

Redditch Issues and Options: Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report



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1.Introduction

What is the Council consulting on?

1.1 Redditch Borough Council is preparing a new local plan that will replace the current Borough of Redditch Local Plan 4 (BORLP4). The new local plan will define the vision, planning policies and strategic site allocations for the Borough up to 2041.

1.2 The 2025 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) forms part of this Issues and Options consultation. Whilst the SA is a legal requirement for a local plan, the SA Scoping report itself is not. This Scoping Report document is the first stage of the SA process and isn't the actual SA document.

1.3 The Council produced this SA Scoping report to help inform the development of the local plan issues and options consultation document. This SA Scoping Report is designed to be clear and accessible so it can be read alongside the Issues and Options consultation document.

What is a Sustainability Appraisal (SA)?

1.4 A Sustainability Appraisal assesses to what extent a Local Plan promotes sustainable development. The SA is a key part of the local plan process that can shape and even change proposed local plan site allocations and planning policies to make them more sustainable.

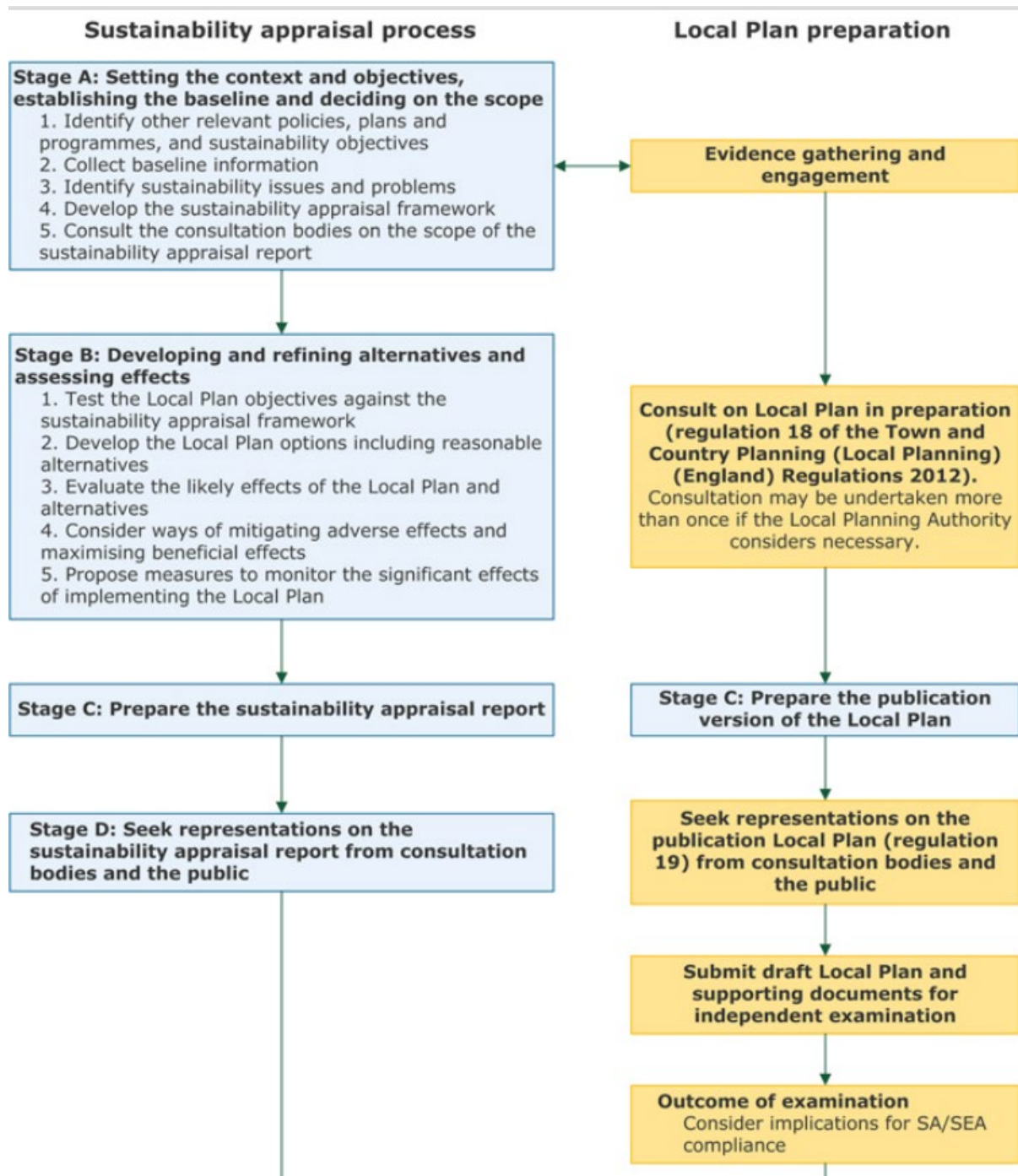
1.5 Sustainability is judged by how the Local Plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic, and social objectives.

1.6 It is a legal requirement to carry out an SA during the preparation of a local plan under Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Paragraph 33 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) identifies the Local Plan SA requirements.

1.7 Paragraph 33 of the NPPF identifies that the SA should:

“...demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives (including opportunities for net gains). Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered).”

1.8 The overall SA process is identified below:



1.9 The 5 stages of an SA Scoping Report

The SA Scoping report is stage A of the SA process: “Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope:

- 1.To review relevant policies, plans and programmes (PPPs) and sustainability objectives
2. Collect baseline information
3. Identify sustainability issues and problems
- 4.Develop the sustainability appraisal framework
5. Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report

2. Stage 1- Review relevant policies, plans and programmes (PPPs) and sustainability objectives

2.1 A review has been undertaken of all relevant policies, plans and programmes (PPPs) and SA objectives from the Borough of Redditch Local Plan 4 (BORLP4). The previous PPPs that informed BORLP4 were then checked for updates and the relevant new policies, plans and programmes released since BORLP4 examined. A proportionate approach has been used to ensure that only the PPPs most relevant to the emerging local plan have been reviewed.

2.2 Plans and programmes relevant to the Borough Plan may be those at an international/ European, UK, national, regional, sub-regional or local level, as relevant to the scope of the document. The review of relevant policies, plans and programmes aims to identify the relationships between the Borough Plan and these other documents i.e. how the Borough Plan could be affected by the other plans’ and programmes’ aims, objectives and/or targets, or how it could contribute to the achievement of their sustainability objectives. The review also ensures that the relevant environmental protection and sustainability objectives are integrated into the SA. Additionally, reviewing policies, plans and programmes can provide appropriate information on the baseline for the Plan area and help identify the key sustainability issues.

2.3 The completed review of policies, plans and programmes will be used to provide the policy context for the subsequent appraisal process and help to inform the development of objectives and guide questions that comprise the SA framework.

2.4 The list of PPPs reviewed can be found at **Appendix A: list of Policies, Plans and Programmes.**

Stage 2- Baseline information

3.2 Baseline information considers the situation as it is today. This section analyses baseline information on socio-economic and environmental issues in Redditch Borough.

3.3 The baseline information will help to identify key issues the Local Plan needs to address. Baseline information also helps to analyse the likely trends in this data without the new Local Plan.

3.4 The data that the SA Scoping Report must cover is defined in Schedule 2 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Population size

3.5 Between 2011 and 2021, the population of Redditch increased by 3.4% from around 84,200 in 2011 to approximately 87,000 in 2021. Redditch's population increase is lower than the increase for the wider West Midlands (6.2%)

3.6 At the time of the 2021 Census, Redditch also had a high population density, with around 11.5 people per football pitch-sized area of land. This makes Redditch among the top 35% most densely populated local authority areas in England. (Office for National Statistics)

Age profile

3.7 There has been an increase of 36.3% in people aged 65 years and over, a decrease of 3.2% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 1.9% in children aged under 15 years. In 32 of the 309 local authority areas of England, the total number of people aged 65 years and over increased by 30.0% or more between 2011 and 2021. This compares with a 20.1% rise across England.

3.8 Between the last two censuses, the average (median) age of Redditch increased by two years, from 38 to 40 years of age. This area had a similar average (median) age to the West Midlands as a whole in 2021 (40 years) and had a similar average (median) age to England (40 years). The number of people aged 65 to 74 years rose by around 2,700 (an increase of 40.5%), while the number of residents between 20 and 24 years fell by just under 700 (a 13.3% decrease). (Office for National Statistics).

Employment

3.9 The employment rate in Redditch has broadly been higher than that of England and Worcestershire, with the exceptions of 2008 and 2015.

3.10 Of Redditch residents aged 16 years and over, 59.5% said they were employed (excluding full-time students) in 2021, down from 61.5% in 2011. In 2021, just over 1 in

40 people (2.7%) said they were unemployed, compared with 4.3% in 2011. The percentage of retired Redditch residents increased from 19.0% to 21.7%.

3.11 Self-employment in Redditch is far lower at 4.5% compared to the wider comparator areas of Worcestershire, the West Midlands, and England where levels are 9%.

3.12 Further details can be found in the Redditch Housing and Economic Needs Assessment (HEDNA): [22-03-08-redditch-hedna-final2.pdf](#)

Transport

3.13 Redditch has good road links, with the M42, M5 and M40 being in relative close proximity. The north of Redditch benefits from good access to the strategic road network via the A441, A4023, A4189 and A435, all of which are dualled and contribute to the ease of travelling both within and through the borough. (HEDNA, 2022)

3.14 Data from the 2021 Census 2021 shows that 63.2% of residents travel to work by car, while only 7.7% chose an active travel mode. 6.2% of the population worked mainly at or from home, while 2,966 commuted to work by walking and 617 by bicycle. (Office for National Statistics)

3.15 Redditch has two train services per hour to Birmingham. Regular bus services run between Bromsgrove and Redditch, as well as buses to Birmingham and Worcester.

Deprivation

3.16 Redditch is identified as a relatively deprived area within Worcestershire, with certain pockets of deprivation. According to the 2007 Indices of Multiple Deprivation, Redditch was ranked 131st out of 354 areas nationally. The most deprived areas within Redditch include Winyates, Church Hill, Batchley, and Woodrow.

3.17 The 2021 census revealed that Redditch Town and Abbeydale, Church Hill South, and Greenlands were areas with high deprivation rates. Redditch's ranking in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) places it within the top 40% most deprived areas in England. The Winyates housing estate is considered the most deprived area within Redditch and the sixth most deprived in Worcestershire. (ONS)

Housing Tenure

3.18 In 2021, just over one in five households (20.2%) lived in socially rented housing, compared with 21.2% in 2011. In 2021, 14.4% of Redditch households rented privately. This figure increased from 11.7% in 2011. The increase in the percentage of privately-rented homes was greater across the West Midlands (3.9 percentage points, from 14.0% to 17.9%) than in Redditch (2.7 percentage points). Across England, the percentage increased by 3.6 percentage points, from 16.8% to 20.5%. (ONS)

3.19 The percentage of Redditch households that owned their home (outright or with a mortgage or loan) decreased from 65.7% to 64.4%.

3.20 Recorded household overcrowding in Redditch was 4.2% at the 2011 Census across all tenure types. Highest in social rented (9.3%), lower in private rented (6.9%) and lowest in owner occupied (2.1%)

3.21 The median house price in Redditch as of December 2020 was £218,000, with properties more expensive than across the West Midlands, but cheaper than the Worcestershire average (£250,000), and England average (£259,000). (HEDNA)

Climate Change

3.22 Redditch Borough Council (RBC) declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. The Council subsequently published the Redditch Borough Council Carbon Reduction Strategy & Implementation Plan 4.5 in February 2024 to reflect the Council's commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2050.

3.23 The government publishes co2 by local authority. This provides a detailed tool to assess carbon emissions locally.

Government data on Co2 by Local authority 2011-2022

Source: [UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions statistics, 2005 to 2022 - GOV.UK](#)

Year	Per capita co2 emissions	Total co2 emissions
2011	5.5	467.9
2012	5.7	481.4
2013	5.5	463.6
2014	4.9	419.2
2015	4.7	404.7
2016	4.4	381.3
2017	4.3	373.3
2018	4.2	369.0
2019	4.1	358.5
2020	3.5	309.5

2021	3.8	331.0
2022	3.9	335.7

Co2 emissions by sector

Sector	2011	2022
Industry	95.6	73.2
Commercial	55.3	35.5
Public Sector	16.4	8.9
Domestic	152.7	93.9
Transport	107.2	85.9

Open Space and Green infrastructure

3.24 Redditch has two areas of designated parkland, including the regionally significant Arrow Valley Country Park (364 hectares) and Morton Stanley Park (38 hectares). These large parks accommodate a variety of activities such as outdoor play, sports pitch provision and café facilities.

3.25 The Redditch Open Space Study 2003 provides further detail on open space within Redditch Borough: [Open space study](#)

3.26 The Worcester Green Infrastructure Strategy identifies the Bromsgrove and Redditch corridor as a key route for enhancement: [66040 Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2023-2028 - Draft Consultation Document](#)

Historic Environment

3.27 Redditch Borough has a rich local history. Redditch Borough contains 2 conservation areas, 161 listed buildings (152 Grade II, 10 Grade II* and 1 Grade I) and 8 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The two Conservation Areas are Feckenham Conservation Area and Church Green Conservation Area.

3.28 Much of Redditch is defined by its post-war heritage. The Redditch New Town Masterplan sought to respond to the post-war challenges of a housing shortage, increasing car use and overcrowding in the West Midlands conurbation. The Redditch New Town Masterplan left a legacy of relatively low levels of congestion, comparatively large amounts of open space and local services in District Centres accessed by a network of footpaths, all framed by over 3 million trees.

Biodiversity

3.29 Sites of European importance (Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated to conserve natural habitats and species of wildlife which are rare, endangered or vulnerable in the European Community. In the UK,

these form part of the ‘Natura 2000’ network of sites protected under the EC Habitats Directive (1992). There are no European designated sites in Redditch Borough.

Redditch has 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI’s):

- Dagnell End Meadow
- Ipsley Alders Marsh
- Rookery Cottage Meadows (Upper Beanhall Meadows)
- Rough Hill & Wirehill Woods
- Trickses Hole
- Wylde Moor Feckenham

Landscape

3.30 Around half of Redditch Borough is rural. The landscape south of Redditch is identified by the Worcestershire Landscape Character assessment as:

- Principal Timbered Farmlands
- Wet Pasture Meadows
- Wooded Estatelands

[Landscape Character Assessment | Worcestershire County Council](#)

3.31 The Borough forms part of the Arden National Landscape Character. Arden Landscape Character Area (LCA) consists of farmland and former wood-pasture lying to the south and east of Birmingham. Traditionally regarded as the land lying between the River Tame and the River Avon in Warwickshire, the Arden landscape also extends into north Worcestershire to abut the Seven and Avon Vales.

3.32 Environmental matters

Matter	Overview
Air quality	2024 Air Quality Status Report: rbc_asr_2024.pdf
Contaminated Land	Redditch Borough Council Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy 2024: Redditch Borough Council – Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy 2024
Water	The River Arrow, a tributary of the River Avon and the Bow Brook extending into the rural parts of Redditch Borough. There are no canals of relevance in Redditch Borough.

Flood risk	Redditch is at low risk of flooding, as identified by the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment: Microsoft Word - Final Level 1 SFRA.doc
Waste	Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire
Soil	Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system identifies that the majority of Redditch Borough's rural areas contain good to moderate and poor agricultural land

Stage 3- Sustainability Issues

4.1 Chapter 1 of this SA Scoping Report reviewed relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes (PPPs) and Chapter 2 analysed baseline information. This chapter translates the work in the first two chapters into key sustainability issues or challenges.

4.2 The key issues have been grouped together by topic to align with the Issues and Options Local Plan. These individual Sustainability issues will then be addressed through the Sustainability Objectives that will form the Sustainability Framework in Chapter 4.

4.3 The criteria for defining what constitutes a key Sustainability Issue is:

- An issue that has a potential detrimental impact on sustainability when judged against wider local, national and international policy frameworks.
- Data identifies that a specific issue is in line with a negative national trend or worse than a national average trend
- Key sustainability issues will change over time. This is why regular review is important to ensure detrimental trends are monitored.

4.4 Key Sustainability Issues

Topic	Sustainability Issues
Housing	<p>Challenges of meeting the housing needs of an ageing population through an appropriate housing mix and specialist housing</p> <p>Affordability challenges to be met through providing more genuinely affordable housing</p>

	Need to build new homes in sustainable locations to reduce car use e.g. brownfield sites
Employment	<p>Providing skilled jobs to retain/attract more younger people to the area to address the declining younger population and address deprivation levels</p> <p>The local labour force needs to be upskilled to safeguard and attract business investment</p> <p>Wages in Redditch are lower than some surrounding areas. Securing investment through ensuring there is enough employment land available may help create higher paid jobs to reduce out-commuting</p> <p>If there aren't enough sites for investment companies will leave/not expand</p> <p>More out-commuting if employment land not expanding to meet need</p>
Infrastructure – Transport	<p>Ensure communities are walkable by providing safe walking routes. Redditch's postwar heritage has led to the separation of pedestrians and cars in many places which can create walking routes that may be perceived as unsafe e.g. underpasses.</p> <p>Bus and rail services would benefit from further development</p> <p>Connectivity between public transport modes e.g. bus and rail to encourage public transport use</p>
Infrastructure- Health	Address public health concerns through the provision of new health facilities and well-designed new communities
Infrastructure- Open Space	<p>Ensure new open space is easily accessible</p> <p>Addressing open space deficits where possible</p>
Redditch Town Centre	Accommodating the changing nature of the town centre

	<p>New services located in the town centre are needed to support new any future town centre residential development.</p> <p>Improvements to public transport, walking and cycling to provide a viable alternative to car uses</p>
Redditch District Centres	<p>The development of District Centres is vital for sustainability by reducing the number of car journeys required to access everyday convenience shopping</p> <p>Preserve and enhance the community facilities District Centres provide</p> <p>Estate regeneration</p>
Environment- Climate change	<p>Need to reduce co2 emissions e.g. through more energy efficient homes, locating new homes close to existing urban areas, services and public transport</p>
Environment- Biodiversity	<p>Preserve and enhance biodiversity</p>
Environment- Air quality, pollution flood risk	<p>Take into account the risks of climate change in flood risk</p>
Historic Environment- landscape and buildings	<p>The need to promote high quality design that respects the historic environment to conserve and enhance townscapes</p> <p>Need to avoid harm to designated and non-designated heritage assets</p> <p>Adopting renewable energy technologies without undermining the historic environment</p>

Stage 4- Developing the Sustainability Appraisal framework

5.1 The SA Framework includes 16 key SA objectives to provide a benchmark for the Local Plan when assessing the sustainability of different options.

5.2 The review plan will be assessed by testing the plans objectives, policies and proposals against the SA framework. Firstly, it will test the socioeconomic and environmental effects of the plan then secondly reasonable alternatives will be tested against the SA framework.

5.3 Building the SA framework

Step 1: Planning Advisory Service (PAS) guidance identifies that existing SA objectives can form the basis for updated SAs for consistency and to examine change over time. The existing Borough Of Redditch Local Plan 4 SA objectives were updated.

Step 2: These updated SA objectives were grouped by theme to match the Issues and Options Local Plan to enable ease of comparison.

Step 3: The guiding questions serve as the benchmark for assessing the sustainability of potential options.

Step 4: The indicators identify potential sources of data to measure proposed approaches

5.4 SA Framework

Topic area	SA Objective	Guiding Questions	Indicators
All topic areas	1. Provide opportunities for communities to participate and contribute to decisions that affect their neighbourhood and quality of life, encouraging pride and social responsibility in the local community.	Will the plan proposals incorporate consultation with local communities? Will the plan promote wider community engagement and civic responsibility?	Consultations compliant with SCI requirements Consultations above statutory requirements Number of consultation responses received
Housing	2. Provide decent, energy efficient and affordable housing for all, of	Is proposed housing near local services?	Housing completions Housing waiting list

	the right tenure to meet local needs,	Does the tenure match the evidence base?	
Employment	<p>3. To facilitate high quality, skilled jobs to retain/attract more young people in the Borough through existing and emerging industries</p> <p>4. Enable existing businesses to grow in sustainable locations</p>	<p>Are the most sustainable sites possible being utilised?</p> <p>Is the site accessible by active travel?</p>	<p>Number of VAT-registered visitors in the Borough</p> <p>Business survival rates</p> <p>In work/unemployment rate</p> <p>Skill levels</p> <p>Economic activity</p> <p>Employment land completed</p> <p>Increased inward investment</p> <p>Amount of floorspace developed for B uses</p> <p>Qualification levels</p> <p>Employment by sector</p>
Infrastructure-Transport	5. To reduce the need to travel and move towards more sustainable travel patterns;	<p>Will it improve congestion?</p> <p>Will it provide integrated transport?</p>	<p>Percentage of households with a car/two or more cars</p> <p>Percentage of developments within existing settlements</p> <p>Average commuting distance</p> <p>Commuting modes</p> <p>Applications approved with multi-</p>

			<p>model transport as part of the design</p> <p>Percentage of housing developments within walking distance of public transport and key services</p>
Infrastructure- Open space and Green Infrastructure	6. To preserve and enhance open space and green infrastructure	Is it accessible to all?	Open space usage
Infrastructure- Health	7. To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health;	Is it accessibly located?	Providing increasing levels of services to cater for an ageing population
Redditch Town Centre and District Centres	8. To improve the vitality and viability of Town and District Centres and the quality of, and equitable access to, local services and facilities, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, socio-economic status or educational attainment;	<p>Will plan proposals maintain and enhance the provision of local services and facilities?</p> <p>Will the proposals support a more mixed use town centre?</p>	<p>Reduced town centre vacancies</p> <p>More town centre residential living</p> <p>Greater mix of uses</p> <p>Fewer vacant potential development sites</p>
Environment- Climate change	<p>9. Reduce causes of and adapt to the impacts of climate change;</p> <p>10. Promote resource efficiency and energy generated from renewable energy</p>	Will this option generate the least amount of co2?	<p>Reduced co2 emissions</p> <p>More renewable energy</p> <p>Increased number of energy efficient buildings</p>

	and low carbon sources.		
Environment- Biodiversity	11. To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity;	Does this development fit into or disrupt wider wildlife strategies?	Increased wildlife corridors Improved wildlife surveys
Environment- Air quality, pollution flood risk and waste	<p>12. Ensure development does not occur in high-risk flood prone areas and does not adversely contribute to fluvial flood risks or contribute to surface water flooding in all other areas;</p> <p>13. Protect and improve the quality of water, soil and air and water resources;</p> <p>14. To manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, recovery, disposal</p>	Is the proposed mitigation sufficient to reduce risks?	<p>Water efficiency measures in new dwellings Percentage of development in key flood zones Percentage of new dwellings incorporating SUDS</p> <p>Planning applications granted contrary to environment Agency advice</p> <p>AQMAs in the Borough Housing and employment development on previously developed land</p> <p>Water efficiency measures in new dwellings</p> <p>Percentage of development in key flood zones</p> <p>Recycling: percentage of waste recycled/incinerated/ sent to landfill</p>

			Volume of household waste collected
Historic Environment-landscape and buildings	<p>15. Safeguard and strengthen landscape and townscape character and quality</p> <p>16. Conserve and enhance the architectural, cultural and archaeological heritage and seek well-designed, resource efficient, high quality built environment in new development proposals;</p>	Is any potential harm outweighed by other factors?	<p>Local list</p> <p>Condition surveys of key buildings</p>

Stage 5- Consultation

6.1 The Scoping Report has been sent to the statutory consultation bodies of Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England, as per Regulation 12 (5) of the UK SEA Regulations 2004.

6.2 The Redditch Local Plan Issues and Options consultation starts on 23rd May until 3rd July.

6.3 After the consultation has closed, all responses will be considered and changes may be made to the SA framework. This version of the SA will then inform the Local Plan sustainability appraisal process e.g. testing the local plan against the SA Framework and then assessing reasonable alternatives.

Appendix A: list of Policies, Plans and Programmes

Soils and Land Use, Water Resources and Water Quality
Soils and Land Use
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defra (2011) Safeguarding Our Soils: A Strategy for England• MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework• DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance
Water Resources and Water Quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Directive 91/271/EEC for Urban Waste-water Treatment• EU Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)• EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)• EU Bathing Waters Directive (2006/7/EC)• Environment Agency (2009) 'Water for people and the environment' - Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales• HM Government (2014) Water Act 2014• HM Government (2015) Water Framework Directive (Standards and Classification) Directions (England and Wales) 2015• Environment Agency (2016) Managing Water Extraction• MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework• DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance• Environment Agency (2016) Severn River Basin District River Basin Management Plan
Air Quality, Waste, Pollution and Energy, Flood Risk and Climate Change
Air Quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) and previous directives (96/62/EC; 99/30/EC; 2000/69/EC & 2002/3/EC)• Defra (2007) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland• Defra (2017) Air Quality Plan for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) in UK

- Defra (2019) Clean Air Strategy
- MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework
- DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance

Waste

- EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC)
- EU Directive on the Landfill of Waste (99/31/EC)
- EU Directive on Waste (Directive 75/442/EEC, 2006/12/EC 2008/98/EC as amended)
- DCLG (2014) National Planning Policy for Waste
- Defra (2021) Waste Management Plan for England
- MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework
- DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance
- Worcester County Council (2012) Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire 2012-2027

Pollution and Energy

- EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)
- EU Directive 2002/91/EC on the Energy Performance of Buildings
- EU Environmental Noise Directive (Directive 2002/49/EC)
- EU Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC)
- HM Government (2003) Sustainable Energy Act
- HM Government (2009) The UK Renewable Energy Strategy
- HM Government (2011) National Infrastructure Plan
- HM Government (2016) Energy Act
- MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework
- DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance
- Energy Capital (2017) A Vision for the West Midlands – Renewable and Energy Efficient Future
- GBSLEP (2017) Low Carbon Energy Plan

Flood Risk

- EU Floods Directive 2007/60/EC
- HM Government (2010) Flood and Water Management Act 2010
- DCLG (2014) Written Statement on Sustainable Drainage Systems
- Environment Agency (2021) Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances
- MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework
- DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance
- Worcestershire County Council (2018) Worcestershire Surface Water Management Plan
- Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council (2012) Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report

Climate Change

- UNFCCC (1997) The Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC
- The Cancun Agreement (2011)
- EC (2013) Seventh Environmental Action Programme to 2020 'Living well, within the limits of our planet'
- EC (2014) A Policy Framework for Climate and Energy in the Period from 2020 to 2030
- UN (2016) The Paris Agreement
- EC (2021) Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
- UN (2022) COP27
- HM Government (2008) The Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended)
- Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) (2009) The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy
- HM Government (2013) Carbon Plan: Delivering our Low Carbon Future
- Defra (2013) The National Adaptation Programme – Making the Country Resilient to a Changing Climate
- HM Government (2016) Government Response to the Committee on Climate Change
- Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (DBEI) (2017) Clean Growth Strategy
- DBEI (2021) Carbon Budgets – Fourth to Sixth Carbon Budgets

- MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework
- DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance
- HM Government (2022) Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener
- WMCA (2019) Five Year Plan 2021-2026
- Worcestershire County Council (2012) Climate Change Strategy 2012-2020

Biodiversity, Geodiversity, Green and Blue Infrastructure

Biodiversity, Green and Blue Infrastructure

- EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC)
- EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC) & Subsequent Amendments
- EU (2015) Invasive Alien Species Regulation (1143/2014/EU)
- EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 – towards implementation
- EU (2020) Biodiversity Strategy to 2030
- HM Government (1981) The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Department for Food and Rural Affairs (2002) “Working with the grain of nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England”
- Forestry Commission (2005) Trees and Woodlands Nature's Health Service
- HM Government (2006) The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
- Defra (2008) England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Principles Conserving Biodiversity in a Changing Climate
- Defra (2010) Making Space for Nature: A Review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network
- Defra (2011) Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services
- Defra (2012) UK post 2010 Biodiversity Framework
- Defra (2013) Government Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement
- HM Government (2017) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017
- HM Government (2021) Environment Act

- Defra (2021) The England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024
- MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework
- DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance
- Natural England (2008) Enhancing Biodiversity Across the West Midlands
- Sustainability West Midlands (2018) 25 Year Environmental Plan – Opportunities for the West Midlands
- Worcestershire County Council (2013) Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013-2018
- Worcestershire County Council (Several) Habitat and Species Biodiversity Action Plans

Geodiversity

- MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework
- DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance
- Worcestershire County Council (2022) Minerals Local Plan

Landscape, Townscape and the Historic Environment

Landscape

- European Landscape Convention 2000 (became binding March 2007)
- HM Government (2000) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework
- DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance
- Worcestershire County Council (2012) Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Guidance

Townscape

- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLHC) (2021) National Design Guide
- MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework
- DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance
- WMCA (2020) West Midlands Design Charter
- West Midlands Combined Authority (2017) West Midlands Roadmap to a Sustainable Future in 2020 (Annual Monitoring Report)

- Worcestershire County Council (2022) Shaping Worcestershire's Future - Our Plan for Worcestershire
- Redditch Borough Council Plan (2020 – 2024)
- Redditch Borough Council (2019) High Quality Design SPD

Historic Environment

- UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972)
- The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)
- The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention)
- HM Government (1979) Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act
- HM Government (1990 Planning) (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) (2001) The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future
- DCMS (2007) Heritage Protection for the 21st Century - White Paper
- DCMS (2013) Scheduled Monuments & Nationally Important but Non-Scheduled Monuments
- Historic England (2015) Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Notes 1 to 3
- Historic England (2015) The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans, Historic England Advice Note 3
- MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework
- DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance
- Worcestershire County Council Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (2010) Historic Environment Assessment for Redditch Borough Council

Healthy and Inclusive Communities

- DCMS (2008) Play Strategy for England
- HM Government (2011) The Localism Act
- NHS England (2014) Five Year Forward View

- DCMS (2015) Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation
- DCMS (2016) The Culture White Paper
- NHS England (2017) Next Steps on the Five Year Forward View
- Public Health England (2019) PHE Strategy 2020-25
- Public Health England (2020) Health Impact Assessment in spatial planning - A guide for local authority public health and planning teams
- MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework
- DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance
- West Midlands Combined Authority (2017) Thrive West Midlands – An Action Plan to drive better mental health and wellbeing in the West Midlands
- Redditch Borough Council (2023) Playing Pitch Strategy

Housing

- HM Government (2004, revised 2006) Housing Act
- DCLG (2014) Planning Policy for Traveller Sites
- MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework
- DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance
- Peter Brett Associates LLP (2014) GBSLEP Joint Strategic Housing Study
- GL Hearn & Wood (2018) Greater Birmingham HMA Growth Study
- Arc (2014) Worcestershire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
- Worcestershire County Council (2017) Worcestershire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2022
- Worcestershire County Council (2017) Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan
- Redditch Borough Council (2022) Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment
- Redditch Borough Council (2014) Housing Land Availability Report
- Redditch Borough Council (2022) 5 Year Housing Land Supply in Redditch Borough

Economic Activity and Education

Economic Activity

- European Union (EU) European Employment Strategy
- HM Government (2011) Plan for Growth
- HM Government (2013) Achieving Strong and Sustainable Economic Growth
- HM Government (2021) Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth
- MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework
- DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance
- Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (2016) Strategic Economic Plan 2016-2030
- Tourism West Midlands (2019) West Midlands Tourism Strategy
- HM Government (2019) Local Industrial Strategy for the West Midlands
- Worcestershire County Council (2010) An Economic Strategy for Worcestershire 2010-2020
- Redditch Borough Council (2022) Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment
- Redditch Borough Council (2022) Employment Land Availability Report

Education

- Department for Education (2016) DfE Strategy 2015 – 2020: World Class Education and Care
- MHCLG (2021) National Planning Policy Framework
- DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance

Transport and Accessibility

- Department for Education (2014) Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance
- Department for Transport (2019) Future of Mobility: Urban Strategy
- Department for Transport (2021) Transitioning to zero emission cars and vans: 2035 delivery plan
- MHCLG (2024) National Planning Policy Framework
- DCLG (2021) Planning Practice Guidance
- Worcestershire County Council (2018) The Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2018-2030

Key Messages Arising from the Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

Key Objectives and Policy Messages	Key Source(s)	Implications for the SA Framework
Soils and Land Use, Water Resources and Water Quality		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the use of previously developed (brownfield) land. Promote the re-use of derelict land and buildings. Protect soil quality and minimise the loss of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land. Promote high quality design. Avoid damage to, and protect, geologically important sites. Encourage mixed use development. Protect and enhance surface and groundwater quality. Improve water efficiency. 	<p>Water Framework Directive; Drinking Water Directive; Floods Directive; Flood and Water Management Act 2010; NPPF; Enhancing Biodiversity Across the West Midlands; 25 Year Environmental Plan – Opportunities for the West Midlands; Severn River Basin District River Basin Management Plan (2016); WCC Minerals Local Plan (2022).</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives and/or guide questions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging the use of previously developed land and buildings; Reducing land contamination; Promoting high quality design; including mixed use development; Protecting and avoiding damage to geologically important sites; and Water quality and quantity.
Air Quality, Waste, Pollution and Energy, Flood Risk and Climate Change		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that air quality is maintained or enhanced and that emissions of air pollutants are kept to a minimum. 	<p>Air Quality Directive; Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include a specific objective and/or guide question relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Quality; Waste and Recycling;

Key Objectives and Policy Messages	Key Source(s)	Implications for the SA Framework
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid development in areas of flood risk. • Reduce the risk of flooding arising from new development. • Ensure timely investment in water management infrastructure to accommodate new development. • Minimise the effects of climate change. • Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that may cause climate change. • Encourage the provision of renewable energy. • Move towards a low carbon economy. • Promote the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle, recover). • Ensure the adequate provision of local waste management facilities. 	<p>Ireland; Waste Management Plan for England; NPPF; National Planning Policy for Waste; Climate Change Act 2008; Carbon Plan: Delivering our Low Carbon Future; UK Renewable Energy Strategy; A Vision for the West Midlands – Renewable and Energy Efficient Future; Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire 2012-2027; Climate Change Strategy 2012-2020; Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change mitigation and adaptation; • Flooding and reducing flood risk; and • Energy efficiency and creating a low carbon future.

Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Green Infrastructure

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance biodiversity, including designated sites, priority species, habitats ecological networks and nature recovery networks. 	<p>Environment Act 2021; Worcestershire County Council Green Infrastructure Strategy;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SA Framework should include a specific objective relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity including green infrastructure provision.
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Key Objectives and Policy Messages	Key Source(s)	Implications for the SA Framework
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities for green infrastructure provision. 	<p>Worcestershire Habitat and Species Biodiversity Action Plans.</p>	

Landscape, Townscape and the Historic Environment

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve and enhance cultural heritage assets and their settings. Maintain and enhance access to cultural heritage assets. Respect, maintain and strengthen local character and distinctiveness. Improve the quality of the built environment. Protect and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of natural landscapes and townscapes. Promote access to the countryside. Promote high quality design that respects and enhances local character. 	<p>NPPF; Thrive West Midlands – An Action Plan to drive better mental health and wellbeing in the West Midlands; Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Guidance; Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013- 2018; Worcestershire Habitat and Species Biodiversity Action Plans; Historic Environment Assessment for Redditch Borough Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SA Framework should include a specific objective relating to the conservation, protection and enhancement of the District's landscapes, built environment and historical assets and their setting.
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Healthy and Inclusive Communities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide high quality services, community facility and social 	<p>NPPF; Thrive West Midlands – An Action Plan to</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives and/or guide questions relating to:</p>
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Key Objectives and Policy Messages	Key Source(s)	Implications for the SA Framework
<p>infrastructure that are accessible to all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote improvements to health and wellbeing. • Promote healthier lifestyles. • Minimise noise pollution. • Reduce crime including the fear of crime. • Reduce anti-social behaviour. • Ensure that there are appropriate facilities for the disabled and elderly. • Deliver safe and secure networks of green infrastructure and open space. • Improve the lives of people with mental illnesses or disabilities. 	<p>drive better mental health and wellbeing in the West Midlands; Playing Pitch Strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing deprivation and promoting equality and inclusion; • The provision of high quality community facilities and services that are inclusive to all; • The promotion of health and wellbeing; • The delivery of health facilities and services; • The provision of open space and recreational facilities; and • Reducing crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Housing

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable housing growth and deliver a mix of high quality housing to meet local needs. • Increase the provision of affordable housing. 	<p>NPPF; Planning Policy for Traveller Sites; GBSLEP Joint Strategic Housing Study (2014); Worcestershire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives and/or guide questions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of high quality housing; • The provision of a mix of housing types to meet local needs;
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Key Objectives and Policy Messages	Key Source(s)	Implications for the SA Framework
	Assessment 2014; Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan 2017; Worcestershire Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2022; High Quality Design SPD; 5 Year Housing Land Supply in Redditch Borough; Housing Land Availability Report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the provision of affordable housing; and

Economic Activity and Education

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create local employment opportunities. • Ensure that there is an adequate supply of employment land to meet local needs. • Continue to achieve economic growth. • Encourage more high skill jobs to the area. • Increase the number of tourists to the area. • Increase the level of higher education attainment. 	<p>NPPF; Strategic Economic Plan 2016-2030; West Midlands Tourism Strategy; Local Industrial Strategy for the West Midlands; An Economic Strategy for Worcestershire 2010-2020; Employment Land Availability Report.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives and/or guide questions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The enhancement of education and skills; • Delivery of employment land that supports economic diversification and the creation of high quality, local jobs; • The promotion of tourism and the visitor economy; and • Reducing unemployment.
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Key Objectives and Policy Messages	Key Source(s)	Implications for the SA Framework
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the productivity of the Districts workforce. • Continue to decrease unemployment. • Ensuring the benefits of economic growth are shared by all. 		
Transport and Accessibility		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage sustainable transport and reduce the need to travel. • Reduce traffic and congestion. • Improve public transport provision. • Encourage walking and cycling. • Enhance accessibility to key community facilities, services and jobs for all. • Reduce the degree by which transport contributes towards climate change. • Encourage the use of green infrastructure. 	<p>NPPF; Air Quality Plan for Nitrogen Dioxide 2017; Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance 2014; Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013-2018; Worcestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2018-2030; High Quality Design SPD.</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives and/or guide questions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the need to travel, particularly by car; • The promotion of sustainable forms of transport; • Encouraging walking and cycling; • Maintaining and enhancing accessibility to key facilities, services and jobs; • Reducing congestion and enhancing road safety; and • Investment in transportation infrastructure to meet future needs.