Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Positively Prepared: *the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development.*		

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Vision and Objectives 1. Has the LPA clearly identified what the issues are that the DPD is seeking to address? 2. Have priorities been set so that it is clear what the DPD is seeking to achieve? 3. Does the DPD contain clear vision(s) and objectives which are specific to the place? 4. Is there a direct relationship between the identified issues, the vision(s) and the objectives? 5. Is it clear how the policies will meet the objectives? 6. Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD? 7. Have reasonable alternatives to the quantum of development and overall spatial strategy been considered? 8. Are the policies internally consistent? 9. Are there realistic timescales related to the	• Sections of the DPD and other documents which set out (where applicable) the vision, strategic objectives, key outcomes expected, spatial portrait and issues to be addressed. • Relevant sections of the DPD which explain how policies derive from the objectives and are designed to meet them. • The strategic objectives of the DPD, and the commentary in the DPD of how they derive from the spatial portrait and vision, and how the objectives are consistent with one another. • Sections of the DPD which address delivery, the means of delivery and the timescales for key developments through evidenced infrastructure delivery planning. • Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery. • Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each DPD showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure.	1. Yes, issues are expressed throughout the plan and this is mainly contained within the Local Challenges section of the plan and the Local Portrait. The Core Strategy Issues and Options document (2008) first expressed a number of issues which were taken from the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and pre-issues and options consultation. The Local Plan No.4 Local Portrait describes Redditch's distinctiveness by setting out its main issues, problems and challenges. The vision and policies of the Plan will aim to resolve some of these issues. The Local Plan No.4 Vision explains what issues there are and why the plan needs to seek to remedy the issues. The Local Plan No.4 Objectives sets out how to remedy the issues raised in the vision. The Key themes of the plan are the priorities, and the introductory sections within each themes section make it clear how the plan intends to deal with the issues. 2. Yes, priorities are developed through the Objectives and Vision in the Local Plan. The key themes in the Plan were developed from the vision and objectives and these reflect the

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
objectives? 10. Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved?		priorities in clear statements of intent. 3. Yes, the Objectives refer to what's special about the local area. The vision is developed with the intent of showing why that is a particular issue to the local area. 4. The Key themes reflect the Local Challenges raised. Also the Vision is presented by these Key Themes so it clearly shows how the issues are to be addressed. 5. Each Key Theme of the BORLP4 has an introduction explaining which of the Plans objectives it will deliver. 6. All objectives are achieved through each Key Theme in the BORLP4, with the exception of Objective 13 regarding the Duty to Cooperate which is achieved through the process of the Local Plan's development. 7. The SA on spatial strategy, accessibility assessment has been completed with alternatives. SHMA has been completed and consulted with alternatives on RBC growth without cross-boundary considered, and a range of sites were assessed. 8. The SA includes a matrix where each policy was tested for internal conflict 9. Essentials delivery timescales are

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		provided in the accompanying IDP. Relevant parts of the Plans proposed policies make it clear where timescales are important and buy-in to those timescales has been sought with the relevant stakeholders. 10. Clear expression of issues is the Key Themes and the explanation of how each Key Theme achieved the objectives makes it easier to see how the proposed policies achieve the Objectives.
The presumption in favour of sustainable development (NPPF paras 6-17) Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless: —any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or —specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.	• An evidence base which establishes the development needs of the plan area (see Justified below) and includes a flexible approach to delivery (see 'Section 3 Effective', below). • An audit trail showing how and why the quantum of development, preferred overall strategy and plan area distribution of development were arrived at.	Evidence base establishing development needs is contained in the Worcestershire SHMA and Worcestershire OAHN (2014). The ranges and sensitivities tested through the SHMA show where flexibility could be required. The BORLP4 policy 4 Housing Provision takes a realistic and effective approach based on the SHMA and Worcs OAHN ranges. There are no specific policies in the NPPF indicating that development should be restricted. Policy 2 Settlement Hierarchy sets out the hierarchy of the Borough based on each settlements sustainability credentials and forms the basis on which to assess future development potential. This was based upon evidence gathered at an early stage through the Accessibility Study and Settlement Hierarchy October 2008.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Policies in Local Plans should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development so that it is clear that development which is sustainable can be approved without delay. All plans should be based upon and reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide how the presumption should be applied locally.	• A policy or policies which reflect the principles of the presumption in favour of sustainable development (see model policy at www.planningportal.	The BORLP4 includes Policy 1 Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development. This replicates the model policy on the planning portal. The principle of sustainable development runs as a golden thread throughout the Plan and is intrinsic in many policies.
Objectively assessed needs The economic, social and environmental needs of the authority area addressed and clearly presented in a fashion which makes effective use of land and specifically promotes mixed use development, and take account of cross-boundary and strategic issues. Note: Meeting these needs should be subject to the caveats specified in Paragraph 14 of the NPPF (see above).	• Background evidence papers demonstrating requirements based on population forecasts, employment projections and community needs. • Technical papers demonstrating how the aspirations and objectives of the DPD are related to the evidence, and how these are to be met, including from consultation and associated with the Duty to Co-operate.	Evidence base establishing the development needs is contained in the Worcestershire SHMA and the Draft North Worcestershire Demographic Forecasts (2014). Other evidence on needs for Redditch include: Employment Land Review, 2013 Retail Needs Assessment 2008 Office Needs Assessment 2010 Redditch Town Centre Retail and Office Needs Assessment - Partial Updates 2012 Evidence document to support the policies of the plan Dtc Statement of Compliance

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
NPPF Principles: Delivering sustainable development		
1. Building a strong, competitive economy (paras 18-22)		
Set out a clear economic vision and strategy for the area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth (21),	• Articulation of a clear economic vision and strategy for the plan area linked to the Economic Strategy and LEP Strategy where appropriate.	The vision for the Borough of Redditch is ''Redditch will be successful and vibrant with communities that have access to good job opportunities, good education, good heath and are communities that people will be proud to live and work in''. Redditch is a member of two LEPs, namely the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP (GBSLEP) and the Worcestershire LEP (WLEP). The GBSLEP is a partnership of businesses, local authorities and universities which supports private sector growth and job creation. The role of the GBSLEP is to create and support a globally competitive knowledge economy, ensuring the LEP area is recognised as the natural home for Europe's entrepreneurs and wealth creators. The WLEP's vision is "to create the right economic environment to inspire businesses, encourage investment and to create lasting and sustainable employment in Worcestershire by 2017 and beyond." The vision of the BORLP4 is outlined on page 16, which also details the economic

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		visions of the Plan. Regarding the economy and town centre regeneration these are: • "Redditch will be an enterprising Borough and local skills levels will have improved. To achieve this, the Borough will contain diverse employment areas, support existing business sectors while looking for opportunities to improve and where possible to diversify the economy. There will be opportunities to improve the skills of the local workforce to help them access new employment opportunities. The Borough will have a prosperous rural community whilst protecting the countryside. Homes and businesses will be supported by high quality communications infrastructure. • Retail in Redditch will be successful. The retail strategy is important for the Borough because Redditch Town Centre attracts important shops and facilities that otherwise wouldn't be supported by a population of its size and also because there are parts of the Town Centre and District Centres that suffer from poor design and other big issues. To achieve the retail strategy Redditch will have achieved regeneration. The Town Centre will be vital and vibrant, supported by

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		regenerated District Centres at Church Hill, Matchborough, Winyates and Woodrow. In particular, the regeneration of the Town Centre will improve connectivity between key sites. Centres will be defined in a Hierarchy of Centres where the needs of the catchments are met. Sustainable Economic Growth is addressed in various parts of the BORLP4. Policy 1 establishes sustainable development principles. Policies 23 to 29 are all related to the sustainable growth of employment and job opportunities. Policies 30 to 35 aim to protect, strengthen and regenerate the Town Centre. The Redditch Eastern Gateway is identified as a key strategic site in the Game Changer Programme referred to in the WLEP, Worcestershire European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds Strategy, Draft, October 2013
Recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including poor environment or any lack of infrastructure, services or housing (21)	• A criteria-based policy which meets identified needs and is positive and flexible in planning for specialist sectors, regeneration, infrastructure provision, environmental enhancement. • An up-to-date assessment of the deliverability of allocated employment sites, to meet local needs, (taking into	The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) is a key component of the evidence base to support the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No. 4. The IDP provides a baseline of existing infrastructure capacity and needs in the Borough. It also highlights

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	account that LPAs should avoid the long term protection of sites allocated for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of an allocated site being used for that purpose) para (22)	infrastructure requirements that would help to address barriers to investment (including poor environment and lack of services) required to support the planned growth set out in the BORLP4. Policies 23 and 24 of the BORLP4 are related to employment and promoting economic growth, which creates investment. Policy 24 in particular avoids the long term protection of employment land where there is no reasonable prospect of the site coming forward. In this way the policy is more flexible on employment release, looking at land release. The Employment Land Review 2012 assesses the existing employment land situation, establishes future requirements and identifies a new portfolio of sites. Annual monitoring in the form of the Employment Land Availability Report will ensure that employment permissions are being allocated and identify if a shortfall exists. Policy 26 makes provision for office development and directs this to the Town Centre. However, it provides flexibility in terms of other appropriate uses to ensure business opportunities elsewhere in the Borough are not stifled. Policy 31 supports the regeneration of

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		Redditch's Town Centre. It identifies three parcels of land within and on the periphery of the Town Centre, which have been amalgamated for consideration as one strategic site. This policy sets out the guiding principles for their development, but flexibility has been incorporated to enable any of the three parcels of land to come forward for development in advance of the others, so that progress towards achieving this policy is not held up. Policy 34 District Centre Redevelopment looks favourably on development proposals that will promote the vitality, viability and sustainability of the Matchborough, Winyates and Woodrow District Centres.
2. Ensuring the vitality of town centres (paras 23-37)		
Policies should be positive, promote competitive town centre environments, and set out policies for the management and growth of centres over the plan period (23)	• The Plan and its policies may include such matters as: definition of networks and hierarchies; defining town centres; encouragement of residential development on appropriate sites; allocation of appropriate edge of centre sites where suitable and viable town centre sites are not available; consideration of retail and leisure proposals which cannot be accommodated in or adjacent to town centres.	Policy 30 Town Centre and Retail Hierarchy identifies the retail hierarchy in the Borough and the type and scale of appropriate uses in the different types of centres across the Borough Policy 31 Regeneration of the Town Centre identifies key areas of Redditch Town Centre for redevelopment to contribute to meeting residential, retail and office requirements. Cumulatively these areas

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		form the Town Centre Strategic Site.
Allocate a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural, community services and residential development needed in town centres (23)	• An assessment of the need to expand (the) town centre(s), considering the needs of town centre uses. • Primary and secondary shopping frontages identified and allocated.	Specific sites for appropriate town centre uses will be allocated in a future Site Allocations DPD. Through the preparation of BORLP4 the decision was taken to expand the town centre into the previously designated peripheral zone. This was done following the Retail and Leisure Needs Assessment (2008) and the knowledge that the quantitative requirements for town centre-related development would not likely be accommodated in the existing town centre boundary. The retail core is defined by the policies map (Town Centre inset) and is protected by Policy 32 Protection of the Retail Core.
3. Supporting a prosperous rural economy (para 28)		
Support sustainable economic growth in rural areas. Planning strategies should promote a strong rural economy by taking a positive approach to new development. (28)	• Where relevant include a policy or policies which support the sustainable growth of rural businesses; promote the development and diversification of agricultural businesses; support sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments, and support local services and facilities.	Policy 27 Rural Economic Development indicates that the Council will support proposals which deliver economic, social and environmental benefits for local communities. The policy gives priority to the change of use, re-use or conversion of a building for employment uses in order to support sustainable rural economic development.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
4. Promoting sustainable transport (paras 29-41)		
* Facilitate sustainable development whilst contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. (29) *Balance the transport system in favour of sustainable transport modes and give people a real choice about how they travel whilst recognising that different policies will be required in different communities and opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary from urban to rural areas. (29) Encourage solutions which support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion (29) including supporting a pattern of development which, where reasonable to do so, facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport. (30) 1. Local authorities should work with neighbouring authorities and transport providers to develop strategies for the provision of viable infrastructure necessary to support sustainable development. (31) 2. Opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure. (32) Ensure that developments which generate significant movement are located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of	• Joint working with adjoining authorities, transport providers and Government Agencies on infrastructure provision in order to support sustainable economic growth with particular regard to the facilities referred to in paragraph 31. • Policies encouraging development which facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport and a range of transport choices where appropriate, particularly the criteria in paragraph 35. • A spatial strategy and policy which seeks to reduce the need to travel through balancing housing and employment provision. • Policy for major developments which promotes a mix of uses and access to key facilities by sustainable transport modes. • If local (car parking) standards have been prepared, are they justified and necessary? (39) • Identification and protection of sites and routes where infrastructure could be developed to widen transport choice linked to the Local Transport Plan.	SA has considered sustainable transport related objectives when assessing the plan for its sustainability effects. Policy 19 Sustainable Travel and Accessibility seeks encourages sustainable travel patterns, improves accessibility and reduce the need to travel. A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of BORLP4 has been completed to assess the potential positive and negative impacts of the plan in relation to the key health issues for the Borough. 1. An assessment of transport infrastructure requirements has been carried out by WCC (as Transport Authority) in conjunction with consultants Halcrow on behalf of Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils. This includes modelling work for the strategic sites and in part has been carried out jointly with Bromsgrove District on cross boundary options Transport improvements identified within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
sustainable transport modes can be maximised (34) Plans should protect and exploit opportunities for the use of sustainable transport modes for the movement of goods or people. (35) 3. Policies should aim for a balance of land uses so that people can be encouraged to minimize journey lengths for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities. (37) 4. For larger scale residential developments in particular, planning policies should promote a mix of uses in order to provide opportunities to undertake day-to-day activities including work on site. Where practical, particularly within large-scale developments, key facilities such as primary schools and local shops should be located within walking distance of most properties. (38) 5. The setting of car parking standards including provision for town centres. (39-40) 6. Local planning authorities should identify and protect, where there is robust evidence, sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice. (41)		Worcestershire LTP 3 which includes: - Multi Modal Freight Policy - Smarter Choices Policy. - Traffic Management and Parking Policy 2. Policy 21 Alexandra Hospital Public Transport Interchange. This policy requires a multi-modal transport interchange at the front of the Alexandra Hospital with the aim of improving access t to and from the hospital by bus, taxi and community transport. Its layout must maximise the walking and cycling catchment population for public transport services. Policy 30 Town Centre and Retail Hierarchy sets out a retail hierarchy directing proposals for town centre uses to the most appropriate centre to reduce the need to travel. Policy 22 Road Hierarchy seeks to endorse and pursue the principles of a structured road hierarchy in new developments to create high environmental quality and high pedestrian and cycle safety. 3. The Strategic Sites and the cross boundary growth development promote a mix of uses to encourage reduced journey

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		times for the purposes of employment, shopping, leisure, etc. 4. The Strategic Sites and the cross boundary growth development promote a mix of uses and access to key facilities by sustainable transport modes. Some of these sites require on-site primary schools and the provision of local shopping facilities to provide opportunities for day-to-day activities. 5. LTP3 includes car parking standards (Appendix A) linked to the Single Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire. Traffic and Parking Management policy LTP3 is biased towards short stay to encourage high turnover and optimum footfall. Long stay in peripheral locations. 6. There are routes protected within the Local Plan for transport related purposes along the extended bus corridor route in Matchborough, The designation comes at the request of Worcestershire County Council.
5. Supporting high quality communications infrastructure (paras 42-46)		
Support the expansion of the electronic communications networks, including telecommunications' masts and high speed broadband. (43)	• Policy supporting the expansion of electronic communications networks, including telecommunications and high speed broadband, noting the caveats in para 44.	Policy 29 Broadband and telecommunications supports the expansion of electronic communication networks and does not impose a ban for

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Local planning authorities should not impose a ban on new telecommunications development in certain areas, impose blanket Article 4 directions over a wide area or a wide range of telecommunications development or insist on minimum distances between new telecommunications development and existing development. (44)		this type of development in certain areas.
6. Delivering a wide choice of high quality housing (paras 47-55)		
Identify and maintain a rolling supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years' worth of housing against their housing requirements; this should include an additional buffer of 5% or 20% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. 20% buffer applies where there has been persistent under delivery of housing(47)	• Identification of: a) five years or more supply of specific deliverable sites; plus the buffer as appropriate • Where this element of housing supply includes windfall sites, inclusion of 'compelling evidence' to justify their inclusion (48) • A SHLAA	The Council's evidence base includes its 5 Year Land Supply Document (April 2013). This document sets out that Council has a 5.99 years supply of housing, when including a 5% buffer. The document highlights that there is not a record of persistent under-delivery and therefore a 20% buffer is not appropriate. Although there is no evidence of persistent under delivery the current shortfall has been address through application of the Liverpool method alongside the 5% buffer. The document sets out the delivering of housing will come from the following sources over the next 5 years: • Commitments • SHLAA sites; and

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		• A windfall allowance The document includes a full justification for a windfall allowance of 11 per year (applied in years 4 and 5 only) by assessing the number of windfalls that have been built over the past 17 years. The sites included from the SHLAA (April 2013) are considered to be suitable, available and deliverable.
Identify a supply of developable sites or broad locations for years 6-10 and, where possible, years 11-15 (47).	• Identification of a supply of developable sites or broad locations for: a) years 6-10; b) years 11-15	The SHLAA (2013) and its accompanying Appendices details all sites considered to have development potential to meet the housing requirement and when they can be expected to be delivered. Appendix 5 of the SHLAA Report identifies which delivery period realistically reflects when development might come forward on a site by site basis. The original SHLAA (2009) details all sites that were initially considered to contribute towards meeting the housing requirement and justification for sites which were dismissed.
Illustrate the expected rate of housing delivery through a trajectory; and set out a housing implementation strategy describing how a five year supply will be maintained. (47)	• A housing trajectory • Monitoring of completions and permissions (47) • Updated and managed SHLAA. (47)	The housing trajectory is detailed in the 5yr land supply document. Annual monitoring documents set out completions and commitments in a 12

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		month period from 1 April to 31 March. There are currently two monitoring documents which detail completions and permissions in the Plan period. The SHLAA (2013) and its accompanying Appendices details all sites considered to have development potential to meet the housing requirement and when they can be expected to be delivered. The information from the SHLAA populates the annual update of the 5yr land supply document and the AMR. The monitoring and Implementation section of the Plan describes how the five year housing land supply will be monitored and maintained.
Set out the authority's approach to housing density to reflect local circumstances (47).	• Policy on the density of development.	The approach to housing density is set out in Policy 5 Effective and Efficient Use of Land.
Plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic and market trends, and needs of different groups (50) and caters for housing demand and the scale of housing supply to meet this demand. (para 159)	• Policy on planning for a mix of housing (including self-build, and housing for older people • SHMA • Identification of the size, type, tenure and range of housing) required in particular locations, reflecting local demand. (50) • Evidence for housing provision based on up to date, objectively assessed needs. (50) • Policy on affordable housing and consideration for the need for on-site provision or if off-site provision or	The Worcestershire SHMA (2012) and Policies 4 and 6 of BORLP4 reflect the need to provide for a mix of housing to meet a range of needs. The Worcestershire SHMA 2012 and Draft North Worcestershire Demographic Report (2014) indicate what mix of housing is required and for the market demand for housing in general. This is current up to

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	financial contributions are sought, where these can these be justified and to what extent do they contribute to the objective of creating mixed and balanced communities. (50)	date evidence. The SHLAA (2013) and its accompanying Appendices details all sites considered to have development potential to meet the housing requirement and when they can be expected to be delivered. The SHLAA details site size and estimated capacity, which Policy 6 Affordable Housing in the BORLP4 reflects the need for affordable housing units, based upon the Affordable Housing Viability Assessment (2012). Policy 6 also sets out the amount of affordable housing expected on sites or a commuted sum, based on a site capacity threshold.
In rural areas be responsive to local circumstances and plan housing development to reflect local needs, particularly for affordable housing, including through rural exception sites where appropriate (54). In rural areas housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities.	• Consideration of allowing some market housing to facilitate the provision of significant additional affordable housing to meet local needs. • Consideration of the case for resisting inappropriate development of residential gardens. (This is discretionary)(para 53) • Examples of special circumstances to allow new isolated homes listed at para 55.	Policy 10 Agricultural Workers Dwellings permits new dwellings in the Green Belt and Open Countryside of Redditch where there is an essential need for a rural worker to live at or near their place of work.
7. Requiring good design (paras 56-68)		
Develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area (58).	• Inclusion of policy or policies which seek to increase the quality of development through the principles set out at para 58 and approaches in paras 59-61, linked to the vision for the area and specific local issues	Policy 39 Built Environment incorporates design requirements such as local distinctiveness, sustainable design and construction, and Green Infrastructure. In particular Policy 39 requires development

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		to contribute positively to the local character of the area and respond to, and integrate with the distinctive features of the surrounding environment. It also requires development to incorporate features of the natural environment into design to preserve and continue Redditch's unique landscape features. Policy 40 High Quality Design and Safer Communities includes the following design considerations: high quality design to reflect or complement the local surroundings and materials, siting and layout, protection and enhancement of key vistas in the Borough, integration of public art to improve public outdoor space and legibility, accessibility and connectivity to aid movement, designing out crime and the provision of the space for waste and recycling. Policy 11 Green Infrastructure expects development to contribute positively to the GI network for the benefit of people, wildlife and the character and appearance of the Borough. Policy 31 Regeneration for the Town Centre, Policy 34 District Centre Redevelopment and Policies 46 to 49 for the Borough's Strategic Sites set out objectives for the design future of each area based on an understanding and

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		evaluation of their defining characteristics. Appendix 1: RCDB1 Redditch Cross Boundary Development expects development to be designed sensitively, to integrate with the surrounding existing environment, landscape, and be locally distinctive.
8. Promoting healthy communities (paras 69-77)		
Policies should aim to design places which: promote community interaction, including through mixed-use development; are safe and accessible environments; and are accessible developments (69).	• Inclusion of a policy or policies on inclusive communities. • Promotion of opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity; safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion; and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas. (69)	Policy 40 High Quality Design and Safer Communities seeks to incorporate the principles, concepts and physical security standards of the 'Secured by Design' award scheme to design out vulnerability to crime and encourage community safety. It also recognises the need for places to be well connected, easy to navigate and easy to get around, especially via sustainable modes of transport. This approach aligns with Policy 19 Sustainable Travel and Accessibility which seeks to improve accessibility and mobility to allow all members of the community to move around the Borough. Policy 11 Green Infrastructure aims to safeguard and enrich the existing GI network which is recognised as enriching the quality of life of local communities. The sites identified under Policy 31 Regeneration for The Town Centre; Policy

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		34 District Centre Redevelopment, Policy 46 Brockhill East and Policy 47 Land to the rear of the Alexandra Hospital look to create employment as well as residential opportunities. This has the potential to bring together those who work and live in the vicinity. The Cross Boundary Development in Appendix 1: RCBD1 promotes a range of uses including schools and local centres which will deliver sustainable mixed use development that encourage community interaction.
Policies should plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services (70).	• Inclusion of a policy or policies addressing community facilities and local service. • Positive planning for the provision and integration of community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments; safeguard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services; ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernize; and ensure that housing is developed in suitable locations which offer a range of community facilities and good access to key services and infrastructure.	Policy 34 District Centre Redevelopment seeks to ensure that new facilities and services are provided at an early stage of development to ensure sustainable communities are supported and that the Centre's maintain their local retailing role. Policy 31 Town Centre and Retail Hierarchy advocates that proposals for new development should be located in accordance with the Borough's settlement hierarchy. This will ensure development contributes to the regeneration priorities for the area and promotes sustainable communities based on the services and facilities that are available in each settlement. Policy 35 Health of District Centres limits the number of A5 uses allowed in the Borough's District Centres. This is to ensure the Centres maintain their

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		primary retailing role and local service centre role for local communities. Policy 43 seeks to protect and enhance the Borough's leisure and tourism facilities. It positively plans for further leisure related proposals on sustainable sites and safeguards land around the Abbey Stadium complex for these uses. Policy 44 Health Facilities advocates that proposals for new or improved heath care and related activities should be located in accordance with the Borough's settlement hierarchy. Or alternatively located within the curtilage of the Alexandra Hospital where land is safeguarded for the purpose. This will ensure that heath related development is located on sites that are most accessible by a range of modes of transport.
Identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities; and set locally derived standards to provide these (73).	• Identification of specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. (73) • A policy protecting existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land from development, with specific exceptions. (74) • Protection and enhancement of rights of way and access. (75)	The Open Space Needs Assessment 2009 (and addendum) audits existing open space, sport and recreation facilities across Redditch. It identifies local needs and aspirations through consultation, a strategic review and a review of existing provision standards, as well as recommends standards of provision. The document provides evidence to inform the future enhancement and management of open space, sport and recreation facilities.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		The Redditch Playing Pitch Strategy (2011 – 2026) aims to provide a strategic approach to future playing pitch provision; providing direction and setting priorities for sports for both the Council and its local partners. Policy 11 Green Infrastructure safeguards the existing GI Network and requires that new development contribute positively. Policy 13 Primarily Open Space seeks to protect the Borough's open space. Policy 43 has provision to safeguard land around the Abbey Stadium complex for leisure and recreational facilities. Worcestershire County Council's Local Transport Plan 3 has been expanded to include the development and maintenance of Worcestershire's Public Rights of Way. The Worcestershire Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan now forms part of the LTP3 and assesses the extent to which the local rights of way meet the present and likely future needs of the public.
Enable local communities, through local and neighbourhood plans, to identify special protection green areas of particular importance to them – 'Local Green Space' (76-78).	• Policy enabling the protection of Local Green Spaces. (Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. The designation should only be used when it accords with the criteria in para 77). Policy for managing development within a local	There are numerous references throughout the BORLP4 in relation to enabling local communities through neighbourhood plans. The Redditch Priorities section of the Single Sustainable Community Strategy for

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	green space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts. (78)	Worcestershire 2011-2021 acts as a starting point for the development of Neighbourhood Development Plans by local communities and for decisions on all new development proposals. Policy 12 Open Space Provision states that Local Green Spaces will be designated in accordance with the provisions of the NPPF and, once designated they will be managed in line with planning policy for Green Belts. To date, there have been no requests for the designation of Local Green Spaces.
9. Protecting Green Belt land (paras 79-92)		

Local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land. (81)
 	
Local planning authorities with Green Belts in their area should establish Green Belt boundaries in their Local Plans which set the framework for Green Belt and settlement policy. (83)
 	
When drawing up or reviewing Green Belt boundaries local planning authorities should take account of the need to promote sustainable patterns of development. (84)
 	
Boundaries should be set using 'physical
	• Where Green Belt policies are included, these should reflect the need to:
	  o Enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt. (81)
	  o Accord with criteria on boundary setting, and the need for clarity on the status of safeguarded land, in particular. (85)
	  o Specify that inappropriate development should not be approved except in very special circumstances. (87)
	  o Specify the exceptions to inappropriate development (89-90)
	  o Identify where very special circumstances might apply to renewable energy development. (91)
		Policy 43 Leisure Tourism and Abbey Stadium promoted areas for leisure uses and doesn't exclude the Green Belt as a possibility for such uses.
		
		Policy 8 Green Belt aligns with paragraphs 85 – 90 of the NPPF in terms of its presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt except in very special circumstances. It recognises that some forms of development are not inappropriate development in the Green Belt.
		
		Policy 8 also explains that designated Green Belt is identified on the Policies Map and that the exceptional circumstances required to amend the Green Belt

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
features likely to be permanent' amongst other things (85)		Boundary have been demonstrated through the preparation of Local Plan No. 4. The 'Redditch Green Belt Release To Meet Growth Needs' study explores the potential release of Green Belt land within Redditch in order to meet Redditch's development needs. The Housing Growth Development Study 2013 proposed two Green Belt boundary changes in Bromsgrove District to accommodate Redditch's housing needs.
10. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change (paras 93-108)		
Adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations. (94)	• Planning of new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions. • Support for energy efficiency improvements to existing building. • Local requirements for a building's sustainability which are consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy. (95)	Policy 15 Climate Change, page 45 addresses the climate change mitigation and adaptation issues. It also encourages development to incorporate zero or low carbon energy generation technologies, consistent with the Government zero carbon buildings policy. Policy 17 Flood Risk Management addresses the increasing risk of flooding. The Level 1 and Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessments have modelled the risk of flooding with the impact of climate change. Policy 18 Sustainable Water Management identifies a need for sustainable water demand management techniques. The Outline Water Cycle Study (2012) explains

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		that the baseline balance of supply calculated by Severn Trent has taken climate change into account. Policy 39 Built Environment incorporates criteria to address the effects of climate change whilst protecting and enhancing local character. Strategic Sites Policies and RCBD1: Redditch Cross Boundary Development, each requires development to address the risk of flooding and for sites to be accessible by a choice of modes of sustainable transport.
Help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy through a strategy, policies maximising renewable and low carbon energy, and identification of key energy sources. (97)	• A strategy and policies to promote and maximise energy from renewable and low carbon sources, • Identification of suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure the development of such sources (see also NPPF footnote 17) • Identification of where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers. (97)	Policy 15 Climate Change expects development to meet the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM standards. Both standards expect the development to meet a certain level of energy efficiency, which may include using renewable/ low carbon energy.
Minimise vulnerability to climate change and manage the risk of flooding (99)	• Account taken of the impacts of climate change. (99) • Allocate, and where necessary re-locate, development away from flood risk areas through a sequential test, based on a SFRA. (100) • Policies to manage risk, from a range of impacts, through suitable adaptation measures	The SFRA Level 2 for Redditch aims to direct development away from areas at highest risk of flooding. Policy 15 Climate Change addresses this issue and requires any development sites that are located in flood risk areas to demonstrate that there are no other reasonable

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		locations for development in accordance with the 'Sequential Approach' and exception Test as set out in the Technical Guidance to the NPPF. Policy 15 also requires new development to maximise adaptation measures with particular emphasis on the provision, enhancement and retention of Green Infrastructure. Appendix 1: RCBD1 requires development to address the risk of flooding.
Manage risk from coastal change (106)	• Identification of where the coast is likely to experience physical changes and identify Coastal Change Management Areas, and clarity on what development will be allowed in such areas. • Provision for development and infrastructure that needs to be re-located from such areas, based on SMPs and Marine Plans, where appropriate.	Not applicable
11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (paras 109-125)		
Protect valued landscapes (109)	• A strategy and policy or policies to create, protect, enhance and manage networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure. • Policy which seeks to minimise the loss of higher quality agricultural land and give great weight to protecting the landscape and scenic beauty of National Parks, the Broads and AONBs.	Policy 11 Green Infrastructure safeguards the existing GI Network and requires that new development contributes positively to it. It also seeks opportunities to improve and maintain the Network for the benefit of wildlife. Policy 16 Natural Environment seeks to protect and enhance the quality of natural resources including water, air, land, wildlife

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		corridors, species and habitats biodiversity and geodiversity.

Policy 16 also seeks to enhance the local landscape character and expects development to take into account the Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment.

Redditch Borough Council has endorsed the Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Guidance as a material consideration for planning purposes to aid interpretation and application of the Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) when considering planning issues.

Redditch Borough does not have any other protected landscapes such as National Parks, the Broads and AONBs. |
| Prevent unacceptable risks from pollution and land instability (109) | • Policy which seeks development which is appropriate for its location having regard to the effects of pollution on health, the natural environment or general amenity. | Consideration was given to the need for a policy on pollution in the context of Redditch Borough. It was concluded that, given the statement in NPPF para 122 states that LPA's should assume pollution control regimes will operate effectively, there were no locally distinctive issues to justify a policy that did not repeat the NPPF. The decision was therefore taken not to include a policy on pollution in the BORLP4. |

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Planning policies should minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity (117) Planning policies should plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries (117)	• Identification and mapping of local ecological networks and geological conservation interests. • Policies to promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the recovery of priority species	Policy 16 Natural Environment requires development to protect, restore and enhance features of natural environmental and landscape importance. The reasoned justification (RJ) for Policy 16 refers to the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) for Worcestershire, the Worcestershire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) and Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan (WBAP). The LCA describes the key characteristics that define landscapes, in addition to identifying the sensitivity of those landscapes to change. The RJ to policy 16 explains how the LCA, HLC and WBAP should be used in the process of assessing the impact of relevant proposals on the character of landscape. The Green Infrastructure Baseline Report Planning for a Multifunctional Green Infrastructure Framework in Worcestershire (2012) outlines the biodiversity and geodiversity assets in the Borough.
12. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment (paras 126-141)		
Include a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk (126)	• A strategy for the historic environment based on a clear understanding of the cultural assets in the plan area, including assets most at risk. • A map/register of historic assets • A policy or policies which promote new development that will make a positive contribution to character and	Policy 31 Regeneration for the Town Centre adopts a heritage-led approach that enhances the existing historic environment though high quality development that is sensitive to its context.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	distinctiveness. (126)	Policy 36 Historic Environment seeks to protect heritage assets at risk and encourages the sensitive adaptive re-use of buildings at risk where they may secure the future of the heritage asset. There is a Schedule of Locally Listed Heritage Assets (the Local List) which will be maintained through Policy 37 Historic Buildings and Structures. Furthermore, Policy 37 Historic Buildings and Structures supports development that will conserve and enhance a building/structure, its setting and any features of special architectural or historic interest.
13. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals (paras 142-149)		
It is important that there is a sufficient supply of material to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. However, since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, it is important to make best use of them to secure their long-term conservation (142) Minerals planning authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of industrial materials (146)	Account taken of the matters raised in relation to paragraph 143 and 145, including matters in relation to land in national / international designations; landbanks; the defining of Minerals Safeguarding Areas; wider matters relating to safeguarding; approaches if non-mineral development is necessary within Minerals Safeguarding Areas; the setting of environmental criteria; development of noise limits; reclamation of land; plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates. This could include evidence of co-operation with neighbouring and more distant authorities.	Minerals planning is the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council (WCC). RBC has cooperated with WCC and any identifies issues relating to the matter of minerals has been investigated and resolved. The emerging Minerals Local Plan is programmed for adoption in Autumn/Winter 2015
Justified: The plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence.		

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
To be 'justified' a DPD needs to be: • Founded on a robust and credible evidence base involving: research / fact finding demonstrating how the choices made in the plan are backed up by facts; and evidence of participation of the local community and others having a stake in the area. • The most appropriate strategy when considered against reasonable alternatives.		
Participation Has the consultation process allowed for effective engagement of all interested parties?	The consultation statement. This should set out what consultation was undertaken, when, with who and how it has influenced the plan. The statement should show that efforts have been made to consult hard to reach groups, key stakeholders etc. Reference SCI	The Consultation Statement sets out what consultation was undertaken, who was involved and how it influenced the plan. Efforts were also made to consult hard to reach groups through specific targeted events in line with the Statement of Community Involvement. The Equality Impact Assessment also provides further details on the efforts made to engage with specific groups.
Research / fact finding Is the plan justified by a sound and credible evidence base? What are the sources of evidence? How up to date, and how convincing is it? What assumptions were made in preparing the DPD? Were they reasonable and justified?	• The studies, reports and technical papers that provide the evidence for the policies set out in the DPD, the date of preparation and who they were produced by. AND • Sections of the DPD (at various stages of development) and SA Report which illustrate how evidence supports the strategy, policies and proposals, including key assumptions. OR • A very brief statement of how the main findings of consultation support the policies, with reference to: reports to the council on the issues raised during participation, covering both the front-loading and formulation phases; and any other information on community views and preferences.	The BORLP4 is based on technical evidence including feedback from infrastructure / service providers, specific technical reports including the required Sustainability Appraisal and feedback from various public consultations. As well as National Guidance, there are a number of evidence papers prepared locally, either for Redditch; Redditch and Bromsgrove; or Worcestershire County, which have been used to shape and support the BORLP4. These are available to view on the Council's Website, and detailed in the submitted document titled 'Evidence document to support the policies of the

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	OR • For each policy (or group of policies dealing with the same issue), a very brief statement of the evidence documents relied upon and how they support the policy (where this is not already clear in the reasoned justification in the DPD).	plan'. This document provides a comprehensive overview of the evidence base supporting Local Plan No.4. The table details all evidence base studies/ reports and technical papers that have been completed that provide the evidence for the policies set out in the plan. The reasoned justification to each policy also describes how evidence documents are relied upon and how they support the policy. The Statement of Consultation explains how Redditch Borough Council has undertaken community consultation and stakeholder involvement at each plan preparation stage. It also provides a summary of the main issues raised by those representations, and how these main issues have been addressed in the Plan.
Alternatives Can it be shown that the LPA's chosen approach is the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives? Have the reasonable alternatives been considered and is there a clear audit trail showing how and why the preferred approach was arrived at? Where a balance had to be struck in taking decisions between competing alternatives, is it clear how and why the decisions were taken?	• Reports and consultation documents produced in the early stages setting out how alternatives were developed and evaluated, and the reasons for selecting the preferred strategy, and reasons for rejecting the alternatives. This should include options covering not just the spatial strategy, but also the quantum of development, strategic policies and development management policies. • An audit trail of how the evidence base, consultation and SA have influenced the plan.	Issues and Options 2008 and Sustainability Appraisal 2008 were produced in the early stages. These documents set out how alternative options were developed and evaluated, and provide reasoning for the selection of the preferred approach and rejection of the alternatives. Preferred Draft Core Strategy 2009 and

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Does the sustainability appraisal show how the different options perform and is it clear that sustainability considerations informed the content of the DPD from the start?	• Sections of the SA Report showing the assessment of options and alternatives. • Reports on how decisions on the inclusion of policy were made. • Sections of the consultation document demonstrating how options were developed and appraised. • Any other documentation showing how alternatives were developed and evaluated, including a report on how sustainability appraisal has influenced the choice of strategy and the content of policies.	Sustainability Appraisal 2009 Development Options Joint Consultation with Bromsgrove District Council 2010 and Sustainability Appraisal 2010 Revised Preferred Draft Core Strategy 2011 and Sustainability Appraisal 2011 The Housing Growth Development Study 2013 and Sustainability Appraisal considered all realistic alternatives around the periphery of Redditch. Proposed Submission 2013 and Sustainability Appraisal 2013 The Consultation Statement highlights how the Plan and its policies have evolved through consultation feedback. SA reports accompanying the Local Plan and also the Housing Growth Development Study show how rationale was used to assess alternatives. They also provide an audit trail of why alternatives were considered and why each option has been chosen.

Effective: *the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities.*

To be 'effective' a DPD needs to:

• Be deliverable

[Type text]

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
- Demonstrate sound infrastructure delivery planning - Have no regulatory or national planning barriers to its delivery - Have delivery partners who are signed up to it - Be coherent with the strategies of neighbouring authorities - Demonstrate how the Duty to Co-operate has been fulfilled - Be flexible - Be able to be monitored		
Deliverable and Coherent 1. Is it clear how the policies will meet the Plan's vision and objectives? 2. Are there any obvious gaps in the policies, having regard to the objectives of the DPD? 3. Are the policies internally consistent? 4. Are there realistic timescales related to the objectives? 5. Does the DPD explain how its key policy objectives will be achieved?	• Sections of the DPD which address delivery, the means of delivery and the timescales for key developments and initiatives. • Confirmation from the relevant agencies that they support the objectives and the identified means of delivery, such as evidence that the plans and programmes of other bodies have been taken into account (e.g. Water Resources Management Plans). • Information in the local development scheme, or provided separately, about the scope and content (actual and intended) of each DPD showing how they combine to provide a coherent policy structure. • Section in the DPD that shows the linkages between the objectives and the corresponding policies, and consistency between policies (such as through a matrix).	BORLP4 Monitoring and Implementation Infrastructure Delivery Plan Local Development Scheme 1. Through key themes/intros 2. The objectives of the plan have been incorporates into the policies of the plan. 3. The SA includes a matrix where each policy was tested for internal conflict 4. Essentials delivery timescales are provided in the accompanying IDP. Relevant parts of the Plans proposed policies make it clear where timescales are important and buy-in to those timescales has been sought with the relevant stakeholders. 5. Clear expression of issues is the Key

34

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		Themes and the explanation of how each Key Theme achieved the objectives makes it easier to see how the proposed policies achieve the Objectives.
Infrastructure Delivery • Have the infrastructure implications of the policies clearly been identified? • Are the delivery mechanisms and timescales for implementation of the policies clearly identified? • Is it clear who is going to deliver the required infrastructure and does the timing of the provision complement the timescale of the policies?	• A section or sections of the DPD where infrastructure needs are identified and the proposed solutions put forward. • A schedule setting out responsibilities for delivery, mechanisms and timescales, and related to a CIL schedule where appropriate. • Confirmation from infrastructure providers that they support the solutions proposed and the identified means and timescales for their delivery, or a plan for resolving issues. • Demonstrable plan-wide viability, particularly in relation to the delivery of affordable housing and the role of a CIL schedule.	The Infrastructure Delivery Plan identifies anticipated infrastructure requirements for the BORLP4. It sets out which infrastructure items are relevant; provides timescales for delivery and provides details of who will deliver the required infrastructure. Specific items of infrastructure are identified in the Plan as appropriate for example; transport infrastructure is discussed in the Local Portrait and addressed in Policy 19 Sustainable Travel and Accessibility. Viability testing work on affordable housing has been carried out in and it is detailed in the Affordable Housing Viability Assessment 2012. Plan-wide viability testing has been carried out by HDH Planning and Development. Strategic Site Policies (46 to 49) set out expected timescales for the delivery of these developments.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		CIL Viability across Worcestershire has been assessed and is detailed in the Worcestershire CIL Viability Study January 2013 produced by HDH planning and Development.
Co-ordinated Planning Does the DPD reflect the concept of spatial planning? Does it go beyond traditional land use planning by bringing together and integrating policies for development and the use of land with other policies and programmes from a variety of agencies / organisations that influence the nature of places and how they function?	• Sections of the DPD that reflect the plans or strategies of the local authority and other bodies • Policies which seek to pull together different policy objectives • Expressions of support/representations from bodies responsible for other strategies affecting the area	The SA Scoping Report shows how the plan was influenced by the social, environmental or economic objective of other relevant international (treaties), national, regional, county and local plans and strategies. The vision of the Redditch Borough Plan covers the social, economic and environmental aspects which the Plan as well as other strategies and plans aim to achieve. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan shows the infrastructure required to deliver the Plan. The document takes into account plans and strategies of the infrastructure providers. Policy 31 Regeneration for the Town Centre makes specific reference to the Redditch Town Centre Strategy (2009). The policy aims to aid the achievement of the vision and implement the guiding principles of the strategy.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
		A Network Rail scheme for enhancements to increase the frequency of services between Redditch and Birmingham has been granted planning permission, which will impact on modal choice for commuters in Redditch. Worcestershire County Council and the Department for Transport are investing significantly in increasing the use of sustainable modes of travel in Redditch through the Choose How You Move Project between 2012 and 2015. This project will influence modal choice. The Council has been working closely with the landowners bringing forward the Land to the Rear of the Alexandra hospital, as the land was transferred from health agency ownership and through to development pre-application.

Flexibility
• Is the DPD flexible enough to respond to a variety of, or unexpected changes in, circumstances?
• Does the DPD include the remedial actions that will be taken if the policies need adjustment?
	• Sections of the DPD setting out the assumptions of the plan and identifying the circumstances when policies might need to be reviewed.
	• Sections of the annual monitoring report and sustainability appraisal report describing how the council will monitor:
	  a. the effectiveness of policies and what evidence is being collected to undertake this
	  b. changes affecting the baseline information and any information on trends on which the DPD is based
		The Annual Monitoring Report will include SA indicators within the SA Framework within the AMR which is produced in the monitoring period following anticipated adoption of the Local Plan No.4
		
		To ensure flexibility the BORLP4 contains phrases like "approximately" for the quantum of development and "where viable", "wherever practicable".

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	• Risk analysis of the strategy and policies to demonstrate robustness and how the plan could cope with changing circumstances • Sections within the DPD dealing with possible change areas and how they would be dealt with, including mechanisms for the rate of development to be increased or slowed and how that would impact on other aspects of the strategy and on infrastructure provision • Sections of the DPD identifying the key indicators of success of the strategy, and the remedial actions which will be taken if adjustment is required.	Under the Duty to Cooperate section of the plan, RBC commits to a review of the BORLP4 where appropriate, in circumstances where the housing needs of another local planning authority are clearly established through collaborative working that those needs must be met through provision in Redditch.
Co-operation • Is there sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the Duty to Co-operate has been undertaken appropriately for the plan being examined? • Is it clear who is intended to implement each part of the DPD? Where the actions required are outside the direct control of the LPA, is there evidence that there is the necessary commitment from the relevant organisation to the implementation of the policies?	• A succinct Duty to Co-operate Statement which flows from the strategic issues that have been addressed jointly. A 'tick box' approach or a collection of correspondence is not sufficient, and it needs to be shown (where appropriate) if joint plan-making arrangements have been considered, what decisions were reached and why. • The Duty to Co-operate Statement could highlight: the sharing of ideas, evidence and pooling of resources; the practical policy outcomes of co-operation; how decisions were reached and why; and evidence of having effectively co-operated to plan for issues which need other organisations to deliver on, common objectives for elements of strategy and policy; a memorandum of understanding; aligned or joint core strategies and liaison with other consultees as appropriate.	RBC DTC Statement of Compliance sets out how the Duty to Cooperate has been undertaken in Redditch Borough.
Monitoring • Does the DPD contain targets, and milestones which relate to the delivery of the policies, (including housing trajectories where the DPD contains housing allocations)?	• Sections of the DPD setting out indicators, targets and milestones • Sections of the current annual monitoring report which report on indicators, targets, milestones and trajectories	The Five Year Housing Land Supply document contains a housing trajectory based on the target of 6,400 dwellings by 2030. This trajectory also identifies where monitoring and management are required

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
• Is it clear how targets are to be measured (by when, how and by whom) and are these linked to the production of the annual monitoring report? • Is it clear how the significant effects identified in the sustainability appraisal report will be taken forward in the ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the plan, through the annual monitoring report?	• Reference to any other reports or technical documents which contain information on the delivery of policies • Sections of the current annual monitoring report and the sustainability appraisal report setting out the framework for monitoring, including monitoring the effects of the DPD against the sustainability appraisal	throughout the Plan period. The Monitoring and Implementation section of the BORLP4 explores the monitoring and implementation aspects of the Plan, which is expanded upon by the IDP. The planning system places greater emphasis on the importance of flexibility in plan making. In order to make the planning system more responsive to changing circumstances, flexible wording has been used in the plan wherever applicable. The Annual Monitoring Report currently provides completion information against Core Output Indicators for employment development and housing. The AMR will integrate the SA Framework and AMR regulation changes from the adoption of the BORLP4.
Consistent with national policy: *the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework.*		
The DPD should not contradict or ignore national policy. Where there is a departure, there must be clear and convincing reasoning to justify the approach taken.		
• Does the DPD contain any policies or proposals which are not consistent with national policy and, if so, is there local justification? • Does the DPD contain policies that do not add anything to existing national guidance? If so, why have these been included?	• Sections of the DPD which explain where and how national policy has been elaborated upon and the reasons. • Studies forming evidence for the DPD or, where appropriate, other information which provides the rationale for departing from national policy. • Evidence provided from the sustainability appraisal (including reference to the sustainability report) and/or	Five year housing land supply document (2013), which elaborates on windfall allowance and housing delivery performance The designated District Centres in Redditch Borough are the equivalent to the definition of 'Local Centres' in the NPPF –

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Soundness Test and Key Requirements	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
	from the results of community involvement. • Reports or copies of correspondence as to how representations have been considered and dealt with.	this is explained in the reasoned justification to Policy 30 Town Centre and Retail Hierarchy and Policy 34 District Centre Redevelopment.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Planning policy for traveller sites

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Policy A: Using evidence to plan positively and manage development (para 6)		
Early and effective community engagement with both settled and traveller communities.	• Early and effective engagement undertaken, including discussing travellers' accommodation needs with travellers themselves, their representative bodies and local support groups.	GTAA 2008 A new GTAA is currently being undertaken which is due for completion in Spring 2014.
Co-operate with travellers, their representative bodies and local support groups, other local authorities and relevant interest groups to prepare and maintain an up-to-date understanding of likely permanent and transit accommodation needs of their areas.	• Demonstration of a clear understanding of the needs of the traveller community over the lifespan of your development plan. • Collaborative working with neighbouring local planning authorities. • A robust evidence base to establish accommodation needs to inform the preparation of your local plan and make planning decisions.	Housing Strategy 2011-2015 GTAA 2008 A new GTAA is currently being undertaken which is due for completion in Spring 2014.
Policy B: Planning for traveller sites (paras 7-11)		
Set pitch targets for gypsies and travellers and plot targets for travelling showpeople which	• Identification, and annual update, of a supply of specific, deliverable sites sufficient to provide 5 years worth of sites against	GTAA 2014

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
address the likely permanent and transit site accommodation needs of travellers in your area, working collaboratively with neighbouring LPAs. Set criteria to guide land supply allocations where there is identified need. Ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.	locally set target. Identification of a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth for years 6-10, and, where possible, for years 11-15. • An assessment of the need for traveller sites, and where an unmet need has been demonstrated a supply of specific, deliverable sites been identified. • Policy which takes into account criteria a-h of para 11	Criteria are included within Policy 7 Gypsies Travellers and Travelling Showpeople in the BORLP4. There are no allocations; this is to follow in a specific Site Allocations DPD.
Policy C: Sites in rural areas and the countryside (para 12)		
When assessing the suitability of sites in rural or semi-rural settings LPAs should ensure that the scale of such sites do not dominate the nearest settled community.		Policy 7 Gypsies, Travellers and travelling Showpeople sets criteria. Criteria (iii) is relevant for this soundness test.
Policy D: Rural exception sites (para 13)		
If there is a lack of affordable land to meet local traveller needs, LPAs in rural areas, where viable and practical, should consider allocating and releasing sites solely for affordable travellers sites.	• If a rural exception site policy is used, and if so clarity that such sites shall be used for affordable traveller sites in perpetuity.	Policy 7 Gypsies, Travellers and travelling Showpeople sets criteria. There are no allocations; this is to follow in a specific Site Allocations DPD.
Policy E: Traveller sites in Green Belt (paras 14-15)		

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
Traveller sites (both permanent and temporary) in the Green Belt are inappropriate development. Exceptional limited alteration to the defined Green Belt boundary (which might be to accommodate a site inset within the Green Belt) to meet a specific, identified need for a traveller site ... should be done only through the plan-making process.	• Green Belt boundary revisions made in response to a specific identified need for a traveller site, undertaken through the plan making process.	There are no allocations; this is to follow in a specific Site Allocations DPD.
Policy F: Mixed planning use traveller sites (paras 16-18)		
Local planning authorities should consider, wherever possible, including traveller sites suitable for mixed residential and business uses, having regard to the safety and amenity of the occupants and neighbouring residents.	• Consideration of the need for sites for mixed residential and business use (having regard to safety and amenity of the occupants and neighbouring residents), or separate sites in close proximity to one another. • N.B. Mixed use should not be permitted on rural exception sites	There are no allocations; this is to follow in a specific Site Allocations DPD.
Policy G: Major development projects (para 19)		
Local planning authorities should work with the planning applicant and the affected traveller community to identify a site or sites suitable for relocation of the community if a major development proposal requires the permanent	• Where a major development proposal requires the permanent or temporary relocation of a traveller site, the identification of a site or sites suitable for re-location of the community.	Not applicable. There are no allocations; this is to follow in a specific Site Allocations DPD.

Soundness Self-Assessment Checklist – Redditch (Completed March 2014)

Policy Expectations	Possible Evidence	Evidence Provided
or temporary relocation of a traveller site.		