ensure development reduces the need to travel.
Waste Reduction and Minimisation.	7. Encourage and enable waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery.
Efficient use of land.	8. Encourage land use and development that optimises the use of previously developed land and buildings.
Reduce climate change.	9. Minimise Birmingham's contribution to the causes of climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources.
Manage Climate Change.	10. Implement a managed response to the unavoidable impacts of climate change, ensuring that the design and planning process takes into account predicted changes in Birmingham's climate including flood risk.
Sense of Place.	11. Encourage land use and development that creates and sustains well-designed, high quality built environments that incorporate multi-functional Green Infrastructure.
Built and Historic Environment.	12. Value, protect, enhance and restore Birmingham's built and historic environment and landscape.
Natural Landscape.	13. Value, protect, enhance and restore Birmingham's natural landscape.
Biodiversity.	14. Value, protect, manage, restore and re-create local biodiversity and geodiversity.
Air Quality.	15. Minimise air pollution levels and create good quality air.
Water Quality.	16. Minimise water pollution levels and create good quality water.
Soil Quality.	17. Minimise soil pollution levels and create good quality soil.
Noise.	18. Minimise noise pollution levels.
Social and Environmental Responsibility.	19. Encourage corporate social and environmental responsibility, with local organisations and agencies leading by example.

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List of Abbreviations

BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DPD	Development Plan Document
EFW	Energy from Waste
EINA	Equalities Impacts Needs Assessment
LDF	Local Development Framework
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
NHS	National Health Service
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UDP	Unitary Development Plan
UK	United Kingdom

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

AMEC was appointed in September 2012 to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Birmingham City Council's Core Strategy Development Plan Document (CSDPD). This will form an important part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) for Birmingham which provides the statutory planning framework to guide Birmingham's development into the future.

1.2 Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is one of the core principles of planning. The general thrust of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is aimed at contributing towards sustainable development through the planning system. There is a presumption in favour of sustainable development "*which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking.*" There are three dimensions as to how the government aims to achieve sustainable development which gives rise to the need for the planning system to perform in a number of roles. The three roles, as set out in the NPPF, are as follows:

- ***“Economic role*** - *contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;*
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- ***Environmental role*** – *contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.*⁴

The NPPF makes reference to the UK Sustainability Strategy *Securing the Future*⁵ which sets out the five 'guiding principles' of sustainable development. They are as follows:

- Living within the Environmental Limits;
- Ensuring a Strong Health and Just Society;

⁴ Communities and Local Government (2012) **National Planning Policy Framework** p. 2

⁵ Defra (2005) **Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy**

- Achieving a Sustainable Economy;
- Promoting Good Governance; and
- Using Sound Science Responsibly.

The Birmingham Core Strategy should be based on these sustainable development principles.

1.3 Requirement for SA and SEA

SEA is required by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the ‘SEA Regulations’) which in turn is derived from the European Directive 2001/42/EC⁶ (known as the SEA Directive). The SEA Regulations require the assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant environmental effects. Development Plan Documents are considered to have significant environmental effects, and therefore require SEA.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004⁷ requires the SA for Development Plan Documents, Regional Spatial Strategies, and Supplementary Planning Documents. This requires the assessment of the sustainability of the proposals in the document in question. The Birmingham Core Strategy is a Development Plan Document, and thus requires SA.

1.4 Approach to the SA incorporating SEA of the Birmingham Core Strategy DPD

Government guidance set out in paragraph 165 of the NPPF states that:

“A sustainability appraisal which meets the requirements of the European Directive on strategic environmental assessment should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors.”

This approach is proposed for the Birmingham Core Strategy DPD. Throughout this document, where reference is made to SA, it denotes SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive. The SA has been carried out taking account of *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005)*⁸ which provides guidance on SEA in the UK from the former ODPM and devolved administrations.

SAs are an effective way to ensure that sustainable development principles are taken into account during the plan-making process. By assessing the plan policies against a broad range of SA objectives, the appraisal process

⁶ European Parliament (2001) Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

⁷ British Government (2004) The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

⁸ ODPM (2005) *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment: Practical guidance on applying European Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”*

exposes sustainability strengths and weaknesses of the plan, which can help to develop recommendations for its improvement. As well as helping to enhance the plan, the appraisal process also provides a basis for informed discussion between stakeholders around a shared set of objectives.

1.5 The Staged Process of SA

The publication of the NPPF means that PPS12 has been cancelled. DCLG are reviewing all their planning guidance, including the CLG Plan Making Manual, but until it is officially withdrawn or revised, it remains extant. The sustainability appraisal guidance contained within the CLG Plan Making Manual replaces the Development Plan Document component of the Sustainability Appraisal of Local Development Document. There are five main stages of SA, as identified in the Department for Communities and Local Government Plan Making Manual⁹ guidance which is in turn based on the SEA guidance (2005). These are shown in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Incorporating SA within the DPD Process (based on the stages within the CLG Plan Making Manual)

DPD Stage 1: Pre-Production - Evidence Gathering

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope

Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives	To help take account of policies, obligations and issues that affects your area and should be reflected in your plan. Consideration should be given to the relationships between the development plan document and other relevant plans and programmes as well as any relevant environmental protection objectives. Sustainability objectives of neighbouring authorities should also be taken into account.
Collecting baseline information	To provide evidence base for sustainability issues, prediction of effects, and monitoring; to help in the development of SA objectives. Collecting and presenting baseline information provides an opportunity to define key issues for the development plan document and to develop options.
Identifying sustainability issues and appraisal objectives	To help reach an informed view on the sustainability of the plan. Sustainability appraisal objectives, which can be derived from these issues, may be used to check and refine the plan. In particular, they can be used as a basis for testing and comparing the effects of alternative options considered in the plan.
Considering options and alternatives	It is a requirement of the SEA Directive to present the effects of "reasonable alternatives." Developing options should begin from the outset of the development plan document preparation process. It will enable for identification of any adverse effects of the proposals as early as possible. Such effects can therefore be addressed, for example through mitigation measures. Options which are not taken forward can be dropped from consideration as the plan progresses.
Consulting on the scope of the SA	To ensure that the SA covers the likely significant sustainability effects of the plan and provides and fulfils the statutory requirement to consult the SEA consultation bodies and also to consult other stakeholders. It is good practice to work with other stakeholders when considering the scope of the sustainability appraisal. Sustainability appraisal steering groups and scoping workshops can help at this stage.

⁹ CLG Plan Making Manual <http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=109798>

DPD Stage 1: Pre-Production - Evidence Gathering

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

Testing the plan or programme objectives against the SA/SEA objectives	To identify potential synergies or inconsistencies between the objectives of the plan and the SA objectives and help in developing alternatives.
Develop and refine the options for the development plan document	To develop and refine strategic alternatives.
Predict and appraise the significant effects of the options	To predict and evaluate the significant sustainability effects of the plan and alternatives and assist in the refinement of the plan or programme.
Mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial impacts.	To ensure that adverse effects are identified and potential mitigation measures are considered.
Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the development plan document	To detail the means by which the environmental performance of the plan can be assessed

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

Preparing the SA Report	To present the predicted effects of the plan or programme, including alternatives, in a form suitable for public consultation and use by decision-makers.
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Stage D: Consulting on the draft plan and SA Report

Sustainability appraisal report	At publication, the local authority are required to produce and publish the SA Report alongside the draft DPD.
Signposting and options not taken forward	The SA Report should 'signpost' where it provides information required by the SEA Directive.
Consulting the public and Consultation Bodies on the draft plan and the SA Report	To give the public and the Consultation Bodies an opportunity to express their opinions on the findings of the SA Report and to use it as a reference point in commenting on the plan. They can make representations on the soundness of the development plan document and may take into account whether the development plan document is founded on a robust and credible evidence base, justified in that it is the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives, effective and, consistent with national policy. To gather more information through the opinions and concerns of the public.
Assessing significant changes	To ensure that the environmental implications of any significant changes to the draft plan or programme at this stage are assessed and taken into account. Regulation 28 requires a local authority to prepare a summary of the main issues raised at consultation. Regulation 30 requires submission of the sustainability appraisal report and any revisions or supplements to it to the Secretary of State alongside the draft development plan document. A statement must also be provided setting out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who has been consulted throughout plan preparation; • how they have been involved; • a summary of the main issues raised; and • how the main issues have been taken into account as a result of consultation undertaken under Regulation 25.
Making decisions and providing information.	To provide information on how the SA Report and consultees' opinions were taken into account in deciding the final form of the plan to be adopted. (in the form of an SA Statement with the Submission DPD).

DPD Stage 1: Pre-Production - Evidence Gathering

Examination of the DPD – SA

Examination of the DPD and SA submitted by local authority.

The role of the Inspector at examination is to consider the soundness of the development plan document. She/he does this by using the sustainability appraisal as part of the evidence base. There may be circumstances where it appears to the Inspector that the evidence in the sustainability appraisal is insufficient to come to satisfactory conclusions about the soundness of the development plan document. Where the Inspector suggests significant changes in the binding report, she/he will need to be satisfied that sufficient sustainability appraisal material is available to inform the recommendation.

Adoption

DPD Stage 1: Pre-Production – Evidence Gathering

When the plan is adopted

When the plan is adopted (incorporating any changes required by the Inspector), the local authority must issue a statement summarising:

- sustainability considerations - how these have been integrated into the development plan document;
- options and consultation responses - how any received on the development plan document and sustainability appraisal reports (at all stages) have been taken into account;
- alternatives - reasons for of the choice of alternatives in light of other reasonable alternatives considered; and
- monitoring sustainability effects - measures to be taken to monitor the significant sustainability effects of implementing the development plan document (noting that the sustainability appraisal report and any revisions to it at earlier stages should already have documented proposed monitoring arrangements).

Stages E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan

Developing aims and methods for monitoring

Sustainability appraisal requires arrangements to be made for monitoring the significant effects of implementing the adopted development plan document. To track the environmental effects of the plan or programme to show monitoring whether they are as predicted; to help identify adverse effects.

Responding to adverse effects

To prepare for appropriate responses where adverse effects are identified.

1.6 Equalities Impacts Needs Assessment

Birmingham City Council is required to carry out an Equality Impact Needs Assessment (EINA) for all land use plans under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, and in accordance with the Council's own corporate equalities policy. An EINA will be carried out in conjunction with this SA, so that the two processes can complement each other.

1.7 Purpose of this Report

This Scoping Report documents the first main stage (Stage A) of the SA process for the Birmingham Core Strategy DPD. It will assist Birmingham City Council in the development and appraisal of the Birmingham Core Strategy DPD, and enable the performance of the policies to be monitored against the existing baseline conditions. The Scoping Report is structured in the following way:

Section 2: Links with other Relevant Plans and Programmes - This section outlines the review of relevant international, national, regional and local documents to assist in identifying the key sustainability issues and developing the sustainability objectives.

Section 3: Key Sustainability Issues for Birmingham - This section sets out relevant baseline information for Birmingham as well as identifying and describing the key sustainability issues.

Section 4: Development of the SA Objectives - This section sets out the proposed SA objectives, appraisal questions and the relevant indicators.

Section 5: The SA Framework - This section sets out the proposed SA framework and describes how the framework will be used to assess policies.

Section 6: Conclusion - This section provides an explanation of the subsequent stages of SA. It also provides a quality assurance checklist.

1.8 Consultation on the Scoping Report

Previous Scoping Report (2006 and 2010) was sent to a number of organisations for consultation, including the statutory environmental consultees under the SEA Regulations, which are: the Environment Agency, Natural England, and English Heritage. Comments received were considered and the scope and levels of information provided within this document amended, as appropriate.

2. Links with other Plans and Programmes

The purpose of reviewing plans and programmes as part of the SA is to ensure that the relationship with these other documents is fully explored and to ensure that the relevant environmental protection and sustainability objectives are taken on board throughout the SA and plan-making process. Reviewing plans and programmes can also provide appropriate information on the baseline for the plan area and the key sustainability issues.

The plans and programmes selected as relevant are listed in Table 2.1. A review of many of these documents can be found in the SA of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy¹⁰ and an SA of the Phase 3 Revision Scoping Study¹¹. The review of these documents has not been repeated in this SA, but any relevant additional plans and programmes have been reviewed, and local plans and programmes have been added. Appendix A contains the review of these documents.

The review identifies objectives and targets which will have implications for the SA and illustrates how they have been taken on board by the SA. Since the relevant objectives identified in these documents have been integrated within the SA objectives - synergies and inconsistencies will be highlighted during the appraisal process.

Table 2.1 Relevant Plans and Programmes

Plans and Programmes
International
EU (1992) Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC, Habitats Directive)
EU (1996) Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management (96/62/EC, Air Quality Framework Directive)
EU (2000) Directive on Establishing a Framework for Community Action in the Field of Water Policy (2000/60/EC, The Water Framework Directive)
EU (2008) Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (2008/50/EC)
EU (2001) Directive on Electricity Production from Renewable Energy Sources (2001/77/EC)
EU (2005) Clean Air Strategy
EU (2006) Directive on Waste (2006/12/EC, Waste Framework Directive)
EU (2012) European Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (2011/2307 (INI))
UNFCCC (1997) Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFCCC (2009) Copenhagen Accord (Climate Change)
Council of Europe (2006) European Landscape Convention

¹⁰Ursus Consulting Ltd (2006) Sustainability Appraisal of Draft West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2 Revision

¹¹ Ursus Consulting Ltd (2007) Sustainability Appraisal of Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Phase 3 Revision for the West Midlands – Final Scoping Report

Plans and Programmes

Council of Europe (1985) Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe
 EU (1991) Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
 European Commission (1999) The Landfill Directive
 The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (1995)

National

CLG (2005) Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management
 CLG (2012) National Planning Policy Framework
 CLG (2011) The Localism Act
 DECC (2008) UK Climate Change Act 2008
 DECC (2009) UK Renewable Energy Strategy 2009
 CLG (2011) The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment Regulations 2011)
 Defra (2005) UK Sustainable Development Strategy
 Defra (2007) Conserving Biodiversity: The UK Approach (The UK Biodiversity Action Plan)
 Defra (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Volume 2)
 Defra (2007) Waste Strategy for England 2007
 Department of Health (2003) Tackling Inequalities: A Programme for Action
 HM Government (2010) The Air Quality Standards 2010
 Department of Health (2004) White Paper: Choosing Health.
 Department of Transport (2004) Transport White Paper: The Future of Transport – A Network for 2030
 English Heritage (2008) Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance
 HM Government (2006) Climate Change The UK Programme 2006
 HM Government (2009) Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy
 ODPM (2003) Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future
 DCMS (2001) The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future
 DCMS (2007) Heritage Protection for the 21st Century
 Defra (2002) Working with the Grain of Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for England
 Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England
 Defra (2003) The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations
 Defra (2008) England Biodiversity Strategy: Climate Change Adaptation Principles
 HM Government (2010) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
 Defra (2011) Natural Environment White Paper; The natural choice: securing the value of nature
 Defra (2011) Biodiversity 2020: a Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services
 Defra (2008) Future Water, the Government's Water Strategy for England (Feb 08).
 Defra & HM Government (2011) Water White Paper; Water for Life
 HM Government (2012) Draft Water Bill

Plans and Programmes

Department of Environment and Department of National Heritage (1994) Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment
 Department for Transport & Defra (2003) DTI Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future - Creating a Low Carbon Economy
 DTI Micro Generation Strategy (2006)
 DfES (2002) Education and Skills: Delivering Results, A Strategy to 2006
 DfT (2008) Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS)
 Environment Agency (2008) Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2008-11)
 Environment Agency: Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice (2007)
 Environment Agency (2009) Water for people and the environment - Water resources strategy for England and Wales
 The Contaminated Land (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
 CLG (2010) Five-year housing land supply coverage in England
 CLG (2007) Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable
 Forestry Commission (2005): Trees and Woodlands Nature's Health Service

Regional

Severn Trent (2010) Water Resources Management Plan
 Sustainability West Midlands (2006) Regional Sustainable Development Framework
 Sustainability West Midlands (2011) Local Authority Low Carbon Economy Programme
 The 7 Authorities of the West Midlands Metropolitan Area (2006) West Midlands Local Transport Plan
 Energy West Midlands (2004) West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy
 Environment Agency (2005) A Water Resources Strategy Regional Action Plan for the West Midlands Region
 Forestry Commission (2004) West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework
 The Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (2010)
 West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership (2005) Restoring the Region's Wildlife: Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands

Birmingham

Birmingham City Council (2006) Air Quality Action Plan
 Birmingham City Council (2008) Lighting Places: A lighting strategy for the city centre and local centres of Birmingham
 Birmingham City Council (1997) Nature Conservation Strategy for Birmingham
 Birmingham City Council (2005) Developing Birmingham: An Economic Strategy for the City 2005-2015
 Birmingham City Council (2006) Municipal Waste Management Strategy
 Birmingham City Council (2007) Disability Equality Scheme 2007-2010
 Birmingham City Council (2008) Statement of Community Involvement
 Birmingham City Council (2005) Housing Development Plan
 Birmingham City Council (2007) Gender Equality Scheme 2007-2010
 Birmingham City Council (2007) Lesbian, Gay and Bi-Sexual People Equality Scheme 2007-2010
 Birmingham City Council (2007) Religion and Belief Equality Scheme 2007-2010
 Birmingham City Council (2008) Birmingham Private Sector Housing Strategy 2008+

Plans and Programmes

Birmingham City Council (2004) Archaeology Strategy

Birmingham City Council (2001) Affordable Housing SPD

Birmingham City Council (2007) The Birmingham Prospectus

Birmingham City Council (2011) Birmingham Big City Plan City Centre Masterplan

Birmingham City Council & Bromsgrove District Council(2009) Longbridge Area Action Plan

Birmingham City Council (2012) Aston, Newtown and Lozells Area Action Plan

Birmingham City Council (2006) Access for People with Disabilities SPD

Birmingham City Council (2008) Housing Plan 2008+

Birmingham City Council (2012) Equalities and Integration 2012-2015 Framework (2007) Race Equality Scheme 2007-2010

Birmingham City Council (2008) Strategic Housing Market Assessment

Birmingham City Council & Entec (2010) Affordable Housing Viability Study

Birmingham City Council (2010) Waste Capacity Assessment

Birmingham City Council (Jan 2012) Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Birmingham City Council (April 2012) Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Birmingham City Council (2011) Annual Monitoring Report 2011

UE Associations (2010) Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Birmingham Core Strategy: Screening Report

Birmingham City Council (2008) Mature Suburbs: Guidelines to Control Residential Intensification - Supplementary Planning Document

Birmingham City Council (2008) Cutting CO2 for a Smarter Birmingham Strategic Framework

Birmingham City Council (2006) Community Cohesion Strategy

Birmingham City Council (2008) Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy for Birmingham 2008

Birmingham Strategic Partnership and Birmingham City Council (2008) Birmingham 2026: Our vision for the future: Sustainable Community Strategy

Birmingham City Council, Sport England, Birmingham Sport and Physical Activity Partnership et al [accessed 2012] Sport England Strategy 2012-2017

Birmingham City Council (2008) Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy for Birmingham Second Edition

3. Key Sustainability Issues for Birmingham

3.1 Introduction

An essential part of the SA process is the identification of current baseline conditions and their likely evolution. It is only with a knowledge of existing conditions, and a consideration of their significance, that the issues which a plan or programme should address (in this case the Birmingham Core Strategy DPD) can be identified and its subsequent success or otherwise be monitored.

Evidence to support the issues has been identified from the most recent Birmingham LDF Annual Monitoring Report¹², and the websites/reports of a number of organisations, such as the Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Strategic Partnership, Environment Agency, Natural England, Audit Commission, and Department of Health.

There is a wealth of information available on sustainability issues for Birmingham and the purpose of this report is not to duplicate it unnecessarily, but to ensure that sufficient information exists to inform the appraisal of the policies and to identify key information that may be considered appropriate. It should also identify gaps where they may exist.

3.2 Key Sustainability Issues and Baseline Data

The following sections set out a summary of the baseline environmental, social and economic conditions in Birmingham. The SEA Directive also requires that the evolution of the baseline conditions of the plan area (that would take place without the plan or programme) are identified. This is useful in informing assessments of significance, particularly with regard to the effect that conditions may already be improving or worsening and the rate of such change. Where information on these trends is available it has been included in the following section. The information has been arranged in topic headings that will also be used for the SA objectives (see section 4), but starts by giving a general introduction to Birmingham as a whole. Some information crosses into more than one topic. Where this is the case, the information has been put in the section considered to be of most relevance.

3.2.1 Setting the Scene

Birmingham is at the heart of the West Midlands Region which also contains the city of Coventry and the Black Country city region. It is the major centre for economic activity and is the major contributor to the regional economy. The City has a vibrant city centre, a strong cultural mix and contains many prosperous areas. The continued urban renaissance of Birmingham, as the regional capital, has been crucial to the Region. This period of renaissance has brought about the successful delivery of key infrastructure projects such as the development of extended public transport networks. These have been vital to improving the City's local, regional and national

¹² Birmingham City Council (2012) **Birmingham Local Development Framework: Annual Monitoring Report 2011**

accessibility. The city also has an international airport acting as a key gateway to the region and is well served by the M5, M6 and M40 providing access to a number of key cities across the UK.

3.2.2 Resource Use

There are no active mineral workings in Birmingham, and no extant planning permissions for mineral extraction. This is due to the lack of naturally-occurring minerals in Birmingham for which there is a demand. As a result, Secondary Aggregates are derived from a very wide range of materials that may be used as aggregates. Secondary aggregates include by-product waste, synthetic materials and soft rock used with or without processing. According to the Study¹³, in 2003, about 4.29 million tonnes of recycled aggregate and about 0.65 million tonnes of recycled soil were produced in the West Midlands.

Most of Birmingham is in the area served by Severn Trent Water with a small area to north served by the South Staffordshire Water Company. In 2004 domestic water consumption was 137 litres/head/day¹⁴. This was lower than the national average in 2007/08 of 14 litres/head/day (Audit Commission¹⁵).

The current Water Resources Plan¹⁶, prepared by Severn Trent Water for the Birmingham Water Resource Zone includes the development of four significant new water resources. These developments mean that the growth identified in the Water Resources Plan can be accommodated without the zone going into deficit. This zone requires new water resource developments to keep the zone in surplus. Without the necessary resource development the zone will go into a significant deficit by 2030. New additional water management measures or water resources will be needed to ensure water is available to meet the needs of new housing.

3.2.3 Sustainable Design, Construction and Maintenance

Environmental improvements by the City Council during the late 1980s and early 1990s have improved the overall quality of the environment within the City Centre. There have been notable successes in relation to improving the quality of design and the environment, particularly in the City Centre. This was recognised by the award to the city of the RTPI Silver Jubilee Cup in 2004. Good design continues to be evident in recent and ongoing developments, such as the Birmingham High Performance Centre at the Alexander Stadium, the Attwood Green Area and Brindley Place. However, some areas of the City would benefit from being updated now or in the near future. The housing section includes more detail on construction and maintenance of housing, in particular public sector housing.

A number of developments in Birmingham City Centre have implemented sustainable building strategies. These include a joint venture between the City Council and energy company Utilicom to install a new Combined Heat and

¹³ Communities and Local Government (2007) Survey of Arisings and Use of Alternatives to Primary Aggregates in England, 2005: Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste

¹⁴ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/progress/regional/summaries/16.htm>

¹⁵ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/progress/national/16.htm>

¹⁶ Severn Trent Water (2010) Water Resources Management Plan

Power (CHP) network in the Convention Centre Quarter. CHP increases energy efficiency significantly by reducing the amount of energy lost in transmission, reducing energy waste. Furthermore the Broad Street Network delivers shared heating and cooling to the ICC, NIA, Council House, Town Hall, Rep Theatre, Paradise Circus and Hyatt Regency Hotel. CHP networks are also planned for Attwood Green and Eastside.

Eastside was conceived as a demonstration of sustainable development principles. In addition to the CHP network, renewable energy technology like wind and solar power will be placed on site along with green roofs and sustainable urban drainage systems. Several large building schemes in Birmingham have achieved high BREEAM Buildings and Ecohomes/Code for Sustainable Homes ratings, exemplifying sustainable building practice. Commercial buildings include 19 George Road (Excellent), Calthorpe House (Excellent) and Baskerville House (Excellent). The homes at Attwood Green received Excellent Ecohomes standard.

3.2.4 Renewable Energy

Birmingham imports in the region of 22,800GWhr of energy per year costing the city's population and businesses over £1.5bn, with costs predicted to rise along with fuel prices over the coming years.¹⁷

The Climate Change Strategic Framework¹⁸ identifies that 46% of Birmingham's CO₂ emissions come from industry, 33% from domestic energy and 21% from road transport. The Framework outlines that Birmingham has limited scope for large-scale renewable energy projects; however energy users can support developments elsewhere through their purchasing decisions. Furthermore it is acknowledged in the Annual Monitoring Report¹ that the City Council currently does not monitor the provision of new renewable energy capacity although consideration is being given by the Council to ways of monitoring additional renewable energy capacity installed through new development.

Photovoltaic panels are currently fitted to some buildings as part of the 'Birmingham Energy Savers Scheme'. The total amount installations that this scheme has produced is 468 (October 2011).

The largest renewable energy scheme currently operating in Birmingham is probably the Tyseley Energy from Waste Plant facility which produced a total of over 95,030.50 tonnes of ash between April 2010 and March 2011 and generates 25MWh per annum, from the thermal treatment of waste. A total of 80,241.22 tonnes of bottom ash that was produced was sent for recycling in Castle Bromwich where metals are removed and recycled with the remaining material used within the construction industry. This is substantially short of the target for renewable energy to account for 15% of energy produced by 2020 in the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan Consultation 2007. The city has a number of operational 'Combined Heat and Power' (CHP) facilities, such as Birmingham Children's Hospital and Aston University which are part of an award winning CHP scheme, which are able to generate and supply heat and electricity for local consumption. The connection of Birmingham Children's Hospital to the CHP scheme has allowed for the supply of heat to Lancaster Circus. Developers have also shown an interest in bring forward Anaerobic Digestion (AD) energy generating schemes. As set out in the AMR 2011, the Council will work positively with developers to realise the opportunities that AD hold and emphasise the

¹⁷ Birmingham City Council website 'Renewable Energy'

¹⁸ Birmingham City Council (2009) Cutting CO₂ for a Smarter Birmingham Strategic Framework

potential of AD technology for use within Birmingham City Centre as it is a technology seen by the Government as a sustainable and viable waste management solution which utilises waste as a valuable resource.

3.2.5 Efficient Energy

There are 100,000 dwellings in the city which are more than 80 years old according to the Birmingham Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2000-2005. As a result the construction form is intrinsically energy-poor. Recent developments, such as the Birmingham High Performance Centre at the Alexander Stadium, have incorporated innovative, energy-efficient design. Although they are not referred to as 100% sustainable energy systems, CHP can be a more efficient energy system generating and supplying heat and electricity for local consumption.

Heating is by far the largest domestic use of energy in Birmingham. Space heating accounts for 62% of use, while water heating accounts 22%. This is exacerbated by a large number of homes that do not meet Decent Homes standards, including 49,250 Council-owned homes and an estimated 35,000 private sector dwellings.

Only a very small fraction of Birmingham's building stock is built new each year, so new building standards will take decades to have a significant impact on resource use across the city, making the condition of the existing building stock very important. There are no indicators of the age or quality of the building stock as a whole in Birmingham, but energy use data suggest there are a large number of homes of poor quality that contribute to high energy usage.

The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out a vision for Birmingham in 2026 to become the first sustainable global city in modern Britain. The strategy envisages that in 2026 Birmingham will lead on Climate Change with local energy generation from CHP and cooling schemes will reduce CO₂ emissions. If Birmingham is to become the first sustainable global city it needs to dramatically increase deployment in low carbon energy generation technologies. The UK has signed up to the European Renewable Energy Directive, which sets a target of 15% of all energy generated to be sourced from renewable sources by 2020.

The Climate Change Framework aims that by 2026 Birmingham will provide an improved quality and choice of housing and 'decent' standard for virtually all housing, with efficient heating systems and insulation in line with the best UK cities. Birmingham supports the national commitment that all new homes will be zero carbon by 2016.

3.2.6 Sustainable Transport

Rail and Metro

Birmingham New Street Station is a major rail interchange offering direct services to cities across England, Wales and Scotland. There is also a network of suburban and freight rail services and one light rail line. The Sustainable Community Strategy identifies the major improvements planned for New Street Station and further extensions of the Metro. There are plans to extend the Metro from Snow Hill to Five Ways through the City Centre. Furthermore the Strategy indicates that plans have been announced to extend Birmingham International Airport's runway.

The Midland Metro is a tram line linking Birmingham Snow Hill to Wolverhampton, via West Bromwich, Wednesbury and Bilston. A two mile extension route is planned from Snow Hill, through the City Centre via Upper Bull Street, Corporation Street, Stephenson Street, Pinfold Street, past the Town Hall and on to Broad Street before terminating at Hagley Road.

Road

Birmingham has a complex road network with around 12 major radial roads and ring roads traversing the city. There are also three busy motorways: the M5, M6 and M42, located towards the west, north and east of the city respectively. Although there has been a recent rise in the use of the car, there has been a reduction in average travel speeds. Much of this is due to outward migration of people, which has in turn led to longer car journeys; there have also been a number of out-of-town developments in recent years which have encouraged additional car journeys to be made. Increased congestion has however resulted in lower average vehicle speeds.

Congestion is a significant issue and demand exceeds available capacity at certain times and in some locations, both on road and rail. Congestion has indirect and cumulative effects on the economy, on people's health and well being and on air quality. Congestion can make deliveries less reliable and deter investment. Congestion also affects the wider transport of goods and services via the M5 and M6 and whilst the opening of the M6 Toll has provided an alternative for some trips, there are still significant peak hour demands that require management.

The Highways Agency (HA) Midlands Motorway Box (MMB) Route Management Strategy highlights a number of problems and issues that affect both the HA and the local authority networks. The MMB network caters for a mixture of commuter and long distance strategic traffic, the M5 and M6 form part of the Trans-European Network, with a peak hour period of around 18 hours. The route has a high regularity of junctions, 13 miles of the route is elevated making it difficult to plan and carry out maintenance and the MMB is sensitive to changes in demand and flow when large scale events are held such as those at the National Exhibition Centre (West Midlands Local Transport Plan 2006).

Road Safety is important because of the pain, suffering and costs that accidents cause. Casualties are disproportionately higher in deprived areas. The West Midlands Metropolitan Area is on course to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured by 2010 by 40%, reduce the number of children killed or seriously injured by 50%. This good progress is reflected in the area's designation as a Centre of Excellence for Integrated Transport specialising in road safety.

Bus and Coach

Approximately 85% of all public transport trips in Birmingham are handled by the city's buses. The bus network is operated by a number of companies, with services along the main radial routes providing good coverage to the City Centre. There are priority measures in place on a number of these routes, such as Digbeth High Street, while others are planned. Pedestrianisation limits bus traffic to a few key corridors in the City Centre, which reduces capacity and creates significant environmental problems along these routes.

Coach travel is also important, particularly in providing an inexpensive means of longer distance travel for those on low incomes. The city has a number of on-street coach set down and pick up points around the City Centre. The Brewery Street Lorry and Coach Park has capacity for up to 32 18.5/14m vehicles.

Travel Behaviour

Birmingham has a relatively high percentage of households without a car - 38% compared to the English average of 27%¹⁹. However, despite this fact, just over half of people who both live and work in the City use their car to get to work, only a fifth use the bus, and a tenth walk or work from home¹⁸. In contrast, over three quarters of people commuting into the city use a car, about a tenth use the train, and a further tenth travel by bus. Table 3.1 shows statistics for people travelling to work in Birmingham.

Table 3.1 Means of Travel to Work in Birmingham, 2001 (Census 2001)

Travel to Work - Method	% of those working		
	Live in Birmingham, works outside	Live and work in Birmingham	Work in Birmingham, live outside
Work at/from home	0	9.5	0
Train	2.9	2.4	10.3
Bus	12.8	22.1	10.2
Car	78.3	52.4	75.5
Walk	2.7	10.4	1.2
Other	3.3	3.2	2.8
Total (100%)	79,000	288,000	162,000

Source: ONS 2001 Census

According to the Birmingham Cordon Surveys, the total number of car trips entering Birmingham City Centre during the morning peak hours (07:30-09:30 hrs) has decreased in the past ten years. However, the number of bus trips remained relatively constant with a slight decrease since 2005, while the number of rail trips has increased since 2001.

In 2006/7 some 62.7% of bus users in the West Midlands metropolitan areas were satisfied with services which already exceeds the target of 60% by 2009/10 (West Midlands Local Transport Plan Delivery Report 2006-2008). Bus punctuality²⁰ in 2006/7 was about 65%, marginally below the target. Performance has tended to vary from year to year and from corridor to corridor (West Midlands Local Transport Plan Delivery report 2006-2008). The Transportation and Street Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee set a target of 83% by 2010/11.

¹⁹ Birmingham City Council (2012) Annual Monitoring Report 2011

²⁰ Birmingham City Council (2007) Building Bus Use: A Report from Overview & Scrutiny

3.2.7 Reducing the Need to Travel

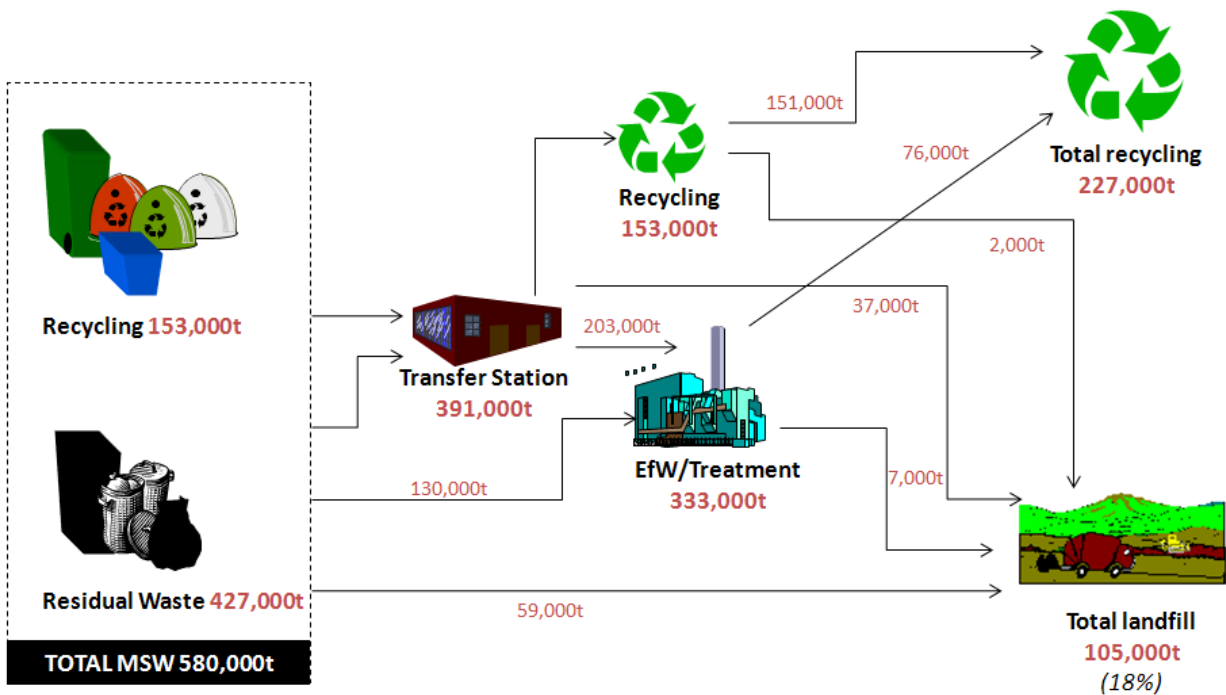
Birmingham draws in workers from across the West Midlands region, and according to the 2001 Census there were about 64,000 more people with a workplace in Birmingham than there were employed residents. Managers, senior officials and professionals make up about 35% of persons commuting into Birmingham, compared with 23% of the City’s working residents. Only one tenth of people who both live and work in the City, work from home.

Transport surveys taken across the West Midlands Metropolitan Area in 2001 show that households with a car make 78% more trips than those without a car being 2.25 and 1.26 trips per household per day respectively (West Midlands Local Transport Plan, 2006).

3.2.8 Waste Reduction and Minimisation

In 2010/11 there was over 580,000 tonnes of municipal waste collected of which 67.3% was used to recover heat and power from the Tysley EfW facility. In 2009/10, 31.78% of the City’s municipal waste was recycled or composted. Municipal waste is a significant part of the waste stream, but only represents a small proportion of the total amount of waste produced in Birmingham (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1 Destination of Birmingham’s Waste Stream



Note: Tonnage figures are rounded to nearest '000 & are based on calendar year 2008 in order to cross match figures with data in the Environment Agency waste data interrogator 2008

Source: http://www.birmingham.org.uk/documents/Birmingham_Total_Waste_Strategy_Final_Report_24.11.10.pdf

Birmingham recycling and composting rates have been improving over the past ten years and the current performance-(for 2010/11) is 32%. This is up by 0.22% on the previous year and represents significant improvement.

The percentage of waste sent to landfill within the City has declined between 2002/03-2009/10 from 23% to 12.28%. According to the Municipal Waste Management Strategy, the amount of household waste generated per person is lower in Birmingham than in other metropolitan authorities, and its rate of growth has also been lower than the national growth. Birmingham City Council recovers energy from the majority of its 'residual' municipal waste through the Tyseley Energy from Waste Plant (EfW)²¹. This reduces reliance on landfill as a disposal option. The Strategy identifies that the City Council has sufficient municipal waste treatment capacity up to 2019.

3.2.9 Efficient Use of Land

A very high proportion (90.3%) of employment development in Birmingham has taken place on previously developed land between 1991 and 2011. For office, manufacturing and warehousing development during the 2010/2011 monitoring year, 100% of development took place on previously developed land (PDL). The high proportion of office development on PDL is partially due to the amount of office development that has taken place in the City Centre. On average from 1991 this has increased slightly from 87% to 89% for the 2011 annual monitoring year.

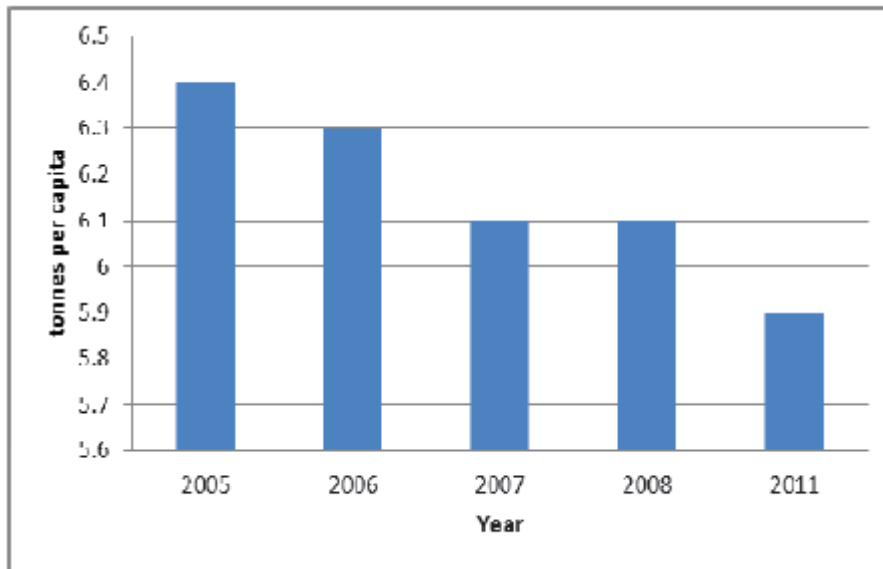
Since 2001/02, the proportion of new housing developed on previously developed land has been high, and generally increasing with the exception of 2010/11 when slightly less housing completions have taken place on PDL. Completions on PDL in 2010/11 exceeded both UDP and RSS targets with no housing completions taking place on Greenfield Land in 2009/10. However, completions on greenfield land increased to 2% during 2010/11 only 89% of dwellings were built on previously developed land in 2008/09.

3.2.10 Reducing Climate Change

The Birmingham Climate Change Framework provides a key target to produce a 60% reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions produced in the City by 2026. Some 46% of Birmingham's CO₂ emissions come from industry, 33% from domestic energy and 21% from road transport. Between 2005 and 2011, there was a 12.5% decrease in per capita carbon emissions (Figure 3.2).

²¹ Birmingham City Council (2006) *Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2006-2026*

Figure 3.2 Change in per capita carbon emissions 2005-2011 for Birmingham



Source: http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/media/resources/Birmingham_Carbon_Monitoring_presentation_Final.pdf

Average annual domestic consumption of electricity in kWh was 4,531 in 2004. This was lower than the national average of 4,759kWh in 2004. Average annual domestic consumption of gas was 20,862kWh in 2004 which is higher than the national average.

3.2.11 Managing Climate Change

Many of Birmingham's rivers and streams are susceptible to flooding (whether due to climate change or otherwise), and the City Council is required to consult the Environment Agency on all planning applications within the floodplain zones defined by the Agency. During 2010/11 the City Council received 58 responses on planning applications from the Environment Agency. Only one of these applications was approved with an outstanding Environment Agency objection, and in this case it was felt that the Agency's concerns could be adequately addressed through conditions.

The Level 1 revised Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was published in January 2012 by the City Council which assesses and maps all known sources of flood risk including fluvial, surface water, sewer, groundwater and impounded water bodies, taking into account future climate change predictions, to be used as an evidence base to locate future development, primarily in low flood risk areas. The Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (April 2012) assesses possible development locations identified in the Strategic Housing Land Assessment in terms of flood zones and the sequential test. The results of the SFRA should be incorporated into the SA process once they become available.

One factor that can help to manage and adapt to the impact of climate change is the development and enhancement of Green Infrastructure (GI). GI is the interconnected network of open spaces and natural areas, such as

greenways, wetlands, parks, forest preserves and native plant vegetation, that can help naturally manage storm water, reduce flooding risk and improve water quality, helping to reduce the City's 'heat island effect'.

3.2.12 Sense of Place

'Sense of place' reflects local distinctiveness and is the outcome of a well designed and built sustainable community. One way in which a 'sense of place' can be developed is through the development and maintenance of quality Green Infrastructure (GI). GI is a term used to refer to the living network of green spaces, water and other environmental features in both urban and rural areas. It is often used in an urban context to cover benefits provided by trees, parks, gardens, road verges, allotments, cemeteries, woodlands, rivers and wetlands²².

GI can provide a number of benefits including:

- increasing property and land values;
- attracting and retaining people ensuring stable populations and labour supply;
- creating a focus for social inclusion, education, training, health and well-being;
- developing landscape character and local distinctiveness, grounded in the principles of Landscape Character Assessment;
- safeguarding and enhancing natural and historic assets; and
- increasing contact between people and nature.

As mentioned above, the maintenance and enhancement of the GI network has a number of benefits and can provide a number of improvements to local areas and help develop areas that convey a sense of place.

Residents of Birmingham are positive about their City; according to the Community Cohesion Strategy²³, opinion polls show that three quarters of people think it is a good place to live. In January 2008, 69% of tourists surveyed felt Birmingham is a good place to visit (Performance Plan 2007/08).

Birmingham is characterised by a large number of well established parks, many of which were created in the 19th century. The City's greenspace is supplemented by a large linear open space network, which is based primarily on the Rivers Cole and Rea and the City's extensive canal network. Birmingham has the benefit of a major regional park; Sutton Park (NNR). The extent of green spaces (excluding areas designated for nature conservation) is shown in Table 3.2. Eight out of the ten Constituencies exceed the UDP public open space standard of 2ha per 1,000 population and the remaining District almost meets the standard. Of new residential developments between 01 April 2010 and 31 March 2011, 89% were within 400m of existing open space.

²² Defra (2011) The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature

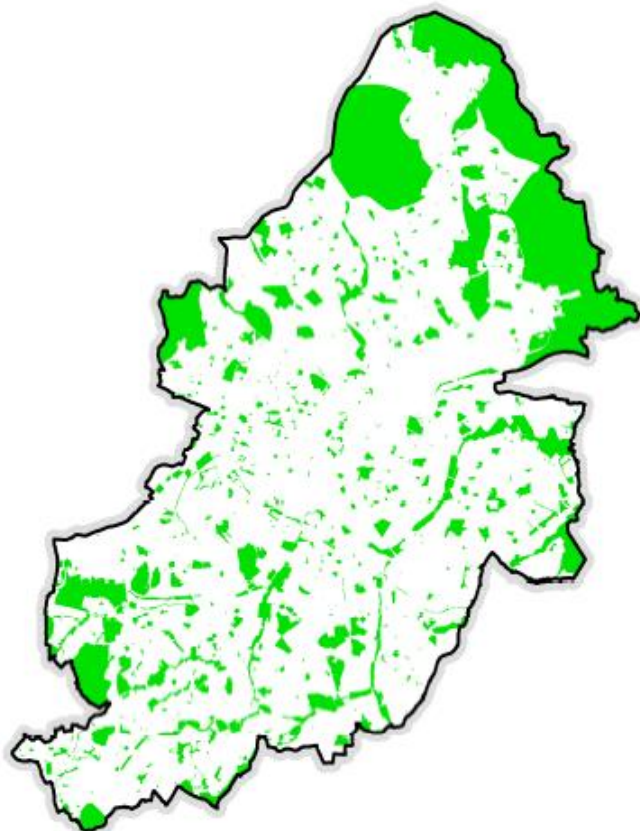
²³ Birmingham City Council (2006) Community Cohesion Strategy

Table 3.2 Green Spaces in Birmingham

Type of Area	Total Area (Hectares)	% of City's Area
Public Open Space	3046.55	11.34
Public Playing Fields	337.206	1.26
Private Playing Fields	281.469	1.05
Private Open Space	68.69	0.26
Educational Playing Fields	166.781	0.62
Golf Courses	657.866	2.46
Statutory Common Land	11.2545	0.04
Allotments (All)	273.26	1.02
Green Belt	4,153.11	15.51

Source: Birmingham City Council, AMR 2011

In April 2009, there were 216 eligible open spaces in Birmingham, and of these, six have 'Green Flag' status. Birmingham's green spaces are mapped in Figure 3.3.

Figure 3.3 Green Spaces in Birmingham


Source: <http://consult.birmingham.gov.uk/portal/ps/csd/csdraft?pointId=d2670232e7333>

Environmental improvements by the City Council during the late 1980s and early 1990s, such as the development of the ICC and Centenary Square, Victoria Square and the pedestrianisation of New Street, have improved the overall quality of the environment within the City Centre. There have been notable successes in relation to improving the quality of design and the environment, particularly in the city centre. This was recognised by the award to the city of the RTPI Silver Jubilee Cup in 2004. Birmingham also won the European City of the Future Award at the European Property Awards in Munich in 2005.

3.2.13 Built and Historic Environment

Birmingham has a wide variety of distinctive historic townscapes, buildings and landscapes. The extent of the City's historic resource is summarised in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3 Birmingham's Historic Built Environment

Type of Resource	Number	Area (Hectares)
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	13	448.64
Statutorily Listed Buildings	1470	-
Locally Listed Buildings	423	-
Conservation Areas	30	1223.62
Registered Parks and Gardens	14	-
		Length (Kilometres)
Canals		57.4

Source: Birmingham City Council, AMR (2011)

There are currently 30 Conservation Areas in Birmingham, which accounts for 4% of the land area of the City including five within the City Centre. Some Conservation Areas, such as the Jewellery Quarter and Bourneville, are unique and are nationally recognised. Birmingham also has nearly 1,500 statutorily listed buildings and 14 registered parks and gardens of special historic interest. The City Council applied to the United National, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation for 'World Heritage Site' status in 2011 for the Jewellery Quarter. The City's Listed Buildings range in date from mediaeval churches and houses to important examples of twentieth century architecture. Birmingham also has an extensive network of historic canals, reflecting its key role during the Industrial Revolution in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The City's archaeological resource is surprisingly varied for such a major urban area. Some remains are recognised as being of national importance, and are protected by scheduling. Known remains range in date from prehistoric earthworks to nineteenth and twentieth century industrial buildings and structures. The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) maintained by the City Council includes details of all known archaeological remains within the City. These now total almost 5,171 records which has increased in size over the last year.

3.2.14 Natural Landscape

Although much of Birmingham is built up, there is a significant amount of open land within the City. Landscape character is a key contributor to regional and local identity, influencing sense of place, shaping the settings of people's lives and providing a critical stimulus to their engagement with the natural environment. The National Character Areas (NCAs) provide a description of landscape character across England²⁴. These are used by Natural England to provide a context for monitoring landscape change through the Countryside Quality Counts (CQC) project²⁵. Birmingham falls within two NCAs, Arden to the south and Cannock Chase and Cank Wood to the north. The part of the City which lies within Arden is almost entirely urbanised. The wider landscape to the south is characterised by a farmed woodland landscape of rolling landform with narrow meandering river valleys.

The National Character Area description relevant to Birmingham states:

“Birmingham has a clearly-defined concentric pattern of development. Much of the landscape is dominated by 19th and 20th century housing, the former in characteristic red brick. Canals, parks, golf courses and the river corridor form the main open spaces, with a substantial parkland area around the University at Edgbaston and some low-density garden suburbs like Bournville. Enclosed within the urban area are fragments of older landscapes like Castle Bromwich Park²⁶.”

The change in landscape character in the period 1998-2003 is described in the CQC assessment as:

“...development pressure continues to be evident throughout the area, with evidence of expansion around many major settlements such as Nuneaton, Coventry, Bromsgrove and Redditch, and expansion of major roads such as the M6 toll⁹.”

The northern part of the city lies within the Cannock Chase and Cank Wood NCA. Relevant extracts from the JCA are set out below:

“Cannock Chase and Cank Wood is a landscape dominated by its history as a former forest and chase and by the presence at its centre of the South Staffordshire Coalfield. It forms an area of higher ground, with the towns and large villages of the Black Country rising out of the lowlands of Shropshire and Staffordshire to the west. In the south it merges with Birmingham and Arden. 9% of the area is woodland, 45% is urban and 9% lies within Cannock Chase AONB. Part of the area lies within the Forest of Mercia (Community Forest) and the Black Country Urban Forest.

To the north of Birmingham and west of West Bromwich there are many more areas of open land, primarily in agricultural use, but with a large historic park at Sutton Park and with fragments of heathland, such as Barr Beacon.

²⁴ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/587130>

²⁵ <http://www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Landscape/CC/cqc.asp>

²⁶ Source: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/jca097-arden_tcm2-21191_tcm6-5424.pdf

There are medium-sized fields, generally with good quality hedgerows, patches of ancient enclosure fields and areas of semi-natural vegetation including acid grassland, pools, fens and fragments of ancient woodland. Narrow, hedged lanes are often present and there is a real feeling of countryside despite the nearness of the built-up area²⁷.

The change in landscape character is characterised in the CQC assessment as:

“High rate of change to urban (JCA ranked 11th nationally); 46% of JCA is within greenbelt. Marked expansion of fringe into peri-urban around Cannock, Lichfield, Burntwood and Norton Canes. Also development of M6 Toll has had major impact. Character of the area continues to be transformed.”

Approximately 15% of Birmingham’s land area is designated as Green Belt which lies within the Cannock Chase and Cank Wood JCA. This includes all the open countryside within the City’s boundary, as well as other areas extending into the City, for example along river valleys. There are also areas of open space within the built-up areas of the City, such as parks and playing fields, nature reserves and allotments.

3.2.15 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

The City has a number of areas that are protected for their nature conservation value. The City’s nature conservation sites include 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs): Sutton Park and Edgbaston Pool. Sutton Park is also designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR). There are 10 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), over 50 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and 661.85ha of Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINCs) covering various ancient woodlands, grasslands, lakes, streams, and other important wildlife habitats or examples of natural landscape. Within the City Centre there are a number of sites of local importance for nature conservation (SLINCs), essentially the canal network and the River Rea. These areas, as well as the linear corridors along main rail and Metro lines are key wildlife corridors.

Table 3.4 shows the total area covered by different types of nature conservation sites.

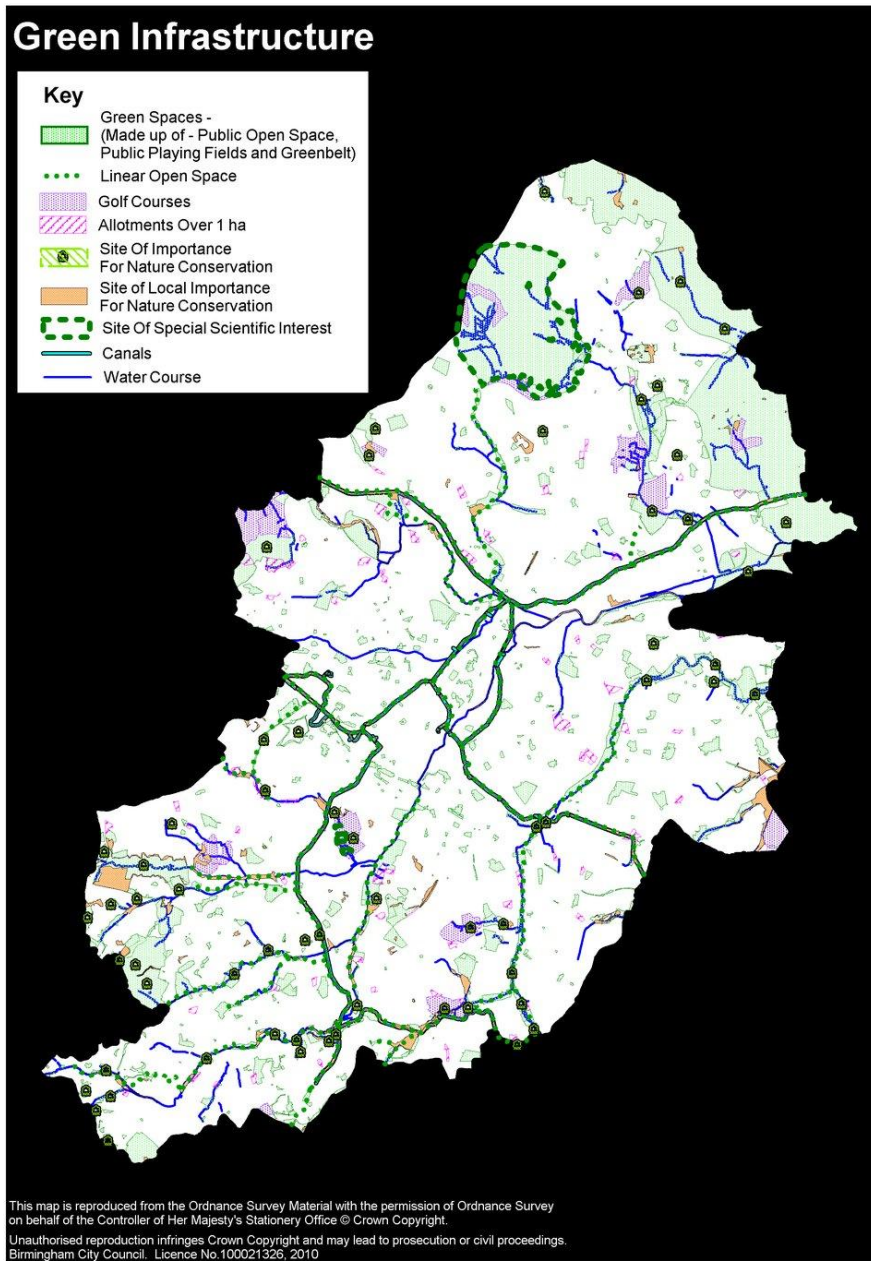
Table 3.4 Birmingham’s Nature Conservation Sites

Type of Area	Total Area (Hectares)	% of City’s Area
SSSIs	893.31	3.33
NNRs	811.73	3.03
LNRs	147.73	0.55
SINCs	820.96	3.07
SLINCs	661.85	2.47

Source: Birmingham City Council, AMR (2011)

²⁷ Source: <http://www.farmsteadstoolkit.co.uk/downloads/jca/JCA%2067.pdf>

Figure 3.4 Birmingham’s Green Infrastructure



Source: <http://consult.birmingham.gov.uk/portal/ps/csd/csdraft?pointId=d2670232e7333>

There has been no change in the overall condition of the City’s two SSSIs - Sutton Park and Edgbaston Pool - during the year to 01 September 2011. Approximately 30% of the area designated as SSSI remains in a favourable condition and the remaining 70% in an unfavourable (recovering) condition.

The West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership has developed a number of area based projects which look at different ways of protecting biodiversity by reducing fragmentation of habitats and species. These areas are known as Biodiversity Enhancement Areas.

The Cannock Chase to Sutton Park Project encompasses an area of approximately 670 square km extending from the edge of Birmingham northwards into Staffordshire. The Project area is characterised by two core areas of semi-natural habitat: Cannock Chase and Sutton Park. These areas support significant amounts of lowland heath habitat along with a range of additional habitats including acidic and neutral grasslands, scrub, woodland and wetlands.

Since the project began a number of developments have been made including;

- research undertaken to identify priorities for habitat restoration and re-creation at a landscape scale,
- engagement with biodiversity stakeholders and with a wider group of land management and land use planning professionals with knowledge of the BEA area using research; and
- development of the project with key partners (RDS, CA and local authorities) has led to integration of BEA biodiversity objectives into existing schemes, plans and policies e.g. Environmental Stewardship Higher Level Scheme, Local Planning Authorities' Local Development Frameworks.

The term geodiversity incorporates all the variety of rocks, minerals and landforms and the processes which have formed these features throughout geological time. There is one Local Nature Reserve designated in order to protect its geodiversity.

3.2.16 Air Quality

The whole of Birmingham was declared as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2003. The main pollutant is nitrogen dioxide, the primary sources of which are transport and industrial combustion processes.

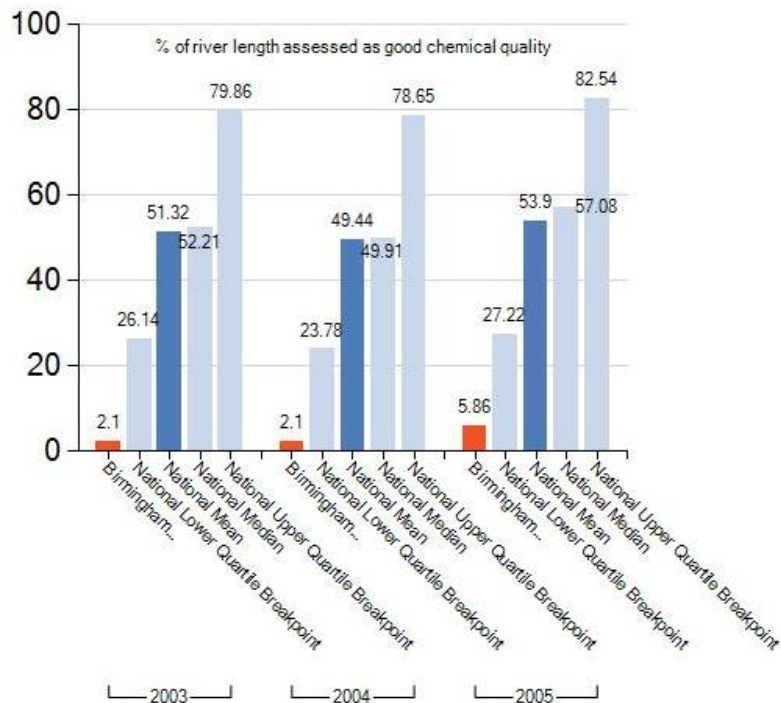
The transportation sector is a major contributor to the emissions of nitrogen oxides across the city, but there has been a slight decrease in the traffic contribution over the last few years according to the Air Quality Action Plan. The City has 47 significant industrial installations from an air pollution perspective, of which 16 are regulated by the Environment Agency under Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC)²⁸.

3.2.17 Water Quality

The Environment Agency monitors the chemical and biological quality of rivers and waterways. A comparison of the % river length with good biological/chemical quality shows that the figures for Birmingham are significantly below the regional and national averages. Tables 3.5 and 3.6 and Figures 3.5 and 3.6 show how this has changed over time.

²⁸ Birmingham City Council (2006) *Air Quality Action Plan*

Figure 3.5 % river length assessed as good chemical quality for Birmingham



Data supplied by Environment Agency, Date saved: 29/01/2008

source: Audit Commission Area Profiles²⁹

Table 3.5 % of River Length Assessed as Good Chemical Quality for Birmingham Compared with West Midlands and England

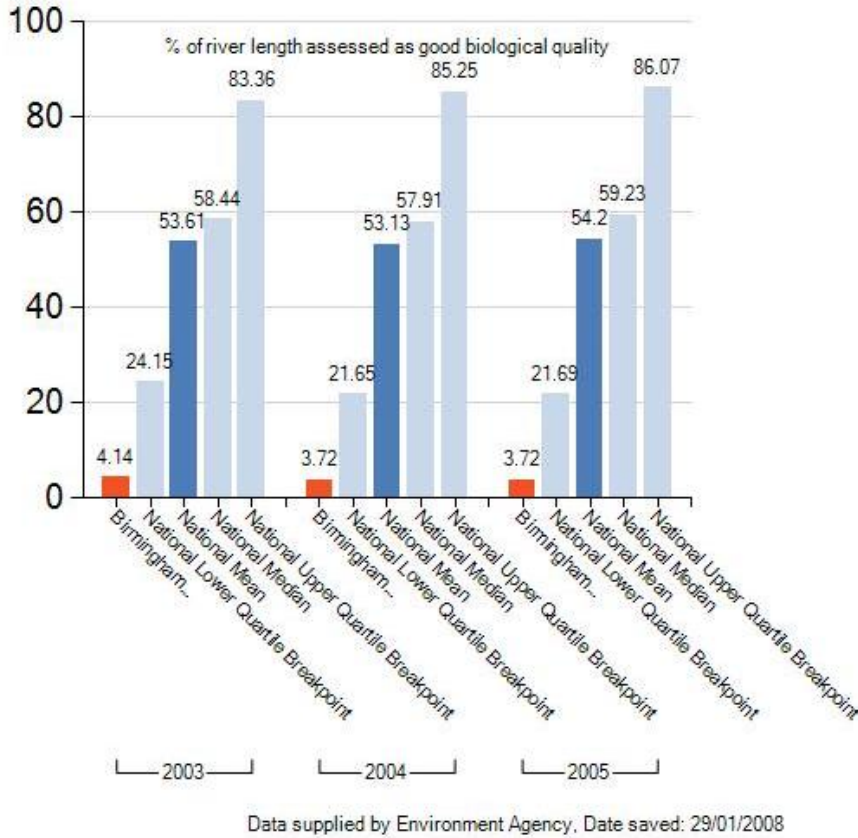
Year	2005	2004	2003	2002
Birmingham	5.86	2.1	2.1	5.21
West Midlands	37.8	37.5	40.5	44.3
England	53.9	49.44	51.32	21.5

Source: Environment Agency

Measured as a percentage of the total length of rivers

²⁹ [http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/\(5octjx45syuwxoebb44o0lif\)/DetailPage.aspx?entity=10004878](http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/(5octjx45syuwxoebb44o0lif)/DetailPage.aspx?entity=10004878)

Figure 3.6 % river length assessed as good biological quality for Birmingham



Source: Audit Commission Area Profiles³⁰

Table 3.6 % of River Length Assessed as Good Biological Quality for Birmingham Compared with West Midlands and England

Year	2005	2004	2003	2002
Birmingham	3.72	3.72	4.14	0
West Midlands	38.2	34.6	31.7	30.1
England	54.2	53.13	53.61	53.07

Source: Environment Agency

Measured as a percentage of the total length of rivers

³⁰ [http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/\(5octjx45syuwxoebb44o0lif\)/DetailPage.aspx?entity=10004877](http://www.areaprofiles.audit-commission.gov.uk/(5octjx45syuwxoebb44o0lif)/DetailPage.aspx?entity=10004877)

3.2.18 Soil Quality

As most of Birmingham is built-up, there is very little soil of a high quality. There is agricultural land situated to north-east of the City at Sutton Coldfield and a lesser amount is to be found at Woodgate Valley to the south-west. In terms of agricultural land classification, almost the whole of Birmingham is classified as Urban and just a small area in the north and north east are classified as Grade 3 agricultural land (MAGIC website, 2009).

There are a number of sites which could be subject to land contamination within Birmingham. This includes a total of 67 former known landfill sites that have been identified in the City since the 1960s although risk and remediation schemes have already been carried out on many of these sites. The majority of identified landfill sites are situated next to housing and some are located on Birmingham's major aquifer. Public open space within the city, except for the 85ha that former landfills, this land is not likely to be affected by contamination³¹.

Historically, Birmingham has had a very broad spectrum of manufacturing industries. Many of these have the potential to leave a legacy of land contamination. As with many industrial cities, energy requirements have changed as new technologies have become available. Birmingham is no exception. The production of energy from coal to produce town gas or electricity has obvious contamination issues and there are several areas of Birmingham where historically such activities have been undertaken. At the heart of the United Kingdom's road and rail network Birmingham has considerable land which may be contaminated due to transportation activities. These include roads, canals, railways and airports.

Waste disposal activities in Birmingham range from complex waste treatment plants dealing with highly hazardous waste to waste transfer stations handling inert building waste and soil. The potential land contamination issues in respect of landfill sites have been considered previously, but all waste disposal activities will be the subject of assessment.

The Council is required under Section 78R of Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to maintain a Public Register of Contaminated Land of which there are 121 entries.

3.2.19 Noise

Levels of noise pollution are problems in certain parts of the city according to the Sustainable Community Strategy³². Recent surveys have shown that one in eight residents are concerned about noise, and the Council receives over 3000 complaints about noise a year. Traffic is one of the principal sources of this noise. Birmingham has pioneered 'noise mapping' to help manage the problem.

³¹ Birmingham City Council (2008) Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy for Birmingham Second Edition

³² Birmingham Strategic Partnership and Birmingham City Council (2008) Birmingham 2026: Our vision for the future: Sustainable Community Strategy.

3.2.20 Social and Environmental Responsibility

Large organisations, whether corporations or local authorities, have the ability to deliver social and environmental benefits to the local community. Businesses in Birmingham engage with the community through the Business in the Community member network. Examples of work in Birmingham include Cadbury's support of Business Action on Homelessness and Birmingham International Airport's skills development programme. The City Council can similarly influence the social and environmental quality of Birmingham by setting procurement and other policies to reward partners that share its goals.

3.2.21 Economy and Equality

Birmingham's economic prosperity was originally built on manufacturing, but changes in the 1970s and 80s led to a massive decline in this sector. However, highly-skilled, specialist manufacturing remains important to the city. Birmingham has since developed a substantial business and financial services sector through the transformation and growth of the City Centre and has become a major employment centre drawing in workers from across the West Midlands. Birmingham is a major centre not only for business conferences the City but also the West Midlands as a whole. It is an economic cluster with a particular focus on the banking, finance and insurance and distribution, hotels and restaurants and public service sectors. Birmingham is now a major centre for business conferences.

Despite declines in manufacturing, Birmingham is still a major employment centre drawing in workers from across the West Midlands region. Table 3.7 shows the number of economically active people within Birmingham. Table 3.8 shows the number of employed residents in Birmingham by Gender and Ethnic Group.

Table 3.7 Economically Active Residents (2012)³³

	Birmingham (numbers)	Birmingham (%)	West Midlands (%)	Great Britain (%)
All People				
Economically active	449,500	65.7	74.3	76.6
In employment	390,200	57.0	67.6	70.3
Employees	337,900	49.4	58.6	60.3
Self employed	48,400	7.0	8.5	9.5
Males				
Economically active	255,100	75.6	81.1	82.8
In employment	220,500	65.2	73.0	75.5
Employees	179,500	53.2	60.1	61.7
Self employed	39,000	11.5	12.4	13.4
Unemployed (model-based)	34,700	13.6	9.7	8.6

³³ <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431965/report.aspx#tabempunemp>

	Birmingham (numbers)	Birmingham (%)	West Midlands (%)	Great Britain (%)
Females				
Economically active	194,400	56.2	67.6	70.4
In employment	169,700	49.1	62.2	65.1
Employees	158,300	45.8	57.0	59.0
Self employed	9,400	2.7	4.7	5.7
Unemployed (model-based)	24,600	12.7	8.0	7.4

Table 3.8 Employed Residents in Birmingham by Gender and Ethnic Group³⁴

	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Male	222,500	69.9	221,100	68.9	220,500	67.9	211,000	64.6	215,800	65.8
Female	176,700	54.8	182,000	56.1	177,600	53.9	180,500	54.3	180,700	52.9
White	282,300	70.3	281,300	70.1	284,500	70.1	268,400	67.1	274,200	65.2
Ethnic Minority	115,200	49	121,400	49.8	113,200	45.7	123,200	47.8	121,600	49.1
Total	399,100	62.3	403,000	62.4	398,000	60.9	391,600	59.4	396,600	59.3

At 49.4%, Birmingham's employed residents (excluding self-employed) is noticeably below the Regional rate of 58.6%. The female rate is much lower than the male rate, and both are lower in Birmingham than the national averages; for women there is a 13.2 point difference from the England rate.

Some 34.3% of Birmingham's population is economically inactive (neither working nor seeking work). This is 10.9 points higher than the national rate. The female rate of 43.8% is 19.4 points higher than the male rate. The West Midlands has one of the highest economic inactivity rates in England. Birmingham in particular has a high unemployment rate and low employment rate. Table 3.9 summarises the total number of economic inactivity for those aged between 16-64 in Birmingham. This shows that the highest proportion of economic inactivity are students of whom account for 34.9% of economic inactivity which is 9.8% higher than the national average of 25.1%. non-white economic inactivity rate is 42%, significantly higher than the white rate of 24%. Both rates are above the England averages of 32% and 20% respectively.

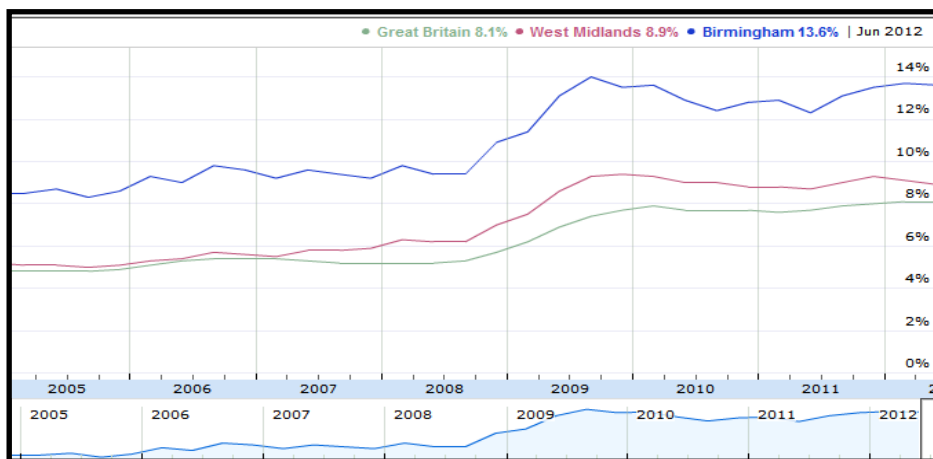
³⁴ ONS

Table 3.9 Economic Inactivity in Birmingham (ONS LFS/APS)

	Birmingham (level)	Birmingham (%)	West Midlands (%)	Great Britain (%)
All People				
Student	80,900	34.9	26.5	25.1
Looking after family/home	61,400	26.5	25.9	24.9
Temporary sick	4,700	2.0	1.9	1.9
Long-term sick	56,600	20.1	21.7	22.2
Discouraged	#	#	0.7	0.9
Retired	22,900	9.9	15.9	16.7
Other	13,700	5.9	7.3	8.4
Total	231,800	34.3	25.7	23.4

Birmingham has seen higher levels of worklessness rate (National Indicator 153) over the years as can be seen from Figure 3.7.

Employment growth in the city as a whole is set to be relatively subdued over the period 2010-2025 as the economy recovers from the recession and adjusts to a decline in public sector employment. Indeed the forecast level of employment in the city in 2025 is only just returning to the levels seen prior to the recession.

Figure 3.7 Economically Active Unemployment Rate 2005-2012


The ONS website provides details of occupational classification which is often used in market research. Table 3.10 shows that the percentage of residents in group 1-3 (higher and intermediate managers, professionals and administrative workers) is lower in Birmingham than in the West Midlands Region and England as a whole.

Table 3.10 Employment by Occupation Jun 2011-Jun 2012

	Birmingham (numbers)	Birmingham (%)	West Midlands (%)	Great Britain (%)
Soc 2010 major group 1-3	141,500	36.8	39.0	43.5
1 Managers and senior officials	30,300	7.8	9.3	10.1
2 Professional occupations	69,100	17.7	17.3	19.1
3 Associate professional & technical	42,000	10.8	12.1	14.0
Soc 2010 major group 4-5	82,200	21.4	22.8	21.9
4 Administrative & secretarial	44,500	11.4	11.2	11.0
5 Skilled trades occupations	37,700	9.7	11.5	10.8
Soc 2010 major group 6-7	75,900	19.8	17.4	17.3
6 Caring, leisure and Other Service occupations	40,900	10.5	9.0	9.1
7 Sales and customer service occupations	35,000	9.0	8.4	8.1
Soc 2010 major group 8-9	84,700	22.0	20.8	17.4
8 Process plant & machine operatives	31,700	8.1	7.9	6.4
9 Elementary occupations	53,000	13.6	12.8	10.9

The estimated average household income for Birmingham's residents is £27,410 per annum. However, there are significant differences between constituencies, with Sutton Coldfield households enjoying an average income that is 50% above those in Ladywood for example. Table 3.11 shows the average household income by Constituency for 2011.

Table 3.11 Estimated Average Household Income by Birmingham Parliamentary Constituency, 2011 (Experian Ltd)

Constituency	Total Households	Average Income (£)
Edgbaston	41,695	30,979
Erdington	41,862	24,657
Hall Green	40,205	29,086
Hodge Hill	40,610	22,184
Ladywood	51,265	21,069
Northfield	43,620	26,457
Perry Barr	39,622	25,038
Selly Oak	42,543	28,085
Sutton Coldfield	40,659	42,455
Yardley	42,139	25,790
Birmingham	424,220	27,410

From 1991 to 2011, 228.95 hectares of employment land was lost to alternative uses, including 116.52ha lost to residential uses. On average nearly 6.1ha of employment land is lost per year to a residential use¹.

The Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP is a partnership of businesses, local authorities and universities which supports private sector growth and job creation. It was set up to strengthen local economies, encourage economic development and enterprise, and improve skills across the region. The City Deal between the Government and the Partnership was announced in July 2012 which consists of a package of measures that are to be implemented to drive economic growth designed to exploit the area's economic assets and address its challenges.³⁵ The first phase of the City Deal is to focus on the delivery of a range of economic benefits for the Greater Birmingham and Solihull area. These include:

- 10,000 additional direct jobs, building on the 40,000 created by the vanguard Enterprise Zone in Birmingham City Centre;
- leveraging in over £15bn of private sector investment over 25 years from £1.5bn of public funding;
- a Single Settlement to cover all economic development funding;
- a world-class skills system which meets the needs of employers and fulfils the expectations of employees;
- 3,560 apprenticeships (AGE) grants to be delivered by March 2013;

³⁵ <http://centrefenterprise.com/about-the-lep/key-projects-and-issue/>

- improvements to employers' perceptions of 'work readiness' year-on-year;
- in excess of 2,800 additional new homes through the use of public assets;
- at least 100% capital return on current market value of public assets;
- an Institute of Translational Medicine to respond to national unmet need, unlock growth potential in the NHS and create a portal for SMEs and international pharmaceutical companies;
- £35m of largely private sector clinical trial investment and £50m of free drugs;
- 15,000 homes refurbished delivering savings in domestic energy usage of 26 ktonnes pa of CO₂ and at least 40 public buildings refurbished delivering savings in energy usage of 10 ktonnes pa of CO₂; and
- retrofitting to the properties of 1,500 people on pension or disability premium and 2,250 people in fuel poverty.

The City Deal comprises five elements: GBS Finance; Skills; Public Assets; Life Sciences and Green Deal, each of which includes specific commitments from the LEP and Government. Progress against these will be monitored to ensure they are delivered.

3.2.22 Learning and Skills

According to the Community Strategy, the City has a substantial education sector. Over the past ten years, the pupils and students of the City's schools and colleges have made major improvement in educational achievement, closing the gap on national averages. The percentage of Birmingham's population achieving NVQ level 3 or above (in 20011) was 43.5%, however this remains below the Region and National average, as is the proportion of the population educated to degree level. As a result, nearly half the high-skilled jobs in Birmingham are currently taken by people who live outside of the City.

With regard to current school provision and achievement levels in Birmingham, population forecasts produced by the University of Manchester (in Table 3.14) show that there will be an increase in the number of children between 0-4 (+10,000 between 2006 and 2026) and 5-10 (+13,500).

There are currently several initiatives taken forward by Birmingham Council and the Learning and Skills Council to improve the educational offer and education delivery in the level of skills in Birmingham. Birmingham is one of only 23 local authorities to be chosen by the government to pilot the Primary Capital Programme, a national scheme that aims to develop primary schools and primary age special schools across the country.

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a national building programme that will give Birmingham the opportunity to rebuild or refurbish secondary schools and secondary special schools over the next decade. The developments will take place over six phases. The priority list for work on the schools is based on the degree of disadvantage in the neighbourhood plus the level of pupil achievement in that school.

Birmingham Academies are a key part of the Transforming Education programme in the city. Along with all the schools in the Building Schools for the Future programme, Birmingham Academies is intended to deliver a fresh

approach to learning and be the key driver in inspiring young people and the community to explore new opportunities. Such academies will support young people to develop skills in construction, engineering, finance and law, health, hospitality, manufacturing, retail and media and arts.

There are numerous programmes on-going to improve further education in Birmingham. These are mainly programmes run by the Learning and Skills Councils such as Train to Gain, Skills Pledge and learning grants. Moreover, the city strategic partnership is to develop a comprehensive approach to training, skills and economic development, and to set up targets for 2012 with a focus on priority wards.

Worklessness and long term unemployment is a key issue for Birmingham's residents and can lead to poor economic performance. Table 3.12 shows the total number of residents currently claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). JSA is payable to people who are available for, and actively seeking work.

Table 3.12 Total JSA Claimants (September 2012)³⁶

	Birmingham (numbers)	Birmingham (%)	West Midlands (%)	Great Britain
All people	50,267	7.5	4.7	3.8
Males	33,095	9.9	6.1	4.9
Females	17,172	5.1	3.3	2.7

3.2.23 Community Involvement

Community involvement can be measured by a number of indicators, including election turnout. Table 3.13 shows the election turnout in Birmingham for the 2010 general election by constituency. It can be seen that the turnout varies dramatically between some of the different constituencies.

Table 3.13 General Election Turnout in Birmingham for the 2010 General Election

Constituency	% Turnout
Sutton Coldfield	67.91
Hall Green	63.63
Selly Oak	62.25
Edgbaston	60.62
Northfield	58.61

³⁶ ONS claimant count with rates and proportions

Constituency	% Turnout
Perry Barr	58.97
Hodge Hill	56.60
Yardley	56.48
Erdington	53.53
Ladywood	48.66

Source: UK Political Information Website 2012

Ladywood constituency had the lowest turnout, which was the third lowest turnout in the UK. Conversely, Sutton Coldfield had the highest turnout, but this was only the 217th highest turnout in the UK.

One important aspect of community involvement is the extent to which people feel involved in the development of their local area. As part of the Government's Big Society, new legislation has been introduced to encourage local people to have more say in how their area looks. Neighbourhood Planning is a process by which communities can come together and prepare land use plans that will guide the type of developments they would wish to see in their area.

The Sustainable Community Strategy indicates that in 2006, 40% of people agreed that they can influence decisions that affect their local area, an improvement of 22% from 2004. Furthermore the Birmingham Community Strategy (Strategic Assessment Update November 2006) found over half those asked felt that people together can influence decisions in their constituency (most apparent in areas of Ladywood and Sparkbrook), compared to just over a quarter who felt that people collectively had little or no influence (most apparent in Perry Barr and Selly Oak).

3.2.24 Equality

Birmingham's residents are from a range of national, ethnic and religious backgrounds, as Birmingham is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in Europe. Table 3.14 summarises the proportion of the main ethnic groups present. Just fewer than 10% are Pakistani, with the next largest groups being Indian and Black Caribbean. Between 1991 and 2001, the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population increased, particularly the Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups. BME groups are mainly concentrated in the inner parts of the City. BME groups vary in terms of housing, the labour market, health and age structure. Most established BME groups are growing through natural change and immigration. Since 2001 the city has attracted migrants from a widening range of countries, including Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Table 3.14 Largest Ethnic Groups in Birmingham and England, 2010

Ethnic Group	% of Population Birmingham	% of Population England
White British	63.3	82.8
Pakistani	9.7	1.9
Indian	5.8	2.7
Black Caribbean	4.0	1.2
White Irish	2.1	1.1
White Other	2.6	3.6
Mixed Groups	3.2	1.8
Bangladeshi	2.5	0.7
All other groups	6.8	4.1

Source: Experimental Estimates, National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2010

Birmingham has a fairly youthful population. Approximately 46% of residents are younger than 30, compared with the national (England) average of 38%³⁷.

Inequalities are reflected in statistics relating to people without a car. Birmingham has a relatively high percentage of households without a car, 38%, compared to the English average of 27%. The percentages without a car are high in the inner parts of the city and in some more peripheral areas. About two thirds of those in social-rented housing live in households without a car, as do nearly half of unemployed people and those not working because of long term sickness or disability. Percentages are particularly high among households containing lone pensioners and lone parents. Percentages are also high among Black, Bangladeshi and White Irish households.

Work undertaken for the West Midlands Local Transport Plan showed that there is generally good accessibility in most places at most times for the 33.7% (2001) of households without a car, due to the extensive bus network. However two particular problems were identified with access for unemployed people to attend job interviews and with access to major NHS hospitals by public transport.

Further detail on equality has been covered in the section on Economy and Equality.

3.2.25 Poverty

According to the Index of Deprivation, in 2010 about 40% of Birmingham's residents lived in areas that were in the most deprived 10% in England. Concentrations are very high in wards to the east, north and west of the City

³⁷ Source: Mid Year Population Estimates, ONS, © Crown Copyright, 2011

Centre and also in the Tyburn and Kingstanding Wards to the north of the M6 motorway. Child poverty in Birmingham is 33.7% which equates to around 82,100 and is higher than the England average of 20.6%³⁸

3.2.26 Health

Information on health for Birmingham can be found in the NHS Health Profile for the area 2011, which gives a snapshot of health in Birmingham. According to the NHS, life expectancy in Birmingham for males is 76.8 years which is 'significantly worse' when compared to an average across England of 78.6 years. Furthermore life expectancy for females is 81.6 years compared to an average across England of 82.6 years.

Adults in Birmingham are less likely than average to follow healthy eating guidelines, but the proportion of obese adults is not vastly different to the England average. A survey undertaken by Sport England³⁹ reveals that there is a low rate of participation in sport and other physical activity in Birmingham compared with other local authorities within the West Midlands.

Teenage pregnancy rates are 'significantly worse' for Birmingham (47.4 per 1,000) than the England average (38.1 per 1,000). Binge drinking is lower than the England average; however hospital stays for alcohol-related harm were 'significantly worse' in Birmingham for 2010/11 with 2235 per 100,000 rate of admission episodes for alcohol attributable conditions compared to the national average of 1895⁴⁰. Rates of sexually transmitted infections are better than the England average. The incidence of malignant melanoma is lower than average (2012). Estimated levels of adult 'healthy eating' and obesity are worse than the England average.

People in routine and manual occupations have poorer health than those in more highly-skilled jobs, and these people are also more likely to smoke. The infant death rate is greater than the England average in this group. As seen in Table 3.10 in the Economy and Equality section, Birmingham has a higher than average number of people working in lower grade jobs such as process plant and machine operatives than in the rest of the West Midlands and England.

As mentioned above in section 3.2.12, well planned GI can give access to high quality green spaces that will provide opportunities for better health and well being.

Further information on health in Birmingham can be found in the Department of Health Birmingham Health Profile 2012⁴¹.

³⁸ Source: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm (2010) [accessed Oct 2012]

³⁹ http://www.sportengland.org/research/active_people_survey/active_people_survey_2/regional_results.aspx

⁴⁰ Public Health Organisations (2011) Hospital stays for alcohol related harm

⁴¹ Department of Health Birmingham Health Profile <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=117129>

3.2.27 Crime

Burglary crime in Birmingham is going down and new figures suggest that crime is lower than it has been for the last three years. There have been over 5,300 less victims of crime based on figures for April to June 2012, compared to the same period in 2009. Recorded crime has been reducing in four policing area across the city and, when compared to 2009 burglary has been reduced by 17% meaning 276 less burglaries, robbery has reduced by 18% meaning 171 less robberies, and vehicle crime has reduced by almost 17% meaning 453 less vehicles stolen or broken into.⁴² However, the rate of violent crime in Birmingham is above the national average, with over 18,000 reported incidents in 2010/11 (Public Health Observatories, 2012). Crime and safety remain a concern of local people, however Birmingham City Council's Performance Plan⁴³ feedback indicates that 95% of Birmingham residents surveyed say they feel safe during the day.

However, there are certain areas in Birmingham which have higher burglary rates than elsewhere in Birmingham, notably Erdington Ward, Lozells in Perry Barr, Bournbrook Student Area in Selly Oak, Frankley and Rubery in Northfield, and Brandwood and Billesley Ward Boundary in Hall Green (Birmingham Community Safety Partnership, 2005). The number of robberies and muggings in Birmingham tends to fluctuate, but there are higher rates in the following four areas than in other areas in Birmingham: Nechells Parkway in Ladywood District, Soho Road Lozells and Aston in Ladywood and Perry Barr Districts; the city centre; Coventry Road on the Ladywood, Bordesley Green and Yardley Border.

3.2.28 Housing

The Office of National Statistics July 2012 estimates Birmingham's population was approximately 1,073,000 which equates to an increase of 88,000 (9%) between 2001 (984,600) and 2011. Birmingham is the only local authority in England and Wales with a population greater than 1 million. The City covers an area of 26,779ha (267.8km²), of which 15,200ha is residential. According to the Housing Development Plan⁴⁴ Birmingham's residents live in 406,000-410,000 households. The city has about 414,000 self-contained properties. In April 2006, there were about 68,000 council and an estimated 40,000 registered social landlord social rented homes. Since 2001, the City's population has grown after experiencing declines between 1991 and 2001 due to net out-migration. The gains reflect a shift in the overall balance of migration from negative to positive, coupled with greater natural increases. The main reason for this has been the high levels of international immigration in recent years. These statistics have implications for housing provision.

⁴² <http://www.saferbirmingham.org.uk/>

⁴³ Source: <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=Policy-and-Delivery%2FPageLayout&cid=1223092613434&pagename=BCC%2FCommon%2FWrapper%2FWrapper>

⁴⁴ Source: <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=Housing%2FPageLayout&cid=1223092723273&pagename=BCC%2FCommon%2FWrapper%2FWrapper>

Table 3.15 shows the change in the number of households in Birmingham, the West Midlands and England between 1991 and 2001.

Table 3.15 Change in Households in Birmingham, the West Midlands Region and England, 2001 and 2011

Area	2001 Households	2011 Households
Birmingham	390,800	410,700
West Midlands Region	2,153,700	2,294,900
England	20,451,400	22,063,400
Index of Change		
Birmingham		+0.95
West Midlands Region		+0.93
England		+0.92

Source: Census of Population, 1991 and 2001, Office of National Statistics

Table 3.15 shows that the number of households in the City increased in the period from 2001 to 2011. Despite the above, the rate of increase in households in Birmingham has been less than the national and regional rates.

The average household size in Birmingham is greater than the national average and is greatest in the West Midlands Region according to the 2011 Census with an average household size of 2.6 people. Birmingham has relatively high proportions of households containing one person or with 5 or more people. Average household size reduced from 2.54 in the period 1991 to 2001, largely as a result of growing numbers of one-person households. However, for the period of 2011 to 2011 the average household size (persons) has increased to 2.56⁴⁵. The City has a relatively low proportion of detached housing, and higher proportions of terraced housing and flats.

According to the 2011 Census, Birmingham was the most densely populated local authority within the West Midlands region with 4,000 people per square kilometre. This is an increase on the 2011 population density of 3,677 people per square kilometre which equates to an increase of 0.9%. The average housing density has decreased from over 74 dwellings in 2009/10 to just over 59 dwellings per hectare. This could be attributed to factors such as the reluctance of the development industry to commit to apartment schemes at the present time.

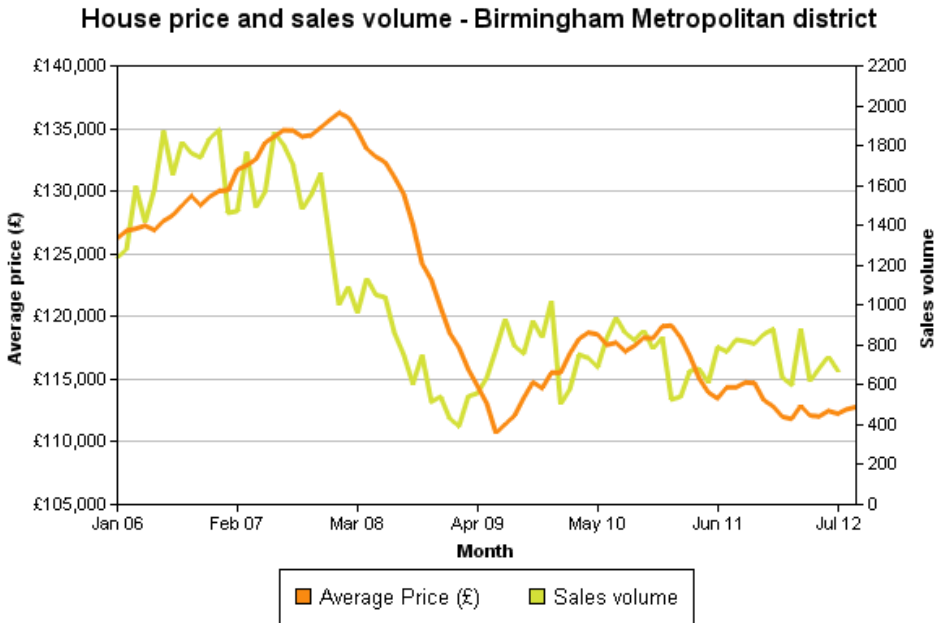
In recent years there have been political concerns over high density suburban development. This has manifested itself in a 'Mature Suburbs: Guidelines to Control Residential Intensification - Supplementary Planning Document' and away from the City Centre this has led to decreasing densities over the past five years.

The mean house price in the City is below the regional average, particularly at the cheaper end of the market. Latest figures from the Land Registry website (October 2012) indicate that the average house price in Birmingham

⁴⁵ Office for National Statistics (24th July 2012) **2011 Census: Population and household estimates for England and Wales – supplementary figures part 2**

is £112,782. Figure 3.8 indicates that house prices in Birmingham peaked in January 2008 and sharply declined through to 2010, and now have stabilised. Clearly however sales volumes have declined by over 50% since October 2006. This suggests that the affordability of housing for poorer families and first-time buyers has declined due to other national economic conditions.

Figure 3.8 House Price and Sales Volume⁴⁶



Birmingham has a relatively high proportion of households renting from the Council. Statistics from the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix 2011 show that within Birmingham the number of local authority rented housing is 64,635 and Registered Social Landlord housing is 40,613 which collectively equates to 24.8% of the total housing supply or the local authority. There is a mismatch between the existing supply of affordable housing and the location of demand. The Birmingham Housing Plan (2010 Review) identifies that the vast majority of Birmingham’s council housing meets the Decent Homes standard. In the private sector, Birmingham has a substantial number of older homes that are in need of repair and modernisation.

Historically, homeless applications in Birmingham have been twice the national average; although they are declining. There were 16,429 applicants for housing on the Local Authority Housing Register as at 1st April 2011 (HSSA 2011). Increasingly, older and disabled people wish to remain in their own homes. This results in strong demand for property adaptations, and an implication of need for to build homes to ‘lifetime’ standards. There were 8367 referrals for assistance from the City Council in 2010/11.

Birmingham still manages its own stock and, notwithstanding Right to Buy, there remain very significant areas of predominantly local authority housing. These areas are however clustered and there are indeed significant pockets

⁴⁶ Land Registry (2012) <http://www.landregistry.gov.uk/public/house-prices-and-sales/search-the-index>

of the City (e.g. Edgbaston and Sutton) where affordable housing is in lesser supply and average houses prices are the highest in the City.

Concerns to locate new populations away from areas of poorest air quality will be limited by land supply and the understandable desire to protect the most useful employment areas. In the short term, land around the City Centre is available although the market will likely need to alter its response (and accept lower returns) to stimulate interest.

3.2.29 Culture/Sport/Recreation

Birmingham is internationally known for sports and exhibitions, with well-known venues including the National Indoor Arena and the National Exhibition Centre. Developments in arts, sports and leisure have played a key part in the City's renaissance over the past twenty years. Birmingham has many strengths, including world-class performance, arts, sports and exhibition facilities, and internationally recognised companies of cultural excellence. Many of these facilities are located in the City Centre, including the International Convention Centre; Birmingham Symphony Hall, home of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the National Indoor Arena, a major concert and sporting venue; Birmingham Hippodrome; Birmingham Royal Ballet and Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. These are complemented by smaller venues such as the IKON Gallery, Jam House and Electric Cinema.

The proportion of leisure development that has taken place in centres has varied considerably year on year, and there appears to be no clear trend or pattern. This is probably in part due to the fact that there are various types of leisure development and some (e.g. sports facilities associated with playing fields or pitches), would not necessarily be expected to be located in centres. The relatively high proportion of out-of-centre leisure development overall since 1991 (61%) is skewed by a small number of very large developments, such as 'Star City' (Nechells), Birmingham Great Park and Longbridge which were committed before the current national planning policy guidance came into effect. There has also been a significant amount of leisure development based around existing sports facilities in out-of-centre locations. During 2010/11 88% was built out-of-centre including an indoor sports arena at the Tenby building, Great King Street (Aston). Also out-of-centre, but under construction included the erection of a 5,000 seat stand at the Alexander Stadium in Perry Barr.

Investment in new hotels continues e.g. the Radisson and Etap. Other recent leisure developments in the City Centre include Millennium Point and the Five Ways Leisure complex. A significant amount of leisure development that has taken place in Birmingham since 1991 has been tourism related, for example, the National Sea Life Centre and Millennium Point. The number of overseas residents to the City has increased from 520,000 in 2000, to 700,000 in 2011, which has remained constant since 2007⁴⁷. Birmingham is now the fourth most popular destination in the UK among overseas residents after London, Edinburgh and Manchester.

Culture and leisure facilities both attract people to Birmingham and serve local residents. According to the Community Strategy, surveys show that 45% of Birmingham residents had been to the theatre or a concert in the city in the last year, while 36% had visited a museum or gallery.

⁴⁷ Source: http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp29904_274310.pdf

3.3 Summary of Key Sustainability Issues and Inter-relationships for Birmingham

Sustainability Theme	Key Sustainability Issues
1. Resource Use	<p>New additional water management measures or water resources needed to ensure there is sufficient water for new housing proposed in the current and revised Regional Spatial Strategy.</p> <p>Resource Use is linked to issues related to water quality.</p>
2. Sustainable Design, Construction and Maintenance	<p>There are several examples of good design in Birmingham, but more could be done in the future to regenerate certain parts of the City.</p> <p>Sustainable Design, Construction and Maintenance is linked to issues related to energy efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation and housing.</p>
3. Renewable Energy	<p>Use of renewable energy could be significantly improved.</p> <p>Renewable Energy is linked to issues related to climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>
4. Energy Efficiency	<p>Recent developments have shown evidence of energy efficiency, but the large number of old properties in the City will need improving to make them more energy efficient, building on current initiatives.</p> <p>Energy Efficiency is linked to issues related to renewable energy, sustainable design construction and maintenance, housing and social and environmental responsibility.</p>
5. Sustainable Transport	<p>Although the city has good public transport infrastructure, it needs expanding and upgrading to help minimise the high level of car use in Birmingham. A commitment is set out to achieve this. Emphasis will be placed on 'smarter travel', discouraging unnecessary journeys and encouraging people to use public transport. Congestion is a significant issue at certain times on both road and rail.</p> <p>Sustainable Transport is linked to issues related to air quality, reducing the need to travel, health, climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>
6. Reducing the Need to Travel	<p>A very small proportion of people who work and live in the city (one tenth) work from home and therefore avoid travelling to work. There is little evidence of people being actively encouraged to work from home. More emphasis needs to be placed on 'smarter travel', discouraging unnecessary journeys and encouraging people to use public transport.</p> <p>Reducing the need to travel is linked to issues related to sustainable transport, air quality, health, climate change mitigation and adaptation and noise.</p>
7. Waste Reduction and Minimisation	<p>Landfill diversion rates are increasing in the City, and past targets for recycling have been met.</p> <p>The percentage of waste sent to landfill within the City has declined between 2002/03-2010/11 from 23% to 10.37%. Given European and National targets it is likely this trend will continue.</p> <p>Waste Reduction and Minimisation is linked to issues related to air quality, soil quality, natural landscape and built and historic environment.</p>
8. Efficient Use of Land	<p>Good use is being made of previously developed land as a very high proportion of new housing and office development has taken place on previously developed land.</p> <p>Efficient Use of Land is linked to issues related to soil quality, natural landscape, built and historic environment, biodiversity culture, sport and recreation and sense of place.</p>
9. Reducing Climate Change	<p>Birmingham's residents and businesses emit over 6.6 million tonnes of CO₂ per year. If global emissions are not reduced Birmingham could see average annual temperatures rise by 1.5°C by 2020 and winter rise by 1.3°C and 3.7°C and 2.9°C 4.5°C by 2080.</p> <p>Reducing Climate Change is linked to issues related to sustainable transport, reducing the need to travel, air quality, biodiversity health and natural landscape.</p>
10. Managing Climate Change	<p>Birmingham City Council has a good record of taking on board Environment Agency comments in terms of permitting development in flood risk areas. There is limited information on this objective although it is recognised by the City Council that measures will need to be put in place to manage the unavoidable impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Managing Climate Change is linked to issues related to sustainable transport, reducing the need to travel, air quality, biodiversity health and natural landscape.</p>

Sustainability Theme	Key Sustainability Issues
11. Sense of Place	<p>Birmingham people are positive about their city; according to the Community Cohesion Strategy, opinion polls show that three quarters of people think it is a good place to live. No public open space is currently being lost, and environmental improvements have been made and continue to be made to various parts of the City.</p> <p>Sense of Place is linked to issues related to built and historic environment, natural landscape, housing, health, biodiversity, culture, sport and recreation and crime.</p>
12. Built and Historic Environment	<p>Birmingham has a large amount of land designated as Conservation Areas, some of which are nationally recognised such as the Jewellery Quarter and Bourneville. The City also has an extensive number of archaeological remains Listed Buildings and Registered Parks & Gardens.</p> <p>Built and Historic Environment is linked to issues related to sense of place, housing, sustainable design, construction and maintenance, crime and poverty.</p>
13. Natural Landscape	<p>Although much of Birmingham is built up, there is a significant amount of open land within the City including areas of agricultural land to the north east and south west of the City. The City falls within the National Character Areas (NCAs) of Arden to the south and Cannock Chase and Cank Wood to the north. The assessment of these areas for the Countryside Quality Counts project for Natural England indicates that they are subject to a high rate of change. Most of Birmingham is built up, but 15% of the City is designated as Green Belt..</p> <p>Natural landscape is linked to issues related to biodiversity, health, soil quality, sense of place, culture, sport and recreation, climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>
14. Biodiversity and Geodiversity	<p>The City has 2 SSSIs and a number of other designated sites which cover approximately 10% of the City.</p> <p>The West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership has developed a number of area based projects which look at different ways of protecting biodiversity by reducing fragmentation of habitats and species. These areas are known as Biodiversity Enhancement Areas. In such areas biodiversity should improve.</p> <p>There is one Local Nature Reserve designated in order to protect its geodiversity.</p> <p>Biodiversity is linked to issues related to air quality, soil quality, water quality, natural landscape, health).</p> <p>Geodiversity is linked to issues related to water quality, soil quality and natural landscape.</p>
15. Air Quality	<p>Air quality is an issue as the whole City is designated as an Air Quality Management Area(AQMA); the main source pollutant being nitrogen dioxide as a result of pollution from vehicle emissions. There is a strong correlation between traffic congestion and poor air quality. Given the allocation of an AQMA, air quality should improve within the City.</p> <p>Air Quality is linked to issues related to biodiversity, health, sustainable transport reducing the need to travel, climate change mitigation and adaptation).</p>
16. Water Quality	<p>The chemical and biological quality of rivers and waterways in Birmingham is generally poor compared to the West Midlands and England as a whole.</p> <p>Water Quality is linked to issues related to resource use, soil quality, health, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation).</p>
17. Soil Quality	<p>There is very little high quality soil due to the built-up nature of Birmingham; however there are some small areas of Grade 3 agricultural land in the north of the City. The history of land use within the City including landfill sites, extensive manufacturing and transport leads to the potential for land contamination.</p> <p>Soil Quality is linked to issues related to biodiversity, waster quality, natural landscape, and health.</p>
18. Noise	<p>Noise pollution is a problem in some parts of the city, with Birmingham airport and traffic being the principal sources. It is anticipated this trend will continue.</p> <p>Noise is linked to issues related to sustainable transport and housing.</p>
19. Social and Environmental Responsibility	<p>No information has been identified on this topic.</p> <p>Social and Environmental Responsibility is linked to issues related to equality, community involvement, learning and skills, economy and equality, waste reduction and minimisation.</p>

Sustainability Theme	Key Sustainability Issues
20. Economy and Equality	<p>Birmingham is the major employment centre for the West Midlands Recent trends show an increase in service sector jobs, a continued decline in manufacturing jobs and an increase in unemployment.</p> <p>Birmingham still has a high proportion of economically inactive people e.g. students, people caring full-time for relatives. Unemployment is higher than the national average. The economic activity rate for Black and Minority Ethnic residents is far higher than that for white residents.</p> <p>There is significant disparity in terms of average household income between Birmingham's constituencies.</p> <p>Economy and Equality is linked to issues related to poverty, learning and skills, equality, housing and community involvement.</p>
21. Learning and Skills	<p>The proportion of people in Birmingham with few or no qualifications is above the national average, but improvements are being made in educational achievement. The percentage of Birmingham residents with a NVQ level of 3 or above has been increasing since 2002⁴⁸.</p> <p>The percentage of residents on Job Seekers Allowance has increased significantly since November 2007. Whether this trend will continue is likely to depend on wider national economic trends.</p> <p>Learning and Skills is linked to issues related to economy and equality, community involvement, equality, poverty and social and environmental responsibility</p>
22. Community Involvement	<p>Birmingham experiences very varied election turnouts from constituency to constituency, ranging from a 44.2% in Ladywood, to a 60.4% in Sutton Coldfield. The Sustainable Community Strategy indicates that in 2006, 40% of people agreed that they can influence decisions that affect their local area, an improvement of 22% from 2004.</p> <p>Community Involvement is linked to issues related to economy and equality, learning and skills, poverty, sense of place and housing.</p>
23. Equality	<p>Birmingham has a relatively youthful population composed of people from a wide variety of national, ethnic and religious backgrounds. There are inequalities relating to access to services such as to jobs and health services, which is partly to do with geographical location, but partly to do with social and economic disadvantage. There is generally good accessibility in most places at most times for those households without a car, due to the extensive bus network. Two particular problems have been identified with access for unemployed people to attend job interviews and with access to major NHS hospitals by public transport.</p> <p>Equality is linked to issues related to economy and equality, learning and skills, community involvement, poverty, crime and housing.</p>
24. Poverty	<p>About 40% of Birmingham's residents live in areas that are in the most deprived 10% in England. Concentrations are very high in wards to the east, north and west of the City Centre and also in Tyburn and Kingstanding Wards to the north of the M6 motorway. Unemployment rates are above the national average.</p> <p>Poverty is linked to issues related to health, crime, community involvement, learning and skills and equality.</p>
25. Health	<p>The number of residents feeling in poor health is higher than the national average, and people in Birmingham have generally less healthy lifestyles than the English average. Life expectancy in Birmingham is below the England average.</p> <p>Health is linked to issues related to air quality, water quality, biodiversity, natural landscape, culture, sport and recreation, equality and crime.</p>
26. Crime	<p>Birmingham has the lowest overall crime rate of the eight major English cities. There have been over 5,300 less victims of crime based on figures for April to June 2012, compared to the same period in 2009.</p> <p>Crime is linked to issues related to poverty, equality, learning and skills and housing.</p>
27. Housing	<p>Birmingham faces several issues relating to housing: there are large numbers of homeless people, social housing is in need of updating and relocating, and the number of households is increasing.</p> <p>House prices in Birmingham peaked in January 2008 and sharply declined through to 2010, and now have stabilised. Clearly however sales volumes have declined by over 50% since October 2006. This suggests that the affordability of housing for poorer families and first-time buyers has declined due to other national economic conditions.</p> <p>Housing is linked to issues related to poverty, equality, built and historic environment, natural landscape, sense of place, resource use, energy efficiency and sustainable design, construction and maintenance.</p>

⁴⁸ https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/1a/2038431965/subreports/quals_time_series/report.aspx

Sustainability Theme	Key Sustainability Issues
28. Culture/Sport/Recreation	Birmingham has many strengths in this area and is internationally recognised for sports and exhibitions. The City's popularity amongst international visitors has increased and is now the fourth most popular city in the UK. Culture/Sport/Recreation is linked to issues related to health, poverty, community involvement, biodiversity, natural landscape, sense of place and efficient use of land.

3.4 Limitations of the Information and Assumptions Made

There is a substantial amount of baseline information available for Birmingham and the aim in this report has been not to duplicate unnecessarily, but to ensure that sufficient information exists to inform the Sustainability Appraisal process. For this reason the information presents a summary for the various sustainability topics. Other information is presented in other plans and strategy documents on specific topics which have been prepared by the City Council or other bodies.

There are relatively few data gaps in relation to the sustainability appraisal objectives, however limitations identified are set out in Table 3.16.

Table 3.16 Limitations and Assumptions made

Nature of data limitation	Commentary	Assumptions made
Data on Sustainable Design, Construction and Maintenance, energy Efficiency and Corporate social and environmental responsibility.	No baseline information on this topic has been identified, although there are initiatives in place to encourage measures designed to help meet these objectives. Suggested indicators are however set out in Table 4.2.	None
Geographical coverage.	For a limited number of the topics, including certain transport information and landscape character, information is not available for the City Council area and as a result wider geographical areas have been referred to.	It has been assumed that the overall trends and conclusions reached from this information can be applied to the area within Birmingham City.
Date of data collection.	Available data has been collected at different dates. Up to date data has been used wherever possible. Some of the information is based on the 2001 Census and as such is somewhat dated and may not be representative of current circumstances.	2001 Census data has been used as the basis for helping to identify sustainability issues.

4. Development of the SA Objectives

4.1 SA Objectives and Appraisal Criteria

The SA objectives and appraisal criteria are components of a framework that will be used consistently to appraise the policies arising from the review.

The sustainable development objectives for the West Midlands from the Regional Sustainable Development Framework have been used as a starting point for formulating the SA objectives. The objectives have been slightly altered to be made specifically applicable to the Birmingham Core Strategy SA. Some objectives have been merged to form a single SA objective, but all the key elements from all the regional objectives have been captured in the Birmingham SA objectives or associated criteria. Appendix C sets out how the regional objectives are incorporated into the Birmingham SA objectives.

As well as considering the regional objectives, the production of the SA objectives has also been informed by baseline studies and the evidence base for the Birmingham LDF.

The list of SA objectives can be seen in Table 4.1. In some cases the objectives are supported by appraisal questions. These help to clarify the SA objectives, and ensure that everything from the regional objectives is captured where multiple objectives have been merged. The questions will be used during the assessment process, to help clarify to the assessors what they should be considering.

It is a requirement of the SEA Directive to establish how the significant sustainability effects of implementing the plan will be monitored. Further, Government guidance on SA also requires monitoring to be carried out.

Table 4.1 also lists a series of indicators which could be used to monitor performance of the LDF. Indicators have largely been taken from the indicators already monitored by Birmingham City Council for their Annual Monitoring Report. However, other indicators are also identified from other, readily available sources.

Table 4.1 SA Objectives, Appraisal Criteria, Indicators and Targets

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Indicator	Target	Topic
1. Use natural resources such as water and minerals efficiently.	Does it incorporate energy efficiency measures into new land use and developments, redevelopment and refurbishment?	Production of primary won aggregates (AMR).	<i>No target identified.</i>	Resource Use.
	Does it promote and support resource efficient technologies?	Production of secondary/recycled aggregates (AMR).	<i>No target identified.</i>	
	Does it reward efficient resource use? Will it reduce water consumption?	<i>Water supply</i> Domestic water consumption - litres/head/day.	Reduce the average amount of water used per person in the home is reduced to 130 litres each day by 2030 (Water resources strategy for England and Wales).	
2. Promote and ensure high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design, construction and maintenance of buildings, where possible exceeding the requirements of the Building Regulations.	Does it help reduce dependence on fossil fuels? Will it increase the number of buildings which meet recognised standards for sustainability?	Number of buildings meeting Code for Sustainable homes/BREEAM Standards.	<i>None found.</i>	Sustainable design, construction and maintenance.
3. Encourage development of alternative and renewable resources.	Does it help reduce dependence on fossil fuels?	Renewable energy capacity installed by type (AMR).	<i>No target identified.</i>	Renewable Energy.
	Does it promote and support the development of new high value and low impact technologies, especially resource efficient technologies and environmental technology initiatives? Does it increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable and low carbon sources, including micro generation, CHP, district heating and transportation?	<i>Percentage of energy generated by renewable sources in Birmingham.</i>	Renewable generation equivalent to 5% of electricity consumption by 2010 and 10% by 2020. The 2010 target is equivalent to: up to 75MW of landfill gas fuelled generators, 100 1.5MW wind turbines and 27 1MW biomass/biogas powered generators (Regional Energy Strategy). 5% of energy to be generated from renewable sources by 2010 and 10% by 2020 (Regional Energy Strategy).	

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Indicator	Target	Topic
			15% of UK energy to come from renewable sources by 2020 (UK Renewable Energy Strategy 2009).	
4. Reduce overall energy use through energy efficiency.	Will It reduce energy consumption?			Energy Efficiency.
5. Increase use of public transport, cycling and walking as a proportion of total travel and ensure development is primarily focused in the major urban areas, making efficient use of existing physical transport infrastructure.	Does it reduce road traffic congestion, pollution and accidents?	Net additional dwellings in the City Centre (AMR).	<i>No target identified.</i>	Sustainable Transport.
	Will it encourage walking and cycling?	Percentage of new residential development within 30 mins public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major shopping centre (AMR).	By 2011, increase by 50% the total population within 30 minutes inter-peak travel time of a main NHS hospital by 'accessible' public transport compared to 2005 (West Midlands Local Transport Plan).	
	Does it help to reduce travel by private car?	Percentage of trips by public transport into Birmingham City Centre (AMR).	<i>No target identified.</i>	
	Does it promote accessibility for disabled people?	Percentage of completed retail, office and leisure development in town centres (AMR).	<i>No target identified.</i>	
		Number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents in Birmingham. Number of children killed or seriously injured in road accidents in Birmingham.	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in Great Britain in road accidents by 40% and the number of children killed or seriously injured by 50% by 2010 compared with the average for 1994-98 (Transport White Paper, The Future of Transport DfT Public Service Agreement target).	
	Crime levels on public transport.	Improve actual and perceived safety while travelling on public transport by 10% by 2010 (West Midlands Local Transport Plan).		

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Indicator	Target	Topic
		Cycling index.	Increase the cycling index by 1% by 2010 (West Midlands Local Transport Plan).	
		Car use in the city centre.	By 2020, reduce car use in the city centre by 20% (compared with 2000 levels) (Local Transport Plan Visions).	
		Car use outside the inner ring road.	By 2020, reduce car use outside the inner ring road by 14% (compared to 2000) levels (Local Transport Plan Visions).	
		Road traffic mileage.	Limit the increase in road traffic mileage to no more than 7% between 2004 and 2010 (West Midlands Local Transport Plan).	
		Number of public transport vehicles accessible to disabled people.	No target identified.	
6. Ensure development reduces the need to travel.	Will it reduce traffic volumes? Will it reduce average journey length?	Increase in road traffic.	No more than a 7% increase in road traffic mileage between 2004 and 2010 (Local Transport Plan).	Reduce the need to travel.
		Work Place Travel Plans.	30% of all employees to work in organisations committed to work place travel plans by 2011.	
		<i>Number of people working from home.</i>	<i>No target identified.</i>	
7. Encourage and enable waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery.	Does it divert resources away from the waste stream, including the use of recycled materials where possible?	Capacity of new waste management facilities by type (AMR).	<i>No target identified.</i>	Waste Reduction and Minimisation.
		- Amount of municipal waste arising, and managed by management type, and percentage each management type	Aim to be better than average, by reducing or exhibiting less growth in household waste relative to the average authority in England, year on year (Municipal Waste Management Strategy).	

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Indicator	Target	Topic
		represents of the waste managed (AMR).	Aim to be consistently better than average, but reducing or exhibiting less growth in household waste relative to the average authority in England (Municipal Waste Management Strategy).	
		<i>Percentage of household waste not re-used, recycled or composted.</i>	Reduce the amount of household waste not re-used, recycled or composted by 29% by 2010 (Waste Strategy 2007).	
		Percentage of household waste sent for recycling.	Reduce the production of waste and increase recycling, including encouraging and promoting community-based recycling and reuse schemes such as Freecycle, Betel and the Ladywood Furniture Project (SCS). Target to recycle over 40% of household waste by 2026 (SCS).	
		Residual household waste per household.	727 tonnes by 2010/11.	
		Percentage of residents satisfied with recycling facilities.	Recycle and/or compost 40% of household waste by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020 (Waste Strategy 2007).	
		<i>Amount of recycling infrastructure.</i>	To develop recycling infrastructure to secure sustainable markets for all collected recyclable materials for the duration of this strategy (to 2026) (Municipal Waste Management Strategy).	
8. Encourage land use and development that optimises the use of previously developed land and buildings.	Will it encourage the efficient use of land and minimise the loss of greenfield land? Will it value and protect the biodiversity/geodiversity (of previously developed land and buildings)?	Percentage of employment land, by type which is on previously developed land (AMR).	<i>No target identified.</i>	Efficient use of land.
		Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land (AMR).	<i>No target identified.</i>	

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Indicator	Target	Topic
		Percentage of new dwellings completed at: (i) less than 30 dwellings per hectare; (ii) between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare; (iii) above 50 dwellings per hectare. (AMR).	<i>No target identified.</i>	
		BV106 New homes on previously developed land.	<i>No target identified.</i>	
		Ecological surveys/supporting information provided to support development on previously developed land and buildings.	<i>100% of planning applications consider biodiversity/geodiversity.</i>	
9. Minimise Birmingham's contribution to the causes of climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources.	Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption?	<i>Carbon dioxide emissions and Greenhouse gas emissions.</i>	Green house gas emission reductions through action in the UK and abroad of at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO2 emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline (UK Climate Change Act).	Reduce climate change.
		<i>Household carbon dioxide emissions.</i>	<i>2026 and ensure it is ready for climate change. (Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS))</i>	

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Indicator	Target	Topic
10. Implement a managed response to the unavoidable impacts of climate change, ensuring that the design and planning process takes into account predicted changes in Birmingham's climate including flood risk.	<p>Will it minimise the risk of flooding from rivers and watercourses to people and property?</p> <p>Will it reduce the risk of damage to property from storm events?</p> <p>Will it protect, enhance and extend green infrastructure resources?</p> <p>Will it address climate change adaptation for biodiversity fragmentation?</p>	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality	<i>No target identified.</i>	Manage Climate Change.
11. Encourage land use and development that creates and sustains well-designed, high quality built environments that incorporate multi-functional Green Infrastructure.	Will it improve the satisfaction of a diverse range people with the neighbourhoods where they live?	<p>Provision of open space:</p> <p>(i) Net loss/gain in amount of public open space and public and private playing fields;</p> <p>(ii) Percentage of new dwelling completions within reasonable walking distance of public open space.</p>	By 2026, 80% of Birmingham residents will be satisfied with parks and open spaces (SCS).	Sense of Place.
		The percentage of sites with unsatisfactory levels of (combined) litter and detritus.	By 2010/11 only 12.15% of sites will be of an unsatisfactory level (Local Area Agreement).	
		Neighbourhood element indicator for percentage of sites with unsatisfactory levels of (combined) litter and detritus.	No target identified.	
		Overall/general satisfaction with local area	By 2010/11 65% of population satisfied with their local area (LAA).	
		<i>Provision of open space: no home should be more than 300m from accessible natural greenspace</i>	100% of planning applications meeting ANGSt	
		<i>Amount of GI created per ha of development.</i>	100% of development provides GI.	

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Indicator	Target	Topic	
12. Value, protect, enhance and restore Birmingham's built and historic environment and landscape.	Will it protect and enhance features of built and historic environment and landscape?	<i>None found.</i>	<i>No target identified.</i>	Built and Historic Environment.	
13. Value, protect, enhance and restore Birmingham's natural landscape.	Will it safeguard and enhance the character of the local landscape and local distinctiveness?	<i>None found.</i>	<i>None found.</i>	Natural Landscape.	
	Will it improve the landscape quality and character of the countryside?	<i>Number of planning applications including a landscape appraisal.</i>	<i>100% of planning applications with a landscape appraisal.</i>		
14. Value, protect, manage, restore and re-create local biodiversity and geodiversity.	<p>Does it use approaches that improve the resilience of natural systems such as linking fragmented habitats where possible?</p> <p>Will it conserve and enhance natural/semi-natural habitats and conserve and enhance species diversity?</p> <p>Will it lead to habitat creation delivering BAP priorities?</p>	Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance, including:	<p>No loss of SSSIs.</p> <p>Maintain current extent of other Priority Habitats.</p> <p>(RSS).</p> <p>Birmingham and Black Country Biodiversity Action Plan Targets (various).</p>	Biodiversity.	
		(i) change in priority habitats and species (by type); and			
		(ii) change in areas designated from their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional or sub-regional significance (AMR).			
		Populations of Wild Birds (Working with the Grain of Nature).			<i>No target identified.</i>
		Condition of SSSIs (Working with the Grain of Nature).			95% the SSSI area in recovering or favourable condition (FC) by 2010 (Government's Public Service Agreement (PSA) target).
Biological quality of rivers (Working with the Grain of Nature).	Specific River Quality Objective Targets (Environment Agency).				
Area of BAP habitats created.	No target.				

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Indicator	Target	Topic
15. Minimise air pollution levels and create good quality air.	Will it improve air quality? Will it reduce CO ₂ emissions?	<i>Number of publicly available long stay parking spaces in the City Centre.</i>	Reduce the number of publicly available long stay parking spaces in the City Centre by 1.5% per year (Air Quality Action Plan)	Air Quality.
		<i>Nitrogen dioxide levels.</i>	By 2011, reduce the average nitrogen dioxide level by 1% in areas where nitrogen dioxide exceeds the national objective compared to 2004/05 (West Midlands LTP).	
16. Minimise water pollution levels and create good quality water.	Will it improve water quality?	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality (AMR).	<i>No target identified.</i>	Water Quality.
		Biological quality of rivers (Working with the Grain of Nature).	Specific River Quality Objective Targets (Environment Agency).	
		<i>Percentage of water bodies classified as being of 'good ecological status'.</i>	All water bodies to reach 'Good Ecological Status' by 2015 (Water Framework Directive).	
17. Minimise soil pollution levels and create good quality soil.	Will it maintain and enhance soil quality? Will it minimise the loss of soils to development?	Area of contaminated land.	No target.	Soil Quality.
18. Minimise noise pollution levels.	Will it cause noise pollution? Are mitigation measures proposed to minimise noise pollution?	<i>Road traffic surveys.</i>	Air and noise pollution are significant problems in certain parts of the city – improving the local environment ranked in the top five challenges facing the city identified in our 2007 annual residents' survey (SCS).	Noise.
19. Encourage corporate social and environmental responsibility, with local organisations and agencies leading by	Does it encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example enabling communities to improve their neighbourhoods? Will it encourage good employee relations	<i>Percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions affecting the local area.</i>	By 2010/11, 44% of people to feel they can influence decisions in their locality (LAA)	Social and Environmental Responsibility.

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Indicator	Target	Topic
example.	and management practices? Will it encourage ethical trading?	Develop support for a thriving third sector.	Third sector Assembly organisation membership to 300 organisations (LAA).	
20. Achieve a strong, stable and sustainable economy and prosperity for the benefit of all of Birmingham's inhabitants.	Does it encourage and support a culture of enterprise and innovation, including social enterprise?	Amount of land developed for employment by type (AMR).	<i>No target identified.</i>	Economy and Equality.
	Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness?	Employment land supply by type (AMR).	<i>No target identified.</i>	
	Will it promote growth in key sectors?	Loss of employment land to other uses (AMR).	<i>No target identified.</i>	
	Will it reduce unemployment, especially amongst disadvantaged groups?	Percentage of small businesses in an area showing employment growth.	Awaiting release of data(LAA).	
		Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods.	By 2010/11, a 3% reduction on 2006/07 baseline (LAA).	
21. Promote investment in future prosperity, including ongoing investment and engagement in learning and skills development.	Does it ensure that Birmingham's workforce is equipped with the skills to access high quality employment opportunities suited to the changing needs of Birmingham's economy whilst recognising the value and contribution of unpaid work?	Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher.	By 2010/11, increase working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher by 9% on 2006 baseline (LAA).	Learning and Skills.
		Working age population qualified to at least Level 4 or higher.	By 2010/11, increase working age population qualified to at least Level 4 or higher by 5% on 2006 baseline (LAA).	
		Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths.	By 2008/9, 49.2% of population to achieve this (LAA). By 2008/09 23% of children in care to achieve this.	
		Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths.	By 2010/11, provide an increase of 9% based on 2006 baseline (LAA).	
		Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths).		

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Indicator	Target	Topic
		Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher.		
22. Enable communities to influence the decisions that affect their neighbourhoods and quality of life.	<p>Does it encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example enabling communities to improve their neighbourhoods?</p> <p>Will it encourage engagement in community activities for example through the establishment of social and cultural facilities that address the needs of equalities groups?</p> <p>Will it increase the ability of people to influence decisions?</p>	<p><i>Percentage of people who feel that they can influence decisions affecting the locality.</i></p> <p>Develop support for a thriving third sector.</p>	<p>By 2010/11, 44% of residents to feel they can influence decisions in their locality (LAA).</p> <p>Third sector Assembly organisation membership to 300 organisations (LAA).</p>	Community Involvement
23. Ensure easy and equitable access to services, facilities and opportunities, including jobs and learning.	<p>Does it promote environmental justice, recognising that deprived areas and disadvantaged communities are more likely to be affected by environmental damage and degradation?</p> <p>Does it ensure that people are not disadvantaged with regard to ethnicity, gender, age, disability, faith, sexuality, background or location?</p>	Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods.	By 2010/11, a 3% reduction on 2006/07 baseline (LAA).	Equality
24. Address poverty and disadvantage, taking into account the particular difficulties of those facing multiple disadvantage.	<p>Does it promote environmental justice, recognising that deprived areas and disadvantaged communities are more likely to be affected by environmental damage and degradation?</p> <p>Does it reduce household poverty, especially the proportion of children living in poor households?</p>	Children in poverty (Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action).	<i>No target identified.</i>	Poverty
25. Improve health and reduce health inequalities by encouraging and enabling healthy active	<p>Does it help provide equitable access to health services?</p> <p>Will it provide sufficient areas of</p>	Consumption of fruit and vegetables (Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action).	<i>No target identified.</i>	Health

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Indicator	Target	Topic
lifestyles and protecting health.	accessible natural greenspace?	Decent homes – council housing and RSLs.	By 2010/11 100% of council homes and RSL accommodation to be considered 'decent' (LAA).	
		Adult participation in sport and active recreation.	By 2010/11, 20.2% of adults to participate in sport and active participation (LAA).	
		- <i>Infant mortality;</i> - <i>Life expectancy at birth.</i>	By 2010 reduce the inequalities in health outcomes by 10% as measured by infant mortality and life expectancy at birth (Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action).	
		<i>Gap between the areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole.</i>	By 2010 reduce by at least 10% the gap between the areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators and the population as a whole (Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action).	
		<i>Gap in mortality between routine and manual groups and the population as a whole.</i>	Starting with children under one year, by 2010 reduce by at least 10% the gap in mortality between routine and manual groups and the population as a whole (Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action).	
		- <i>Number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents in Birmingham.</i> - <i>Number of children killed or seriously injured in road accidents in Birmingham.</i>	Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in Great Britain in road accidents by 40% and the number of children killed or seriously injured by 50% by 2010 compared with the average for 1994-98 (Transport White Paper, The Future of Transport).	
		Number of planning applications meeting ANGSt.	100% of planning applications meeting ANGSt.	
26. Reduce crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour.	Will it reduce crime? Will it reduce the fear of crime amongst all social and cultural groups?	Serious acquisitive crime rate. Reducing arson incidents.	By 2010/11 reduce crime to 23.35 crimes per 1,000 (LAA). By 2010/11 reduce arson incidents to 2,176 (LAA).	Crime

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Indicator	Target	Topic
		Young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training.	By 2010/11 improve to 82.4% (LAA).	
		Serious violent crime rate.	By 2010/11 reduce to every 1.25 crimes per 1,000 (LAA).	
		The number of gun crimes committed in Birmingham.	By 2010/11 0.5 crimes per 1,000 to be gun crimes (LAA).	
27. Provide decent and affordable housing for all, of the right quantity, type, tenure and affordability to meet local needs.	<p>Will it reduce homelessness?</p> <p>Will it increase the range and affordability of housing for all social and cultural I groups?</p> <p>Will it reduce the number of unfit homes?</p>	<p>Housing trajectory showing:</p> <p>(i) net additional dwellings over the previous five year period or since the start of the relevant development plan document period, whichever is longer;</p> <p>(ii) net additional dwellings for the current year;</p> <p>(iii) projected net additional dwellings up to the end of the relevant development plan document or over a ten year period from its adoption, whichever is the longer;</p> <p>(iv) the annual net additional dwelling requirement; and</p> <p>(v) annual average number of net additional dwellings needed to meet overall housing requirements, having regard to previous years' performances (AMR).</p> <p>Affordable housing completions (AMR).</p>	<i>No target identified</i>	Housing
			<i>No target identified.</i>	

SA Objective	Appraisal Questions	Indicator	Target	Topic
		Reduction in vacancies in the existing housing stock (AMR).	<i>No target identified.</i>	
		Number (or proportion) of Lifetime Homes constructed.	<i>No target identified.</i>	
		Number of households living in temporary accommodation.	By 2010/11, the number of households living in temporary accommodation to 420 households (LAA).	
28. Improve opportunities to participate in diverse cultural, sporting and recreational activities.	Will it encourage participation in sport and cultural activities for all the diverse communities in Birmingham?	Percentage of residents satisfied with museums and galleries.	By 2026, 77% of residents to be satisfied with museums and galleries (Community Strategy).	Culture/Sport/Recreation
		Percentage of residents satisfied with library services.	By 2026, 82% of residents to be satisfied with libraries (Community Strategy).	
		Adult participation in sport and active recreation.	By 2010/11, 20.2% of adults to participate in sport and active participation (LAA).	

5. The SA Framework

5.1 Assessing Sustainability Performance

Table 5.1 illustrates a draft of the SA matrix developed to comprehensively meet the requirements of the SA Guidance (including the requirements of the SEA Directive). It contains the SA objectives and appraisal questions presented in section 4. The matrix also includes the timescale of the effect and a commentary. These are briefly explained below:

- **Timing of Effect** - Will the effect manifest itself in the short, medium or the long term? In the context of the Birmingham Core Strategy DPD the short term can be interpreted as being within the first five years of the Plan, the medium term within the lifetime of the Plan, and the longer term beyond this.
- **Commentary** - The commentary text within the matrix and summary text within the report will identify possible mitigation measures, in the form of amendments to policy or inclusion/removal of policy to increase the opportunity for sustainable development. Where a score is indicated as 'uncertain' the commentary should identify ways in which this uncertainty could be reduced, for example, through additional data collection or further consultation with experts.
- **Secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects**, as well as the temporary/permanence and likelihood of the effects are identified within the commentary:
 - Secondary or indirect effects are effects that are not a direct result of the DPD, but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway. Examples of secondary effects are a development that changes a water table and thus affects the ecology of a nearby wetland; and construction of one project that facilitates or attracts other development.
 - Cumulative effects arise, for instance, where several developments each have insignificant effects but together have a significant effect; or where several individual effects of the DPD (e.g. noise dust and visual) have a combined effect.
 - Synergistic effects interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of individual effects. Significant synergistic effects often occur as habitats, resources or human communities get close to capacity. For example, a wildlife habitat can become progressively fragmented with limited effects on a particular species until the last fragmentation makes the areas too small to support the species at all.
 - Temporary effects can occur for example during construction of a development. Whilst these are generally short lived, they may occur over several years with larger development schemes.
- **Geographical effects** will be noted where the effect is felt differentially within, for example different wards of Birmingham, or outside of Birmingham.

Table 5.1 Draft SA Matrix

Policy					
SA Objectives	Appraisal Questions	Timescale			Commentary/Explanation ((to include secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects)
		Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	
1. Use natural resources such as water and minerals efficiently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does it incorporate energy efficiency measures into new land use and developments, redevelopment and refurbishment? - Does it promote and support resource efficient technologies - Does it reward efficient resource use? 	++	++	+	Commentary Temporary/Permanence: Likelihood of effect: Geographical effect:
2. Promote and ensure high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design, construction and maintenance of buildings, where possible exceeding the requirements of the Building Regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does it help reduce dependence on fossil fuels? 	0	-	--	Commentary Temporary/Permanence: Likelihood of effect: Geographical effect:
3.etc.	?	?	?	Etc.....

Each option or policy that comes forward from the Core Strategy DPD will be considered against each of the SA objectives. This will be undertaken by the appraisal team and will be informed by the baseline data and evidence gathered as part of the Scoping Report. It will also be informed by expert judgement from various technical specialists including key stakeholders and consultees.

There will be a number of scores awarded to each policy/option that is assessed. The scores will be chosen from the following shown in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2 Assessment Scores

Score	Description	Symbol
Major Positive Impact	The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective.	++
Minor Positive Impact	The proposed policy contributes to the achievements of the objective but not significantly.	+
Neutral	The proposed policy does not have any effect on the achievements of the objective.	0
Minor Negative Impact	The proposed policy detracts from the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	-
Major Negative Impact	The proposed policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective.	--
No Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed policy and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible.	~
Uncertain	The proposed policy has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependant on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.	?



6. Conclusions and Next Steps

This Scoping Report presents the findings of the initial tasks (Stage A) undertaken for the SA of the Birmingham Plan. It follows closely the advice and guidance provided by the UK Government and has been prepared to meet the requirements outlined within the Quality Assurance Checklist within the ODPM (2005) SA Guidance (see section 6.1).

Comments from consultees will be considered and the information in this report will be amended, as appropriate, in advance of its use during the next stages of the SA process.

The next stage of the SA process (Stage B) involves considering and assessing options for the Birmingham Plan, and then predicting and evaluating the effects of policies of the Birmingham Plan as they emerge. This appraisal will demonstrate the sustainability strengths and weaknesses of the policies reviewed and, based on this appraisal, will consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects. The appraisal process will be reported within the SA Report which will be published for consultation alongside the proposed Submission Birmingham Plan.

6.1 Quality Assurance

The ODPM SA Guidance contains a Quality Assurance checklist to help ensure that the requirements of the SEA Directive are met. Those relevant to this stage have been highlighted in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1 Quality Assurance Checklist

Quality Assurance Checklist	
Objectives and Context	
The plan's purpose and objectives are made clear.	Will be set out in full in the SA Report.
Sustainability issues, including international, national, regional and local objectives are considered in developing objectives and targets.	Section 2 and Appendix A.
SA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate.	Section 4.
Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained.	Section 2 and Appendix A.
Scoping	
The environmental consultation bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the SA Report.	This Scoping Report is to be consulted upon with the statutory environmental consultees and any other relevant consultees for a period of five weeks.
Scoping	
The appraisal focuses on significant issues.	Significant sustainability issues have been identified in this report in section 3. This will assist in focussing on the key issues during the appraisal process.

Quality Assurance Checklist

Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit. These are made clear throughout the report where appropriate.

Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration. These are made clear throughout the Report where appropriate.

Baseline Information

Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan are described. Section 3 and Appendix B.

Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan where practicable. Section 3. Further detail will be provided in the SA Report.

Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained. These are made clear throughout the Report where appropriate.

Appendix A

Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
International		
EU (1992) Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC, Habitats Directive).	The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed on the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance. In applying these measures Member States are required to take account of economic, social and cultural requirements, as well as regional and local characteristics.	Incorporated in SA objective 14.
EU (1996) Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management (96/62/EC, Air Quality Framework Directive).	The Directive ensures that where pollutants exceed certain limit values, Member States take action to reduce pollution down to the limit values. The list of atmospheric pollutants to be considered includes: sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, lead, ozone, benzene, carbon monoxide, poly-aromatic hydrocarbons, cadmium, arsenic, nickel and mercury. Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obtain adequate information on ambient air quality; and • maintain ambient air quality where it is good, and improve air quality where it is bad. 	Incorporated in SA objectives 9 and 15
EU (2000) Directive on Establishing a Framework for Community Action in the Field of Water Policy (2000/60/EC, The Water Framework Directive).	The Directive establishes an integrated approach to protection, improvements and sustainable use of water bodies, introducing a statutory system of analysis and planning based upon the river basin. The Directive imposes a statutory responsibility on Member States to ensure all water bodies meet certain water quality standards. The four main stages of implementation are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environmental and economic assessment ('Characterisation') of river basin districts including identification of pressures and impacts; • environmental monitoring based on river basin district characterisation; • setting of environmental objectives; and • designing and carrying out a programme of measures to achieve these environmental objectives. Targets: <p>All water bodies in all Member States are to reach 'Good Ecological Status' by 2015. However, exactly what constitutes 'Good Ecological Status' has not yet been defined.</p>	Incorporated in SA objective 7.
EU (2001) Directive on Electricity Production from Renewable Energy Sources (2001/77/EC).	The Directive obligates member states to establish a programme to increase the gross consumption of renewable energy based electricity by 2010. Member states are also required to produce a programme for increasing future consumption of renewable energy based electricity. The UK target is for renewables to account for 10% of UK consumption by 2010.	Incorporated in SA objective 3.

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
EU (2005) Clean Air Strategy.	The strategy aims to extend clean air laws into new sectors - agriculture and transport - that were not covered before, targeting five main pollutants including fine-dust particles which are most harmful to human health.	Incorporated in SA objectives 9 and 15.
EU (2008) Directive on Waste (2006/12/EC, Waste Framework Directive).	The directive requires all Member States to take the necessary measures to ensure waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health or causing harm to the environment and includes permitting, registration and inspection requirements. The directive also requires Member States to take appropriate measures to encourage firstly, the prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness and secondly the recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation or any other process with a view to extracting secondary raw materials, or the use of waste as a source of energy. The directive's overarching requirements are supplemented by other directives for specific waste streams.	Incorporated in SA objective 7.
UNFCCC (1997) Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.	The protocol shares the Convention's objective (to achieve stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at safe levels, so that ecosystems can adapt naturally, and food supply is not threatened) but strengthens the convention by committing Countries to legally-binding targets to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.	Incorporated in SA objectives 9, 10 and 15.
UNFCCC (2009) Copenhagen Accord (Climate Change).	<p>The Copenhagen Accord is a treaty that is to take over from the Kyoto Protocol's targets, as of when it expires in 2012, for curbing the growth in greenhouse gas emissions sufficiently to avoid climate change impacts projected by the IPCC. The Copenhagen Accord commits Countries to legally binding targets including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to reduce global emissions so as to hold the increase in global temperature below 2C; • commit developed countries to reducing greenhouse gas emissions; • projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries will be subject to international monitoring if they are internationally funded; • provide developing countries with financial incentives to preserve forests; and • implementation of the Accord to be reviewed in 2015 and an assessment to be made on whether the goal of keeping global temperature rise within 2C needs to be strengthened to 1.5C. 	Incorporated in SA objectives 9, 10 and 15.
Council of Europe (2006) European Landscape Convention	Aims to promote the protection, management and planning of Europe's landscapes, both rural and urban, and to foster European co-operation on landscape issues.	Incorporated in SA objective 11, 12 and 13
Council of Europe (1985) Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe	This convention commits signatories to protect their architectural heritage by means of identifying monuments, buildings and sites to be protected; preventing the disfigurement, dilapidation or demolition of protected properties; providing financial support by the public authorities for maintaining and restoring the architectural heritage on its territory; and supporting scientific research for identifying and analysing the harmful effects of pollution and for defining ways and means to reduce or eradicate these effects.	Incorporated in SA objective 12

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
EU (1991) Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.	<p>The Directive aims to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water discharges and discharges from certain industrial sectors and concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Waste Water; • Mixture of Waste Water; and • Waste Water from Certain Industrial Sectors. <p>There are four main principles: planning, regulation, monitoring, and information and reporting.</p>	Incorporated in SA objective 16.
European Commission (1999) The Landfill Directive.	<p>The Directive aims to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular the pollution of surface water, groundwater, soil and air, and on the global environment, including the greenhouse effect, as well as any resulting risk to human health, from the landfilling of waste, during the whole lifecycle of the landfill.</p>	Incorporated in SA Objective 7
EC (2007) Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013	<p>The Strategy aims to provide an overarching strategic framework spanning core issues in health as well as health in all policies and global health issues.</p>	Incorporated in SA Objective 25
The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (1995)	<p>The strategy aims to address degradation of biological and landscape diversity across Europe reinstating these assets where possible.</p>	Incorporated in SA Objective 14
National		
CLG (2005) Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management.	<p>The overall objective of the policy is to provide sustainable development by protecting the environment and human health by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible.</p>	Incorporated in SA objective 7.
CLG (2010) Five-year housing land supply coverage in England	<p>Summarising Local Planning Authorities' reported assessment of the '5 year land supply' for housing. The statistics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of and proportion of authorities which reported having identified at least a sufficient supply of sites for the housing requirements for 5 years from April 2009; and • each local planning authority's reported proportion of the '5 year housing requirements' that can be accommodated on available, suitable and achievable sites. 	Incorporated in SA Objective 27
CLG (2012) National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	<p>The general thrust of the NPPF is aimed at contributing towards sustainable development through the planning system. There is a presumption in favour of sustainable development "<i>which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking.</i>" There are three dimensions as to how the government aims to achieve sustainable development which gives rise to the need for the planning system to perform in a number of roles. These roles are based around economic, environmental and social</p>	In terms of 'sustainable development' objectives, Incorporated in SA objectives 9,10 and 15.

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
NPPF – Biodiversity, Geodiversity & Soil	<p>roles.</p> <p>The NPPF sets out 12 core planning principles for plan and decision making, including: ‘Conserving and enhancing the natural environment’. The planning system should contribute and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils; • recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services; • minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures; • preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability; and • remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate. <p>Plans and decisions should encourage effective use of brownfield sites and take into account the economic benefits of agricultural land when assessing development, seeking to utilise areas of poorer quality land.</p> <p>Local planning authorities should plan positively for creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. Planning and decision making should occur at a landscape scale across local authority boundaries and assess noise, air and light pollution, considering cumulative impacts. Local planning authorities should protect and enhance biodiversity specifically regarding priority species/habitats, protected sites and potential/proposed/possible protected sites.</p>	Incorporated in SA Objectives 8, 11, 13, 14 and 17.
NPPF – Landscape	<p>The NPPF sets out 12 core planning principles for plan and decision making, including: ‘Conserving and enhancing the natural environment’. The planning system should contribute and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils; • recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services; • minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures; • preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability; and • remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate. <p>Plans and decisions should encourage effective use of brownfield sites and take into account the economic</p>	Incorporated in SA Objective 13 and 14.

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
	<p>benefits of agricultural land when assessing development, seeking to utilise areas of poorer quality land.</p> <p>Local planning authorities should plan positively for creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. Planning and decision making should occur at a landscape scale across local authority boundaries and assess noise, air and light pollution, considering cumulative impacts. Local planning authorities should protect and enhance biodiversity specifically regarding priority species/habitats, protected sites and potential/proposed/possible protected sites.</p>	
NPPF – Cultural Environment	<p>One of the NPPF's 12 core planning principles for plan and decision making is the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. Local planning authorities are required to set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional. Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets. Proposals that preserve the setting, reveal the significance of the asset or make a positive contribution should be treated favourably.</p>	Incorporated in SA Objective 12.
NPPF – Water	<p>Among the NPPF's core principles are 'conserving and enhancing the natural environment' and 'meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change'; In fulfilling these objectives, the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.</p> <p>In preparing plans to meet development needs, the aim should be to minimise pollution and other adverse effects on the local and natural environment.</p> <p>Local planning authorities should adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations.</p> <p>Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere. Local Plans should be supported by Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and develop policies to manage flood risk from all sources, taking account of advice from the Environment Agency and other relevant flood risk management bodies, such as lead local flood authorities and internal drainage boards. Local Plans should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid where possible flood risk to people and property and manage any residual risk, taking account of the impacts of climate change, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applying the Sequential Test; • if necessary, applying the Exception Test; • safeguarding land from development that is required for current and future flood management; • using opportunities offered by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding; and 	Incorporated in SA objective 10 and 16.

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> where climate change is expected to increase flood risk so that some existing development may not be sustainable in the long-term, seeking opportunities to facilitate the relocation of development, including housing, to more sustainable locations. 	
NPPF – Climate Change	<p>One of the core principles of the NPPF is meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change and encourages the adoption of proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change in line with the objectives and provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008, taking full consideration of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand. The NPPF also supports low carbon future by helping to increase the use of renewable and low carbon sources in line with the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure. It seeks to ensure that all types of flood risk is taken into account over the long term at the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas of highest risk.</p>	Incorporated in SA objectives 9,10 and 15
NPPF – Air Quality	<p>This Directive aims to improve air quality throughout Europe by controlling the level of certain pollutants and monitoring their concentrations. In particular the Directive aims to establish levels for different air pollutants; draw up common methods for assessing air quality; methods to improve air quality; and make sure that information on air quality is easily accessible to Member States and the public.</p>	Incorporated in SA objectives 9 and 15
NPPF – Minerals and Waste	<p>One of the core principles of the NPPF is facilitating the sustainable use of minerals. Policy guidance suggests the need to: Identify policies for existing and new sites of national importance, the definition of Mineral Safeguarding Areas so that locations of mineral sources are not sterilised by other developments, safeguarding of existing and planned mineral infrastructure (rail links, wharfage, storage, processing etc.), environmental criteria to ensure there is not an unacceptable environmental impact and policies for reclaiming land and site aftercare.</p>	Incorporated in SA objective 1 and 7.
NPPF – Economy	<p>One of the NPPF's core planning principles for plan and decision making is building a strong competitive economy. The NPPF highlights the Government's commitment to securing economic growth to create jobs and prosperity, ensuring the planning system does everything it can to support sustainable economic growth. Local planning authorities are required to proactively meet development needs recognising potential barriers to invest (including infrastructure, housing and services) and regularly review land allocations. Economic growth in rural areas should be supported to create jobs and sustainable new developments, including expansion of all types of businesses, diversification of agriculture, supporting tourism and retention of local services.</p> <p>In drawing up local plans, local authorities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> set out a clear economic vision and strategy for their area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth; set criteria, or identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period; support existing business sectors, taking account of whether they are expanding or contracting and, where possible, identify and plan for new or emerging sectors likely to locate in their area. Policies should be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan and to allow a rapid 	Incorporated in SA Objectives 8, 20 and 21

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
NPPF – Housing	<p>response to changes in economic circumstances;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan positively for the location, promotion and expansion of clusters or networks of knowledge driven, creative or high technology industries; • identify priority areas for economic regeneration, infrastructure provision and environmental enhancement; and • facilitate flexible working practices such as the integration of residential and commercial uses within the same unit. <p>Two of the NPPF's core principles is the delivery of a wide choice of high quality homes and requiring good design. Local planning authorities are required to significantly boost the supply of housing through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • affordable and meeting needs of the market, identifying accessible sites for 5, 6-10 and 11-15 years worth of housing/growth; • illustrating the expected rate of housing delivery through a housing trajectory and set out a strategy; • deliver high quality housing, widen opportunities for home ownership and create sustainable inclusive and mixed communities; • making allowance for windfall sites on the basis that such sites are consistently available; • resisting inappropriate development of residential gardens; and • avoid isolated country homes unless they were truly outstanding or innovative in design or enhance the surroundings. <p>Sustainable development in rural areas housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.</p> <p>Planning policies and decisions should aim to ensure that developments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development; • establish a strong sense of place, using streetscapes and buildings to create attractive and comfortable places to live, work and visit; • optimise the potential of the site to accommodate development, create and sustain an appropriate mix of uses (including incorporation of green and other public space as part of developments) and support local facilities and transport networks; • respond to local character and history, and reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation; • create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not 	Incorporated in SA objectives 8 and 26 and 27.

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
	<p>undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are visually attractive as a result of good architecture and appropriate landscaping. 	
NPPF - Health	<p>Amongst the planning principles of the NPPF is the promotion of healthy communities. The framework sets out open space, sport and recreation considerations for neighbourhood planning bodies which include an assessment of needs and opportunities; setting local standards; maintaining an adequate supply of open space and sports and recreational facilities; planning for new open space and sports and recreational facilities; and planning obligations. Local and neighbourhood plans should identify community green spaces of particular importance (including recreational and tranquillity) to them, ensuring any development of these areas is ruled out in a majority of circumstances.</p>	Incorporated in SA Objective 28.
NPPF – Transport & Accessibility	<p>Amongst the 12 planning principles of the NPPF are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting sustainable transport; Support sustainable transport development including infrastructure, large scale facilities, rail freight, roadside facilities, ports and airports. <p>Protecting and exploiting opportunities for sustainable transport modes, including designing and locating developments to maximise sustainable modes and minimise day to day journey lengths.</p>	Incorporated in SA Objective 5.
NPPF – Quality of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the 12 core planning principles of the NPPF is: Promoting healthy communities, and Supporting high quality communications infrastructure. The NPPF argues that the planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. Local planning authorities should create a shared vision with communities of the residential environment and facilities they wish to see. Local policies and decisions should therefore promote: Safe and accessible environments and developments. Opportunities for members of the community to mix and meet. Plan for development and use of high quality shared public space. Guard against loss of facilities. Ensure established shops can develop in a sustainable way. Ensure integrated approach to housing and community facilities and services. <p>Local and neighbourhood plans should identify community green spaces of particular importance (including recreational and tranquillity) to them, ensuring any development of these areas is ruled out in a majority of circumstances.</p> <p>The framework sets out open space, sport and recreation considerations for neighbourhood planning bodies. These include an assessment of needs and opportunities; setting local standards; maintaining an adequate supply of open space and sports and recreational facilities; planning for new open space and sports and recreational facilities; and planning obligations.</p>	Incorporated in SA Objectives 19 and 22.

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
CLG (2011) The Localism Act	<p>The Localism Bill includes five key measures that underpin the Government's approach to decentralisation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community rights; • neighbourhood planning; • housing; • general power of competence; and • empowering cities and other local areas. 	Incorporated in SA Objectives 19 and 22.
CLG (2011) The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations	<p>The Community Infrastructure Levy is a new levy that local authorities in England and Wales can choose to charge on new developments in their area. The money can be used to support development by funding infrastructure that the council, local community and neighbourhoods want - for example new or safer road schemes, park improvements or a new health centre. The system applies to most new buildings and charges are based on the size and type of the new development.</p>	Incorporated in SA Objective 22
DECC (2008) UK Climate Change Act 2008.	<p>The 2008 Climate Change Act seeks to manage and respond to climate change in the UK, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setting ambitious, legally binding targets; • taking powers to help meet those targets; • strengthening the institutional framework; • enhancing the UK's ability to adapt to the impact of climate change; and • establishing clear and regular accountability to the UK Parliament and to the devolved legislatures. 	Incorporated in SA Objectives 9, 10 and 15.
DECC (2009) UK Renewable Energy Strategy 2009.	<p>The UK has committed to sourcing 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020 – an increase in the share of renewables from about 2.25% in 2008. The Renewable Energy Strategy sets out how the Government will achieve this target through utilising a variety of mechanisms to encourage Renewable Energy provision in the UK. This includes through streamlining the planning system, increasing investment in technologies and improving funding for advice and awareness raising.</p>	Incorporated in SA Objectives 1, 3, 4 and 9
DCMS (2007) Heritage Protection for the 21 st Century.	<p>This White Paper responds to the public call for change, and to this changing policy context. It sets out a vision for a new heritage protection system. The proposals in the White Paper reflect the importance of the heritage protection system in preserving heritage for people to enjoy now and in the future. They are based around three core principles:</p> <p>developing a unified approach to the historic environment;</p> <p>maximising opportunities for inclusion and involvement; and</p> <p>supporting sustainable communities by putting the historic environment at the heart of an effective planning system.</p>	Incorporated in SA objective 12.

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
Defra (2002) Working with the Grain of Nature: A Biodiversity Strategy for England.	Sets out the basis for biodiversity enhancement across the country.	Incorporated in SA Objectives 14 and 16.
Defra (2003) The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations	Requires all inland and coastal waters to reach "good status" by 2015. This is being done by establishing a river basin structure with ecological targets for surface waters.	Incorporated in SA Objectives 1,
Defra (2007) Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing Biodiversity Duty	The Duty is set out in Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, and states that: "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity". Particular areas of focus include: Policy, Strategy and Procurement; Management of Public Land and Buildings; Planning, Infrastructure and Development; and Education, Advice and Awareness.	Incorporated in SA Objectives 13 and 14.
Defra (2007) Conserving Biodiversity: The UK Approach (The UK Biodiversity Action Plan)	The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) is the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992). The CBD called for the development and enforcement of national strategies and associated action plans to identify, conserve and protect existing biological diversity, and to enhance it wherever possible. Priority species and habitats are those that have been identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP).	Incorporated in SA Objectives 13 and 14.
Defra (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Volume 2).	The Strategy sets out standards and objectives for the 8 main health-threatening air pollutants in the UK. The standards are based on an assessment of the effects of each pollutant on public health. They are based on recommendations by the Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards, The European Union Air Quality Daughter Directive and the World Health Organisation. Local Authorities are responsible for seven of the eight air pollutants under Local Air Quality Management (LAQM). National objectives have also been set for the eighth pollutant, ozone, as well as for nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxide.	Incorporated in SA objectives 15
Defra (2007) Waste Strategy for England 2007.	<p>The Waste Strategy aims to increase diversion of waste from landfill, and to reduce the production of waste by making products with fewer natural resources.</p> <p>Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce amount of household waste not re-used, recycled or composted from over 22.2 million tonnes in 2000 by 29% to 15.8 million tonnes in 2010, with an aspiration to reduce to 12.2 million tonnes in 2020; • recycling and composting 40% of household waste by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020; and • recover 53% of municipal waste by 2010, 67% by 2015 and 75% by 2020. 	Incorporated in SA objective 7
Defra (2008) Future Water, the Government's Water Strategy for	Objectives:	Incorporated in SA objectives 1, 10 and 16.

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
England (Feb 08).	<p>By 2030 at the latest, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved the quality of our water environment and the ecology which it supports, and continued to provide high levels of drinking water quality from our taps; • sustainably managed risks from flooding and coastal erosion, with greater understanding and more effective management of surface water; • ensured a sustainable use of water resources, and implemented fair, affordable and cost reflective water charges; • cut greenhouse gas emissions; and • embedded continuous adaptation to climate change and other pressures across the water industry and water users. <p>Targets: Key targets are within the objectives above & further a number of sub-targets are included within the document</p>	
Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England	<p>The Soil Strategy for England provides a vision to guide future policy development across a range of areas and sets out the practical steps that are needed to take to prevent further degradation of our soils, enhance, restore and ensure their resilience, and improve understanding of the threats to soil and best practice in responding to them. Key objectives of the strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better protection for agricultural soils; • protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon; • building the resilience of soils to a changing climate; • preventing soil pollution; • effective soil protection during construction and development; and • dealing with the legacy of contaminated land. 	Incorporated in SA 17.
Defra (2011) Natural Environment White Paper; The natural choice: securing the value of nature	<p>The Natural Environment White paper sets out the Government's plans to ensure the natural environment is protected and fully integrated into society and economic growth. The White Paper sets out four key aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) protecting and improving our natural environment; (ii) growing a green economy; (iii) reconnecting people and nature; and (iv) international and EU leadership, specifically to achieve environmentally and socially sustainable economic growth, together with food, water, climate and energy security and to put the EU on a path towards 	Incorporated in SA Objectives 11, 13, 14 and 16.

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
	environmentally sustainable, low-carbon and resource-efficient growth, which is resilient to climate change, provides jobs and supports the wellbeing of citizens.	
Defra (2011) Biodiversity 2020: a Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services	<p>The Strategy is designed to help to deliver the Natural Environment White Paper and include the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating 200,000 hectares of new wildlife habitats by 2020; • securing 50% of SSSIs in favourable condition, while maintaining at least 95% in favourable or recovering condition; • encouraging more people to get involved in conservation by supporting wildlife gardening and outdoor learning programmes; and • introducing a new designation for local green spaces to enable communities to protect places that are important to them 	Incorporated in SA Objectives 11, 13, 14 and 16.
Defra & HM Government (2011) Water White Paper; Water for Life	Water for Life describes a vision for future water management in which the water sector is resilient, in which water companies are more efficient and customer focused, and in which water is valued as the precious and finite resource it is.	Incorporated in SA Objective 16.
DTI Micro Generation Strategy (2006)	Acknowledges that local authorities can be pro-active in promoting small-scale, local renewable energy generation schemes through "sensible use of planning policies".	Incorporated in SA Objectives 1, 3 and 4.
HM Government (2010) The Air Quality Standards 2010	The Regulations largely implement Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe.	Incorporated in SA objectives 15
HM Government (2012) Draft Water Bill	The provisions in the Bill will enable the delivery of Government's aims for a sustainable sector as set out in the Water White Paper in a way that this is workable and clear. This Bill aims to makes steps towards reducing regulatory burdens, promoting innovation and investment, giving choice and better service to customers and enabling more efficient use of scarce water resources.	Incorporated in SA Objective 16.
DfT (2008) Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS).	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to support national economic competitiveness and growth, by delivering reliable and efficient transport networks; • to reduce transport's emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, with the desired outcome of tackling climate change; • to contribute to better safety and health and longer life-expectancy by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport and by promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health; • to promote greater equality of opportunity for all citizens, with the desired outcome of achieving a fairer society; and 	Incorporated in SA objective 5 and 9.

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
English Heritage (2008) Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to improve quality of life for transport users and non-transport users, and to promote a healthy natural environment. <p>A framework for the sustainable management of the historic environment based on the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the historic environment is a shared resource; everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment; understanding the significance of places is vital; significant places should be managed to sustain their values; decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent; and documenting and learning from decisions is essential. 	Incorporated in SA Objective 12.
English Nature: Climate Change Space for Nature (2006)	Context for the next 80 years in terms of the likely effects of climate change on biodiversity. Prescribes suggested actions to be taken in preparation for change.	Incorporated in SA Objective 10, 13 and 14.
Environment Agency (2009) Water for people and the environment - Water resources strategy for England and Wales.	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enable habitats and species to adapt better to climate change; allow the way we protect the water environment to adjust flexibly to a changing climate; reduce pressure on the environment caused by water taken for human use; encourage options resilient to climate change to be chosen in the face of uncertainty; better protect vital water supply infrastructure; reduce greenhouse gas emissions from people using water, considering the whole life-cycle of use; and improve understanding of the risks and uncertainties of climate change. <p>Target: In England, the average amount of water used per person in the home is reduced to 130 litres each day by 2030.</p>	Incorporated in SA objectives 1, 10 and 16.
Forestry Commission (2005): Trees and Woodlands Nature's Health Service	An advisory document which provides detailed examples of how the Woodland Sector (trees, woodlands and green spaces) can significantly contribute to people's health, well-being (physical, psychological and social) and quality of life. Increasing levels of physical activity is a particular priority.	Incorporated in SA Objective 28.
HM Government (2006) Climate Change The UK Programme	<p>The Climate Change Programme aims to tackle climate change by setting out policies and priorities for action in the UK and internationally.</p> <p>Aims and Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010 (more than is required by the 	Incorporated in SA Objectives 9, 10 and 15.

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
<p>HM Government (2009) Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy.</p> <p>HM Government (2010) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010</p>	<p>Kyoto Agreement);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make agreements with other countries as to how they will tackle climate change together; • report annually to Parliament on UK emissions, future plans and progress on domestic climate change; and • set out the adaptation plan for the UK, informed by additional research on the impacts of climate change. <p>The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan sets out how the UK will meet the Climate Change Act's legally binding target of 34 percent cut in emissions on 1990 levels by 2020. It also seeks to deliver emissions cuts of 18% on 2008 levels. The main aims of the Transition Plan include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • producing 30% of energy from renewables by 2020; • improving the energy efficiency of existing housing; • increasing the number of people in 'green jobs'; and • supporting the use and development of clean technologies. <p>This is the UK transposition of EC Directive 92/43/EC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of 'European sites', the protection of 'European protected species', and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites.</p>	<p>Incorporated in SA Objectives 3, 4 and 9.</p> <p>Incorporated in SA Objective 14</p>
Regional		
<p>Severn Trent Water Resources Management Plan (2010)</p> <p>Sustainability West Midlands (2011) Local Authority Low Carbon Economy Programme</p>	<p>Guidance on the approach to water management over the period 2010-2035, focused on achieving and maintaining the level of headroom necessary to ensure we can deliver our target levels of service at least cost to customers, whilst minimizing the impact on the environment. This is to be achieved in part by reducing leakage and managing the demand for water, and partly by developing new resources. The Strategy identifies that: <i>"Our best estimates of future supply/demand pressures show that we will need additional water resources and treatment capacity in the longer term. The schemes being delivered through our wider supply resilience investment strategy will provide a deployable output benefit and these form a key part of our longer term supply / demand plans. However, we have identified the likely need for further leakage reductions and water resource schemes during in the 2025-2035 period. Our analysis shows that the most significant risk to our long term supply/demand balance is the impact of climate change."</i></p> <p>The West Midlands Local Authority Low Carbon Economy Programme has aimed to help West Midlands authorities use the low carbon agenda to achieve cost reduction and private and third sector low carbon job creation.</p>	<p>Incorporated in SA Objective 16.</p> <p>Incorporated in SA Objectives 1, 3, 4, 5 and 9.</p>

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
<p>The Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (2010)</p>	<p>The Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP is a partnership of businesses, local authorities and universities which supports private sector growth and job creation. Set up to strengthen local economies, encourage economic development and enterprise, and improve skills across the region. The LEP has set out plans to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase economic output (GVA) in the area by £8.25 billion by 2020; • create 100,000 private sector jobs by 2020; • stimulate growth in the business stock and business profitability; • boost indigenous and inward investment; • become global leaders in key sectors, including: automotive assembly, low carbon R&D, business and professional services, clinical trials, creative and digital sectors; and • increase the proportion of adults with appropriate qualifications to meet employment needs. 	<p>Incorporated in SA Objectives 8, 20 and 21.</p>
Local		
<p>Birmingham City Council (2012) Aston, Newtown and Lozells Area Action Plan</p>	<p>To provide a clear vision and strategy for regeneration and development in the Aston, Newtown and Lozells area over the period 2012-2026. The AAP sets out a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to shaping housing, employment, local centres, community facilities, infrastructure, transport and the environment.</p>	
<p>Birmingham City Council & Bromsgrove District Council(2009) Longbridge Area Action Plan</p>	<p>Longbridge will undergo major transformational change redeveloping the former car plant and surrounding area into an exemplar sustainable, employment led mixed use development for the benefit of the local community, Birmingham, Bromsgrove, the region and beyond. It will deliver new jobs, houses, community, leisure and educational facilities as well as providing an identifiable and accessible new heart for the area. All development will embody the principles of sustainability, sustainable communities and inclusiveness. At the heart of the vision is a commitment to high quality design that can create a real sense of place with a strong identity and distinctive character. All of this will make it a place where people will want to live, work, visit and invest and which provides a secure and positive future for local people.</p>	
<p>Birmingham City Council (1997) Nature Conservation Strategy for Birmingham</p>	<p>SPG promoting the conservation and enhancement of nature conservation across the City.</p>	<p>Incorporated in SA Objective 14</p>
<p>Birmingham City Council (1999) Regeneration Through Conservation: Birmingham Conservation Strategy.</p>	<p>A strategy for the protection and enhancement of Birmingham's cultural heritage.</p>	<p>Incorporated in SA Objective 12</p>
<p>Birmingham City Council (2001) Affordable Housing SPD</p>	<p>The Affordable Housing SPG was prepared to help encourage different types of housing on new housing developments in the city, to suit all needs. This document provides both detailed affordable housing policies and practical information to help developers when preparing planning applications for such schemes.</p>	<p>Incorporated in SA Objective 27.</p>

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
Birmingham City Council (2004) Archaeology Strategy.	The Strategy explains the process when proposed new development is likely to affect archaeological remains. It stresses the importance of early consultation about the archaeological implications of a proposed development and the process of assessment and evaluation to inform decision, making on requirements for preservation or recording of archaeological remains.	Incorporated in SA Objective 12.
Birmingham City Council (2005) Developing Birmingham: An Economic Strategy for the City 2005-2015.	The vision of the Economic Strategy is: "To build on Birmingham's renaissance and secure a strong and sustainable economy for our people." The strategy identifies four key areas to focus on: 1) development and Investment; 2) creating a skilled workforce; 3) fostering business development and diversification; and 4) creating sustainable communities and vibrant urban villages.	Incorporated in SA Objectives 20 and 21.
Birmingham City Council (2006) Access for People with Disabilities SPD	The Access for People with Disabilities document provides guidance about how to make new developments accessible to all. Specific groups of people may find it particularly helpful to have more accessible public buildings, such as the elderly, those with children and buggies, and people with learning or language difficulties, as well as those with sensory or mobility impairments	Incorporated in SA Objectives 5 and 23.
Birmingham City Council (2006) Air Quality Action Plan.	The Action Plan sets out 41 actions which follow the objectives below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing vehicle emissions; • improving public transport to reduce traffic volumes; • improving the road network to reduce congestion; • using area planning measures to reduce traffic volumes; • reducing air pollution from industry, commerce and residential areas; and • changing levels of travel demand/promotion of alternative modes of transport. 	Incorporated in SA objective 15
Birmingham City Council (2006) Municipal Waste Management Strategy.	The Strategy sets out the following vision for delivering its municipal waste management services: <i>"To run a city that produces the minimum amount of waste that is practicable, and where the remainder is re-used, recycled or recovered to generate energy. The material recovered through composting, recycling, re-use and from the energy recovery process will replace the need for extraction of virgin materials.</i> <i>The waste management strategy will be sensitive to local needs and will provide a service to help Birmingham become as clean and green a city as it can be. Birmingham City Council and the Constituency partners will provide a service that citizens are pleased to support, and where there is malpractice or deliberate misuse of the service, that this is dealt with efficiently to maintain a clean, safe and healthy environment."</i>	Incorporated in SA objective 7.

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
	<p>The Strategy has the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Council will explore ways of reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill to an absolute minimum, recovering value from waste wherever economically and environmentally practicable through energy recovery and measures to increase re-use, recycling and composting; the City Council and its partners will raise awareness among the wider community to view waste as a resource and will deliver communications activities and work with relevant stakeholders (such as community groups and schools) to promote the cultural change needed to significantly increase recycling and re-use and reduce the overall quantity of waste requiring treatment or disposal; the City Council will develop recycling and composting system that meet the targets set out in this strategy through methods that are acceptable and accessible to the residents of Birmingham; the City Council will explore ways of working with other local authorities and will expand its partnership activities with the private voluntary sectors to assist in delivery of this strategy; and the City Council will work with its partners and other agencies to provide efficient and effective enforcement of its services to contribute to a clean, green, safe and healthy environment. 	
Birmingham City Council (2010) The Birmingham Area Investment Prospectus.	The purpose of the Area Investment Prospectus (AIP) is to capture the key strategic development and investment opportunities around the city as well as outline Birmingham's plans to improve the economic environment and infrastructure required to support the growth generated by these opportunities. The AIP brings together the visions of public and private partners into one overall framework, designed to continue the transformation of Birmingham, and enhance its place as a leading world city and a dynamic regional capital.	Incorporated in SA Objectives 20 and 21
Birmingham City Council (2008) Birmingham Private Sector Housing Strategy 2008+ (updated 2010).	The strategy details priority issues and actions to increase levels of decent homes in owner-occupied and private rented sector housing; promote domestic energy efficiency and affordable warmth; and address the growing demand from elderly and disabled residents for assistance to live independently in their own homes. It also set out how the council will fulfil its regulatory role in the licensing and inspection of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) as prescribed by the Housing Act (2004) and promote better standards of management within the private rented sector (PRS).	Incorporated in SA objective 27.
Birmingham City Council (2008) Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy for Birmingham Second Edition	<p>To identify any contaminated land as defined by the legislation.</p> <p>To take steps to control any risk from any contaminated land identified using voluntary or enforcement action.</p> <p>To liaise with the Environment Agency regarding sites that may be polluting controlled waters or other special sites.</p>	Incorporated in SA objective 17.
Birmingham City Council (2008) Statement of Community Involvement	The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how we will encourage more people to get involved in the planning decision-making process in Birmingham.	Incorporated in SA objectives 11, 19 and 22

Plan, Programme or Strategy	Objectives and Targets identified in the Document	Commentary (how the SA objectives incorporate the documents requirements)
Birmingham City Council (2010) Birmingham Climate change action plan 2010+	<p>Birmingham becoming a 'Low Carbon Transition' city</p> <p>Improving the energy efficiency of the city's 'Homes and Buildings'</p> <p>Reducing the city's reliance on unsustainable energy through 'Low Carbon Energy Generation'</p> <p>Reducing the city's impact on the non-renewable resources through 'Resource Management'</p> <p>Reducing the environmental impact of the city's mobility needs through 'Low Carbon Transport'</p> <p>Making sure the city is prepared for climate change through 'Climate Change Adaptation'</p> <p>Making sure that this action plan 'Engages with Birmingham Citizens and Businesses'</p>	Incorporated in SA objectives 9, 10 and 15
Birmingham City Council (2011) Birmingham Big City Plan City Centre Masterplan	<p>Six broad objectives will guide the transformation of the city centre.</p> <p>Liveable city - provides a high quality of living, creating places for people that offer a diverse mix of activities and spaces within an accessible, safe, resilient and attractive environment.</p> <p>Connected city - is safe and convenient for pedestrians and cyclists to move around and has an effective and attractive public transport system with an efficient highway network.</p> <p>Authentic city - offers a unique and diverse experience through its architecture, its streets and spaces, its arts and culture, its businesses and its neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Knowledge city - utilises and supports its universities, colleges, businesses and people to create a strong and sustainable economy.</p> <p>Creative city - values and supports creativity and industry in all its forms.</p> <p>Smart city - responds to the challenge of climate change through sustainable growth, pioneering the low carbon future.</p>	
Birmingham City Council (Jan 2012) Level 1 & 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	Assesses and maps all known sources of flood risk, including fluvial, surface water, sewer, groundwater and impounded water bodies, taking into account future climate change predictions, to allow the Council to use this as an evidence base to locate future development primarily in low flood risk areas. The outputs from the SFRA will also assist in preparing sustainable policies for the long term management of flood risk.	Incorporated in SA objectives 10 and 16.