

Appendix B

SAD & AAP - Review of SA Objectives (July 2015): Revised SA Objectives and Reasons for Revisions

(Revisions shown as follows: additional text underlined, text deleted struck through)

Revised SAD and AAP SA Objectives – July 2015			
Reference	SA Topic	SA Objective	Reasons for Revisions
SA1	Air Quality	Minimise emissions of potentially harmful air pollutants from new development in Walsall and exposure of "sensitive receptors" to poor air quality in the parts of Walsall Borough where <u>monitoring shows that the national air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) are not being met and/ or that there are high levels of other potentially harmful air pollutants</u>	To address potential conflict between SA Objective and NPPs, NPPF and NPP for Waste. Revisions address the need for the SA Objective to cover exposure of "sensitive receptors" to all potentially harmful pollutants including pollutants other than nitrogen dioxide, such as other oxides of nitrogen (NO _x) and particulate matter (PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5}), which are becoming a matter of increasing concern.
SA2	Biodiversity & Geodiversity	Conserve, protect, enhance and restore Walsall's biodiversity and geodiversity by ensuring that new development <u>contributes towards the establishment of coherent and resilient ecological networks, makes provision for enhancement of biodiversity and geological conservation wherever possible, and does not harm the integrity of European Sites or cause further loss, harm or deterioration of designated sites or other important wildlife habitats and geological features, and by identifying opportunities for new habitat creation or compromise existing ecological networks</u>	To address potential conflict between SA Objective and NPPF and NPP for Waste. Revisions have addressed the need to support establishment of coherent and resilient ecological networks, and to seek to avoid further harm and deterioration of important sites, including potential impacts from pollution, as well as total loss of sites, and to prevent existing ecological networks from being compromised. However, the equal weight given to the protection of all designated sites, including those of local importance, reflects existing local plan policy (BCCS Policy ENV1) and local priorities in Walsall, where evidence shows that sites of local importance are at greatest risk, and that the cumulative impact of continued loss and erosion of quality of local sites could be significant.
SA3	Climate Change	Minimise <u>Reduce</u> Walsall's contribution towards climate change and adapt to the unavoidable effects of climate change on the Borough, by promoting low carbon/low emission <u>developments that avoid, reduce or minimise emissions of harmful greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide (CO₂), and by identifying opportunities to mitigate the anticipated effects on key infrastructure and other important assets</u>	To address potential conflict between SA Objective and NPPF objectives to reduce rather than just minimise contributions towards climate change has been addressed through revisions to the Objective. Revisions also clarify that the aim is to promote developments that will assist with this by avoiding, reducing or minimising emissions of harmful greenhouse gases generally, of which carbon dioxide is only one (but still the most important).
SA4	Communities and Population	Support the development of strong, sustainable and inclusive communities in Walsall by developing high quality <u>well designed housing that reflects meets current and future housing needs in locations that support the transition to a low carbon future and are resilient to the unavoidable effects of climate change, have a good standard of amenity and are accessible to existing and planned employment areas and social infrastructure; enable the development of appropriately located new social infrastructure where there is a need, and by ensuring ensure that other new developments will have a positive effect on the quality of life for local communities, and will not be harmful to their amenity, health and well-being</u>	To address potential conflict between SA Objective and NPPF and NPP for Waste. Revised SA Objective addresses national policy objective for development to provide a good standard of amenity and national and local policy objectives to meet identified housing needs, and to avoid harmful impacts on the amenity, health and well-being of local communities from the introduction of potentially "bad neighbour" uses, or from unavoidable climate change effects. Revisions have also addressed the objective to make provision for new social, recreational and cultural infrastructure in appropriate locations, where a need has been identified.

Reference	SA Topic	SA Objective	Reasons for Revisions
SA5	Cultural Heritage	Conserve, protect and enhance Walsall's cultural heritage by encouraging better management of conservation areas and historic parks and gardens, by identifying appropriate, viable and beneficial uses for vacant historic buildings, and by ensuring that new development does not compromise the quality or character of heritage assets and their settings or destroy features or archaeology of national or local importance	No revisions required as SA Objective is consistent with current national and local policy objectives for the historic environment.
SA6	Economy and Centres	Promote sustainable, low carbon economic growth and retain businesses and jobs in Walsall by identifying and safeguarding sufficient land for employment and training of the right quality in <u>appropriate and accessible locations to meet the needs of local businesses and potential investors, without compromising the amenity of local communities or the operation of other businesses, by helping to address barriers to sustainable economic growth and investment where possible, such as providing new infrastructure where it is needed to support existing and future businesses</u> , and by identifying opportunities for retail, office and leisure development in centres to meet anticipated requirements	To address potential conflict with NPPF and NPP for Waste. The amendments to the SA Objective have addressed the need for the SA Objective to address the potential impacts of new development on the amenity of other businesses, from the introduction of potentially "bad neighbour" uses, which may include some waste management uses as well as other industrial development and mineral development. They have also addressed the objective to make provision for the infrastructure needed to support existing and future businesses, where a need has been identified.
SA7	Equality and Diversity	Reduce inequality <u>inequalities which result from social-economic disadvantage</u> by ensuring that the diverse needs of communities in Walsall are considered when planning housing and other developments to be used by the public, by ensuring that specific needs are addressed where possible, by supporting development that would help reduce poverty and social and economic deprivation, and by improving access to key services and facilities met by planned housing and other developments , and ensure that groups or individuals with <u>protected characteristics, as defined in the Equalities Act 2010, do not suffer direct or indirect discrimination as a result of policies that are included or omitted, including ensuring that developments intended for use specifically by protected or disadvantaged groups, or by them in conjunction with others, are in accessible locations, which are not exposed to significant environmental problems and are likely to be resilient to climate change effects</u>	To more closely align with the requirements of the Equality Act with regard to potential discrimination against people with "protected characteristics," and to focus more on the areas where the SAD is likely to be able to address equality and diversity issues. The revised SA Objective therefore aims to avoid potential discrimination as a result of development proposed in the SAD which could disadvantage protected or already disadvantaged groups of people, compared to others, for example, by locating development aimed at meeting their needs in locations that are inaccessible, affected by existing environmental problems or potentially vulnerable to climate change effects. Amendments have also been made to Criteria and Indicators to reflect this issue and that the SAD will allocate sites rather than pitches for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people.
SA8	Health and Wellbeing	Improve the health and well-being of Walsall residents and address health inequalities by ensuring that new development supports healthy lifestyles and wellbeing and does not present unacceptable risks to <u>the health, safety and well-being of local communities and people who visit Walsall for work, shopping or leisure, by developing new health and social care infrastructure where there is a need</u> , and by ensuring that health and social care facilities are accessible to those they are meant to serve <u>and are likely to be resilient to climate change effects</u>	To address potential conflict between SA Objective and NPPF and NPP for Waste. Revisions reflect the requirement to ensure that provision is made for new social and health care facilities where a need has been identified, and that such facilities should be appropriately located, not only where they are accessible to those who they are meant to serve but also where they will not be vulnerable to potential climate change effects (e.g. flood risk). Objective also addresses potential risks to health, safety and well-being arising from new development, not only for Walsall residents but also for visitors.
SA9	Landscape and Townscape	Conserve, protect and enhance the landscape and townscape by developing an environmental infrastructure network for Walsall that protects valued areas and provides opportunities to improve areas of lesser quality, and by ensuring that new development is well designed, of a type and scale appropriate to its surroundings, and respects the character of buildings, spaces and other features where they contribute positively to the environment.	No revisions required as SA Objective is consistent with current national and local policy objectives towards the landscape and townscape and local character.

Reference	SA Topic	SA Objective	Reasons for Revisions
SA10	Material Resources	Use Walsall's material resources prudently and efficiently and in ways that will protect the environment and human health , by safeguarding mineral resources and mineral and waste infrastructure, by addressing identified mineral supply requirements, by supporting proposals likely to that would reduce waste and provide the infrastructure needed to manage unavoidable waste arising in Walsall in ways that will make optimum use of resources and divert as much as possible away from landfill <u>manage unavoidable waste in accordance with the "waste hierarchy," and by enabling the provision of the infrastructure needed for treatment, transfer and disposal of waste and manufacture and distribution of mineral products in appropriate locations, where operations will not endanger human health, or cause unacceptable harm to the environment, or the amenity and wellbeing of local communities</u>	To address potential conflict between SA Objective and NPPF and NPP for Waste. Revisions address guidance in the NPP for Waste on the location of waste management infrastructure and the over-arching principle of protection of human health and the environment in the Waste Framework Directive. They also address objectives to address the "waste hierarchy" for all waste management proposals and the "proximity principle" when planning for waste disposal and municipal waste recovery infrastructure, which has to be recognised as potentially serving a wider area than just Walsall.
SA11	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	Reduce Walsall's reliance on non-renewable, carbon based energy sources, by minimising energy consumption, by increasing the capacity available to generate energy and fuel from renewable and low carbon sources <u>including waste that cannot be re-used or recycled, by identifying opportunities for co-location of new energy generating infrastructure near to complementary land uses where there is scope to use residual heat, and by delivering more affordable, secure and reliable supplies of energy to local communities and businesses in ways that will not generate harmful pollutants or have other adverse effects on the environment, and will be resilient to climate change effects</u>	To address potential conflict between SA Objective and NPPF and NPP for Waste. Revisions have addressed the need for the SA Objective to be consistent with the "waste hierarchy" with regard to proposals to generate energy from waste, and to support co-location of new energy generating infrastructure near to complementary activities where there are opportunities to use residual heat and power. Revisions have also addressed national policy objectives towards addressing potential harmful effects from pollution and visual impacts from energy infrastructure.
SA12	Soil and Ground Conditions	Maintain and improve the quality of Walsall's soils and land, by <u>avoiding development of greenfield land, including the "best and most versatile" agricultural land, where previously-developed land or lesser quality greenfield land is available, and by encouraging development that uses likely to use soils, land and buildings efficiently, re-use or recycle construction, demolition and excavation wastes, or and brings previously developed and derelict land back into beneficial use, and by ensuring that new development deals with existing contamination and geotechnical problems and does not exacerbate existing problems or cause such problems on land not already affected</u>	To address potential conflict between SA Objective and Overarching NPS on Energy, NPPF and NPP for Waste. Revisions reflect current national policy guidance which supports development previously-developed land in preference to good quality greenfield land and agricultural land. They also reflect the need to apply the "waste hierarchy" when considering options that may generate construction, demolition and excavation wastes.
SA13	Transport and Accessibility	Deliver the transport infrastructure required to improve connectivity, reduce congestion and support economic growth in Walsall <u>and adjoining parts of the West Midlands urban area, reduce the vulnerability of transport infrastructure to climate change effects</u> , reduce the impacts of transport on the environment and on the <u>health, amenity and well-being of local communities, and ensure that new employment and social infrastructure is accessible to local people by a choice of transport modes, and encourages them to make smarter and healthier transport choices</u>	To address potential conflict between SA Objective and Overarching NPS on Energy and NPPF. Revisions address the need to minimise vulnerability of transport infrastructure to climate change effects, and reduce the impact of transport on health. Revisions also relate the SA Objective more clearly to delivery of transport projects in the West Midlands as identified in the BCCS and West Midlands Local Transport Plan, and objectives of the Walsall Transport Strategy to improve connectivity within the borough and beyond.

Reference	SA Topic	SA Objective	Reasons for Revisions
SA14	Water Environment	Conserve and protect Walsall’s water resources, maintain water quality and reduce the risk of flooding, by minimising water consumption, by avoiding development in areas where water resources are present or areas at risk of flooding, by ensuring that new development will not have adverse impacts on hydrology <u>or water treatment and supply infrastructure, including increasing the vulnerability of such infrastructure to climate change effects,</u> and that any waste water <u>likely to be generated by new development</u> can be managed in ways that minimise the risk of flooding and pollution of surface and groundwater	To address potential conflict between SA Objective and Overarching NPS on Energy and NPPF. Revisions have addressed the need to address vulnerability to climate change effects, including impacts on vulnerability of waste water treatment and water treatment and supply infrastructure. Revisions have also addressed other potential impacts of options on water treatment and supply infrastructure.