

3. Review of Existing Plans and Programmes

3.1 Policy Objectives for Sustainable Development

Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations states that the SA Report should include an overview of:

“The existing environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.”

Section 2.5 above explains how the SA Objectives for the SAD and AAP were revised in 2015 to reflect current national and local policy objectives for sustainable development, which includes objectives for the economy and society as well as for the environment. The Revised SA Objectives and the reasons for the revisions are outlined in **Appendix B** of this report.

3.2 Existing Policy Framework

The Revised SA Scoping Report (V2 May 2013) provided a summary of the plans and programmes that were relevant (at that time) to Walsall’s SAD and AAP (Chapter 4 of that report). That Revised SA Scoping Report (V2 Appendix D) listed all of the plans and programmes reviewed by the Council at the scoping stage by SA Topic, and summarised their main objectives for sustainable development. That Appendix is reproduced as **Appendix Oi** to this report.

Further review and updating of existing policy objectives was carried out in 2015. This involved a review of plans and programmes. Additional plans and programmes have been published subsequently. A review of plans and programmes produced since 2013 by SA Topic is provided as **Appendix Oii** to this report. The Appendix summarises their main objectives for sustainable development.

The main objectives from all of the plans and programmes that have been reviewed have been taken into account in the development of the SA Objectives and SA Framework (see Chapter 2 and Appendix B).

3.3 Relationship of SAD and AAP to Existing European and International, National, Regional and Sub-Regional and Local Plans and Programmes

The context for Walsall's SAD and AAP includes a large number of plans and programmes from the international to the local levels across a wide range of issues, covering all of the SA topics. The following paragraphs summarise the existing framework of plans and programmes relating to the SAD and AAP, from the International level 'downwards', with some emphasis on planning policy and on some of the plans and programmes published since April 2013. It also refers to local plans for equalities and for health, recognising the role of this SA in seeking to address equalities and health impacts.

3.4 European and International Plans and Programmes

The SAD and AAP must comply with European Directives on the environment, such as air quality, the natural environment, renewable energy, waste management and water, and must also have regard to international strategies and protocols on sustainability and social and economic issues. The most important of the European Directives for the SA is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC), which dictates the format, structure and content of the sustainability appraisal.

Most if not all international policy and legislation of relevance to the SAD and AAP has already been transposed into UK or English law, and is reflected in national planning policy guidance (see below). No significant changes to European and International policy objectives have been identified since the original SA scoping stage in 2013 that have any implications for the SAD and AAP or for this SA.

3.5 National Plans and Programmes

National Planning Policy

The SAD and AAP are local plans which must have regard to national planning policy, whose overall objective is the achievement of sustainable development. The guidance has been substantially revised since work began on the preparation of the SAD and AAP. All of the former national planning policy guidance (PPGs), planning policy statements (PPSs),

minerals planning guidance (MPGs) and minerals policy statements (MPSs), have now been replaced by the following:

- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** (March 2012);
- **Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS)** (March 2012, updated August 2015);
- **National Planning Policy (NPP) for Waste** (October 2014); and
- **National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)** – ‘living’ online guidance (first published in March 2014 and subject to continuous updating).

It is implicit in the above guidance that where appropriate, planning authorities should also have regard to **National Policy Statements (NPSs)** prepared to guide decisions on ‘nationally significant infrastructure projects’ (NSIPs). Some of the NPSs have been issued following the publication of the SA Scoping Report. However, no NSIPs are proposed in the SAD and we are not aware of any that are likely to be proposed in the area covered by the SAD.

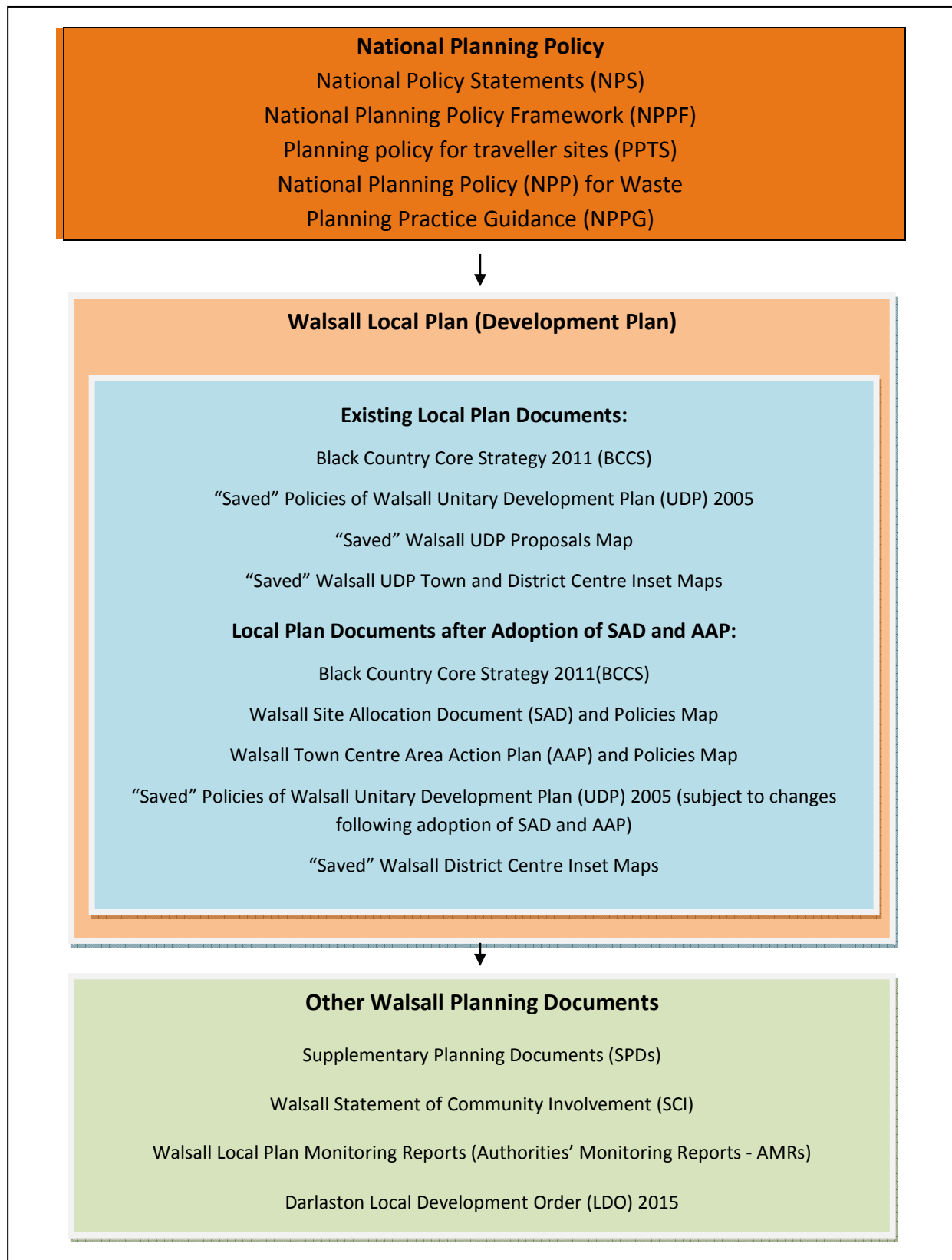
Early in 2015, the Council reviewed the SA Objectives against the current suite of national policy guidance to check for consistency with the national objectives for sustainable development. A number of potential issues and inconsistencies were identified, which have resulted in revisions to some of the SA Objectives and Criteria. The main changes and the reasons are explained in Appendix B of this report.

Figure 5 below illustrates the relationship between current national and local planning policy documents, and how the SAD and AAP will fit in with the existing policy framework. Local Planning policy is described below.

Other National Plans and Programmes

As shown in Appendix Oi, previous work at the Scoping stage has identified a very large number of plans and programmes that set objectives relevant to for the SA. Collectively, these relate to all of the SA Objectives, covering a wide range of objectives from encouraging economic and housing growth and managing infrastructure, to the protection of the environment.

Figure 5: Relationship of SAD and AAP to Existing National and Local Planning Policy



Since 2013 the main other plan that has been published is the ‘**Air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in UK**’. This sets the objective to achieve limit values for NO₂ set as Air Quality Objectives in the Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC). It is accompanied by plans for various urban areas around the country and the ‘Air quality plan for reducing nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in West Midlands urban area (UK0002)’ seeks compliance by 2020.

3.6 Regional and Sub-Regional Plans and Programmes

The regional and sub-regional context for Walsall can be seen as comprising 3 ‘layers’:

- i) The West Midlands Region, comprising the metropolitan area and the surrounding shire areas. The location of Walsall within the region is shown in Figure 6 below.
- ii) The West Midlands Metropolitan Area, which comprises the seven metropolitan authorities of Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Figure 7 shows the extent of the Metropolitan Area.
- iii) The Black Country, which comprises the areas of Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton

Regional Planning Policy

The regional tier of planning was abolished in 2010, and the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS) and other related strategies and guidance were revoked in 2012. The only element of the former regional planning framework still in place is the managed aggregate supply system (MASS) for aggregate minerals. This is still based around national and regional guidelines issued in 2009, which relate to the former regions.

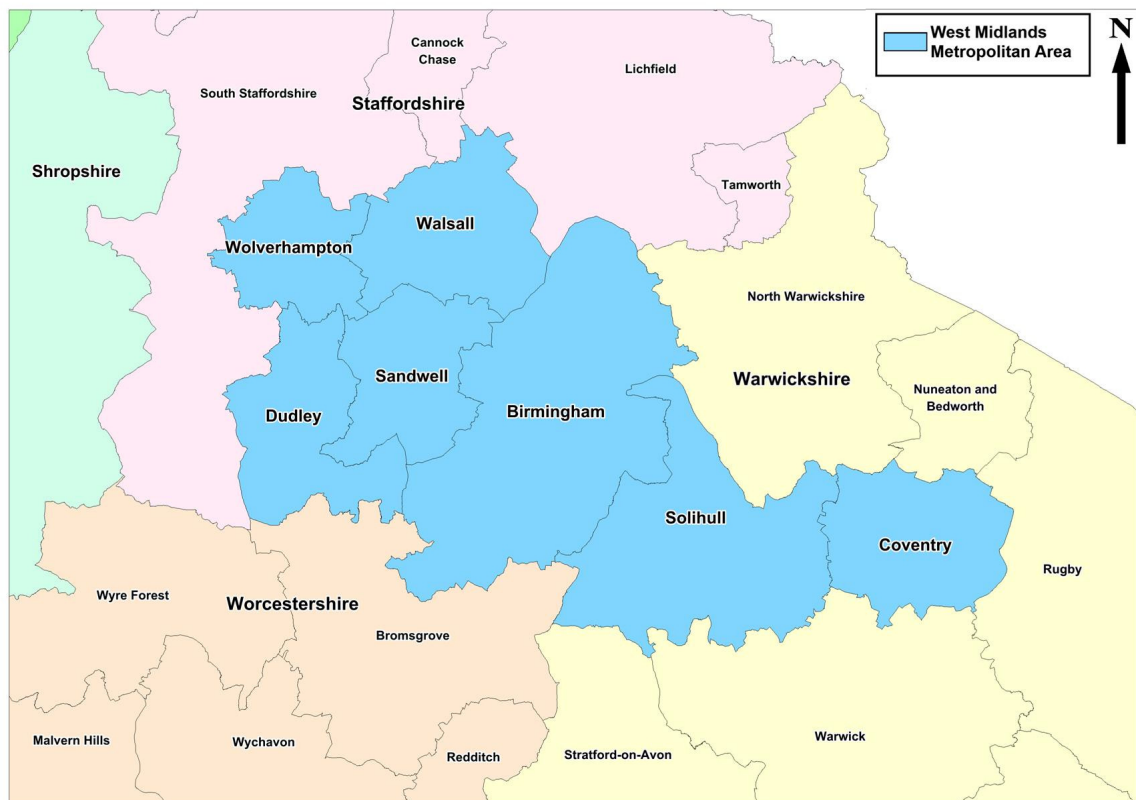
Metropolitan Planning Policy

In the absence of a formal regional planning system, local authorities and other public bodies are reliant on the ‘Duty to Cooperate’ under the Localism Act 2011. Cooperation between the metropolitan authorities is close and the 7 councils have recently been working on a **Local Aggregate Assessment**, which is currently available in Draft. This seeks to provide evidence for determining the level of provision for mineral aggregates to be made in the Local Plans.

Figure 6: Walsall – Relationship to Former West Midlands Region



Figure 7: West Midlands Metropolitan Area



Black Country Planning Policy

Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS) 2011

The SAD and AAP will be part of the Local Plan for Walsall, which already includes the Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS) 2011 (as well as the ‘saved’ policies of the Walsall Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2005 – see Figure 5 above and Section 3.7 below).

The Vision underpinning the Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS) is to create a network of cohesive, healthy and prosperous **sustainable communities** across the Black Country, to improve the image of the Black Country through positive **environmental transformation** that makes the most of the area’s environmental assets, and to achieve **economic prosperity** by encouraging enterprise and capitalising on the area’s location and accessibility.

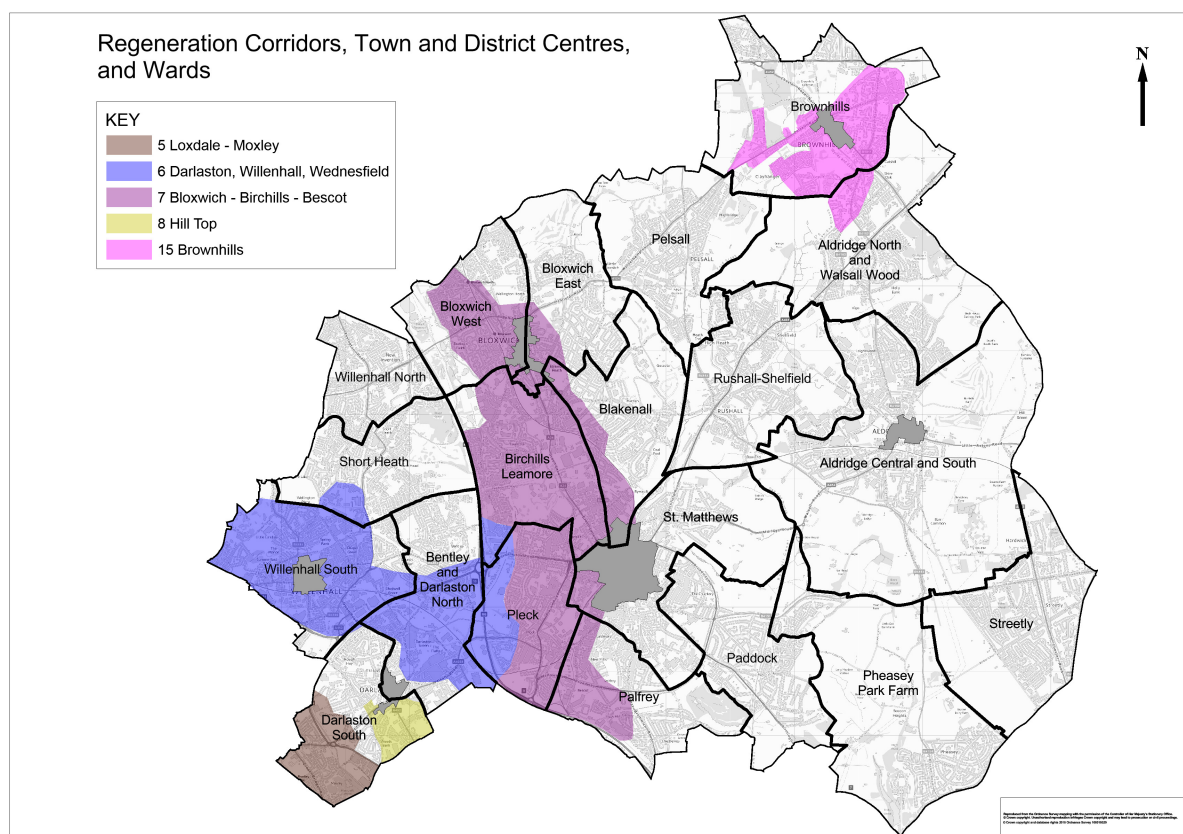
Achieving the BCCS Vision means addressing the following sustainability principles:

1. **Facing up to Climate Change** – ensuring that the spatial approach to development both minimises and adapts to climate change impacts;
2. **Sustainable Development** – ensuring that development meets the social, economic and environmental needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, including sustainable use of resources and ensuring that development is appropriately located;
3. **Social Inclusion** – ensuring that all members of the community have the best possible access to facilities, housing and opportunities, and that those affected by social exclusion and disadvantage are able to fully contribute towards the regeneration of the Black Country;
4. **Brownfield First** – ensuring that previously-developed land, particularly land that is vacant, derelict or under-used, is prioritised for development over greenfield sites; and
5. **Comprehensive Approach to Development** – delivering complex and large-scale development projects in ways that ensure that they link well with surrounding areas, make efficient use of land, improve amenity, do not compromise or constrain neighbouring land uses, and provide the infrastructure necessary to support each phase or part of the development in a co-ordinated way.

The BCCS identifies ten Spatial Objectives for the types of development the Core Strategy makes provision for. These form the basis of the BCCS policies, which identify the amounts of new development required in each area up to 2026. The Spatial Strategy identified in the BCCS is based on the above vision, principles and objectives. It expects that most new development up to 2026 will take place within the ‘Growth Network’ identified on the main BCCS Key Diagram, which is reproduced at Figure 3 in Chapter 1 of this report.

The Black Country Growth Network comprises the four Strategic Centres, including Walsall Town Centre, and sixteen Regeneration Corridors, five of which are wholly or partly within Walsall. Figure 8 below shows the extent of these corridors. The SAD and AAP will be expected to work within this spatial planning framework, and to allocate enough land within the Growth Network and in other appropriate locations in Walsall, to accommodate the ties of new housing, industry and other development identified in the BCCS.

Figure 8: Black Country Core Strategy – Regeneration Corridors in Walsall



The SA Objectives for the SAD and AAP, and the wider Objectives for each plan, are closely aligned with the BCCS Vision, Sustainability Principles and Spatial Objectives.

Black Country Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

At the time of writing the four Black Country Councils have been preparing to consult on an SPD to seek to address and mitigate the air quality impacts arising from the transport emissions caused by new developments. This seeks to apply the relevant BBCCS Policy on Air Quality and to build on the experience from the West Midlands low emissions strategy (see below).

Other Regional Plans and Programmes

At the scoping stage, reference was made to a number of plans and programmes, including for sustainable development and for health and well-being, for economic development and for transport as well as for the apportionment of aggregate targets between authorities. .

A more recent plan extends across part of and extends outside of the region. The **Humber River Basin District River Basin Management Plan** (published November 2015 and approved by Government in February 2016) covers much of the West Midlands – essentially from the western edge of Walsall Borough eastwards – as well as large parts of the east Midlands. To support compliance with the EU Water Framework Directive, it sets out environmental objectives for protecting the waters across the area and a programme of measures to achieve them

Walsall is also affected by issues that extend across its boundaries with shire authorities (South Staffordshire, Cannock and/or Lichfield) outside of the metropolitan area. SA work at the scoping stage has referred to plans seeking to restore the Hatherton and Lichfield canals, which would link canals in Staffordshire with the canal network in Walsall. More recently assessments undertaken pursuant to the Habitats Regulations, by district Councils in Staffordshire and for the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AIONB) have raised questions about the extent to which developments in Walsall (specifically for housing) might have to mitigate significant effects on the European-designated Special Area of Conservation at Cannock Chase. This issue is dealt with in Chapter 6 and Appendix N to this report.

Other Metropolitan Plans and Programmes

The work at the scoping stage (as shown in Appendix Oi) referred to several plans and programmes for the metropolitan area, including the West Midlands Local Transport Plan. More recently there have been several relevant plans and programmes.

West Midlands Metropolitan Area Freight Strategy (2013)

The West Midlands Freight Strategy, ‘Supporting our Economy, Cutting Carbon’ was published in April 2013 by Centro.¹ Its main objectives are to support economic growth and reduce carbon dioxide emissions from movement of freight. The Strategy highlights the increase in road freight transport since 2003, the likelihood of further growth, and identifies that 56% of the total freight tonnes moved by road in the West Midlands are internal. It also highlights pressure on motorway network capacity in the Black Country, which is causing congestion as well as having impacts on air quality and journey times, and the carbon dioxide savings that could be achieved by diverting more freight onto the rail network.

Specific proposals relevant to Walsall include:

- Proposal C: Motorway Junction Access and Motorway Connectivity Enhancements, including M6 Junction 9 in Walsall;
- Proposal D: West Midlands Strategic Freight Transport Corridor based on the Walsall-Stourbridge railway line;
- Proposal E: Metropolitan Area Urban Road Freight Network (URFN), which includes Walsall Town Centre Ring Road, A454, A461 and A34 in Walsall; and
- Proposal H: Freight Consolidation Centres.

The objectives and priorities of the strategy have been taken into account in the review of the SA Objectives for the SAD and AAP. However, it is unlikely to be realistic to deliver Proposal I (Supporting a Greater Use of Water Freight) through the SAD and AAP, as Walsall Council is not aware of any evidence of any realistic potential to move freight by inland waterways in the Black Country on any scale.

¹ The Strategy can be downloaded from the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) website – see: <http://www.wmita.org.uk/strategy-and-publications.aspx>

West Midlands Low Emissions Strategy (LES) (2014)

The Strategy is being developed as part of the national Low Emissions Towns and Cities Programme led by Defra. The objective of the strategy is to research and implement actions to reduce emissions of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) across the West Midlands Metropolitan Area, in particular, within the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) where the national limit values for NO₂ are being exceeded (Nitrogen Dioxide Areas of Exceedance).

The project has produced Good Practice Air Quality Planning Guidance (May 2014), which provides general guidance on controlling and reducing emissions of harmful pollutants through the planning process, including the preparation of development plans although most of the guidance is aimed at planning applications.² The main issues identified of relevance to the SAD and AAP are:

- The need to avoid allocating land for ‘sensitive receptors’ such as housing, in road corridors where the limit values for NO₂ are being exceeded and the extent to which mitigation is likely to be feasible;
- The need to take into account other related environmental problems caused by road traffic, such as noise, when considering sites that are exposed to high levels of air pollution;
- The need to consider the potential impacts on air quality when allocating land for new traffic generating developments, particularly where this is likely to involve high emission vehicles, such as HGVs.

These issues were taken into account in the review of the SA Objectives in 2015.

West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan (2015)

The West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan, ‘Movement for Growth,’ approved by the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) in December 2015, has replaced the former

²The guidance is available for download from the Council website – see:
http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/low_emissions_towns_and_cities_programme

Local Transport Plan.³ The plan includes a Vision to support the Midlands economic ‘Engine for Growth,’ clean air, improved health and quality of life for the people of the West Midlands, by creating a transport system befitting a sustainable, attractive and economically vibrant conurbation.

The plan identifies a number of over-arching objectives, aimed at addressing the main challenges of transport provision in the West Midlands, including:

- Introducing a fully integrated rail and rapid transport network connecting the main centres, and which is also connected into wider local bus networks through high quality multi-modal interchanges;
- Increasing the number of people that are within 45 minutes travel time by public transport to a minimum of three main centres and the two HS2 stations in central Birmingham and the UK Central hub;
- Reducing the impact of transport on the environment, improving air quality, reducing carbon dioxide emissions and improving road safety;
- Using transport improvements to enhance the public realm and attractiveness of centres;
- Ensuring that walking and cycling are a safe option for many journeys, by delivering a strategic cycle network and enhancing local conditions for active travel;
- Facilitating the efficient movement of people on transport networks to enable access to education and employment opportunities and health and leisure services;
- Enabling businesses to connect to supply chains, key markets and strategic gateways through improved strategic connections by road and rail; and
- Maintaining and developing transport infrastructure and services effectively to help ensure they are efficient, resilient, safe and easily accessible for all.

West Midlands Combined Authority Devolution Agreement (undated)

At the time of writing the metropolitan authorities (with some adjoining shire authorities as ‘associates’) have been discussion the formation of a combined authority and have been

³ The draft can be downloaded from the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) website – see: <http://www.wmita.org.uk/strategy-and-publications/strategic-transport-plan-movement-for-growth.aspx>

offered a ‘devolution deal’ by Government. This aims to promote economic growth through increased investment and innovation, to promote housing development, and to devolve spending and responsibilities. In terms of the potential implications for Walsall’s SAD and AAP, this SA has had regard to the aims to:

- Plan positively for economic and housing development.
- Allocate and deliver land (including brownfield land) for economic and for housing development.
- Identify improvements to transport infrastructure.
- Take account of the likely future for bus provision

Other Plans and Programmes for the Black Country

At the Scoping Stage reference was made to several Black Country plans and programmes. These tended to relate to the BCCS, but the work also referred to the **Black Country Enterprise Zone**. This is in two parts. One includes the i54 site near Wolverhampton, where the Jaguar Land Rover Advanced Engine Facility has recently been developed.⁴ The other includes land in Darlaston in Walsall, within the M6 corridor. The area within Walsall and its surroundings are the subject of a Local Development Order, which is referred to in section 3.7 below.

Black Country Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) (2014)

The Black Country Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) ‘Made in the Black Country, Sold Around the World’ was published in March 2014 by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).⁵ While the main function of the LEPs is to drive local economic growth and they do not generally have a spatial planning role, they are charged with delivering local economic growth, and have control over most of the public and private funding available to support regeneration projects. The SEP is essentially an economic strategy for the LEP area which identifies the main priority areas for investment, and a bid for funding under the government’s ‘Growth Deal,’ to support the priority economic regeneration projects identified in the plan.

⁴ Further information about the Enterprise Zone is available on the Black Country LEP website – see: <http://www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/business/enterprise-zone>

⁵ The SEP is available to download from the Black Country LEP website – see: <http://www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/about-us/plans-for-growth/strategic-economic-plan>

The Black Country SEP shares the same overall Vision as the BCCS, and makes the case for a Black Country Growth Deal to secure additional funding and decision making freedom to accelerate growth in 10 leading economic sectors, including high value manufacturing and, specifically, the aerospace, automotive and building technology economic sectors. The SEP identifies a ‘growth strategy’ based around twelve strategic programmes, which are based around three interlinked themes:

- **People** – programmes identified mainly relate to skills and training and encouraging entrepreneurship;
- **Place** – programmes identified are aimed at improving business sites and premises, infrastructure, housing and the environment, to help establish the Black Country as a place to live, work and invest; and
- **Business** – programmes identified are mainly aimed at developing supply chains, promoting innovation and improving access to finance for businesses.

3.6 Local Plans and Programmes for Walsall

As well as the plans and programmes for the West Midlands Metropolitan Area and Black Country, there are also a number of plans and programmes in place for Walsall Borough, which are or may be relevant to SA of the SAD and AAP. Some of these were already in place during the scoping stage in 2013, others have been reviewed and updated since then or are in the process of being refreshed. The local policies and programmes of greatest relevance to the SAD and AAP are summarised below.

Walsall Planning Policy

Walsall Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2005 – ‘Saved’ Policies

As well as the BCCS, the ‘saved’ policies of the Walsall Unitary Development Plan (UDP) are part of the local plan for Walsall (see Figure 5 and 3.6 above). The UDP was adopted by the Council in April 2005. As a result of government reforms, the UDP policies were reviewed in 2007 and policies that were up to date were ‘saved’ so that they would remain part of the Local Plan. The BCCS also replaced most of the UDP strategy and some other policies when it was adopted in 2011.

The UDP policies that remain are ‘saved’ until they are replaced by new policies in future local plans.⁶ The remaining saved policies of the UDP include:

- Policies to protect the environment, including open space;
- Policies for housing development;
- Policies to safeguard employment land and jobs;
- Policies on development of ‘town centre’ land uses;
- The Proposals Map, which allocates sites for development and identifies areas of open space and environmental assets to be safeguarded;
- Policies and Inset Maps identifying opportunities for new development, environmental improvement and improvements to infrastructure and public realm in Walsall Town Centre and in the District Centres.

Many of the saved UDP policies, including the Proposals Map and the Walsall Town Centre Policies and Inset Map are expected to be replaced by the SAD and AAP. However, where saved UDP policies are expected to remain in place either as they are, or with modifications proposed in the SAD (for example, UDP Policy LC5: Greenways), the SA has taken the effects of the policies into account.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

The Council has adopted a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) to supplement local plan policies in the BCCS and UDP.⁷ The SPDs are local planning documents but are not part of the statutory local plan because they provide further planning guidance and interpretation of local plan policy. They are therefore of limited relevance to the SA of the SAD and AAP. The SPDs currently in place are summarised in Table 12 below.

As referred to above (section 3.56 joint Black Country SPD on Air Quality is also in preparation, and was approved by the Council’s Cabinet in February 2016 as a basis for public consultation. At the time this report was prepared (February 2016), consultation had not taken place, but the objectives of the Draft SPD have been taken into account in this SA.

⁶ An annotated version of the UDP showing which policies remain in place is available on the Council website: http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/planning_policy/unitary_development_plan.htm

⁷ Supplementary Planning Documents are available for download from the Council website – see: http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/planning_policy/local_development_framework/ldf_supplementary_planning_documents.htm

Table 12: Supplementary Planning Documents Adopted by Walsall Council (January 2016)

SPD Title	Date Adopted	What the SPD Covers	Local Plan Policies Supported
Urban Open Space	2006	Provides guidance on provision of open space and children’s play in new housing developments, including situations where planning obligations may be sought for off-site provision.	UDP Policies GP3, LC1 – LC6
Walsall Waterfront	2006	Provides guidance on the development of Waterfront area of Walsall Town Centre.	UDP Policy WA12
Affordable Housing	2008	Provides guidance on provision of affordable housing in new housing developments, including situations where planning obligations may be sought for off-site provision. This SPD was reviewed in 2013, but the Council has decided not to revise it.	UDP Policy H4
Conserving Walsall’s Natural Environment	Revised 2013	Provides guidance on addressing the impacts of development on the natural environment, including designated nature conservation sites, priority habitats and protected species.	UDP Policies ENV8, ENV10, ENV14 – ENV18, ENV23 – ENV24, ENV26, ENV32, ENV33, ENV40, JP4.1 and LC1 BCCS Policies CSP3, CSP4 and ENV1
Designing Walsall	Revised 2013	Provides urban and landscape design guidance for Walsall.	UDP Policies ENV32 – ENV34 BCCS Policies CSP4, ENV2-ENV4
Walsall Shop Fronts	2015	Provides guidance on design of new shop fronts (including roller shutters and fascias) in Walsall Town Centre and in the District and Local Centres.	UDP Policy ENV35

Source: Walsall Council Supplementary Planning Documents web page

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

The current Walsall Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted by the Council in 2013.⁸ The SCI sets out how the Council will consult local communities, businesses and key partners on local plans and planning applications. Like the SPDs, the SCI is a local planning document but is not part of the statutory local plan. It is therefore mainly of relevance to the consultation process, rather than the SA Objectives for the SAD and AAP.

Authorities' Monitoring Reports (AMRs)

Authorities' Monitoring Reports (AMRs) are produced every year by the Council.⁹ Although they are local planning documents, like the SPDs and SCI, they are not themselves part of the statutory local plan – their purpose is to monitor progress on new development and on the implementation of local plan policies. They may also identify a need to review local plan policies, and identify key priorities for action in future reviews or preparation of new plans.

The most recent AMRs produced by Walsall Council have therefore been monitoring progress on the implementation of the BCCS and saved UDP policies. They also provide an important part of the evidence base for the development of the SAD and AAP, and for the development of the SA Framework. The development of the Options for the SAD and AAP has had regard to the key trends indicated in the latest AMRs for Walsall – see Chapter 4 for further details.

Darlaston Local Development Order (LDO)

The Black Country Enterprise Zone includes land in Darlaston in Walsall within the M6 motorway corridor (see 3.4.20 above). The Darlaston Strategic Development Area (DSDA) Access Project - a programme of highway improvements – is currently underway to improve access to this area.¹⁰

⁸ The SCI is available for download from the Council website – see:

http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/planning_policy/local_plans/ldf_statement_of_community_involvement.htm

⁹ All of the Walsall Council AMRs produced to date are available for download from the Council website – see:

http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/planning_policy/local_plans/annual_monitoring_report.htm

¹⁰ Further information about the DSDA Access Project is available on the Council website:

http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/transport_and_streets/transorming_walsall_transportation_system/darlaston_sda.htm

A Local Development Order (LDO) is also in place to provide a simplified planning regime for the Darlaston parts of the Enterprise Zone and other land in the surrounding area. The first LDO came into effect in April 2012, and a revised LDO came into effect in April 2015.¹¹ The Order grants planning permission for development within Use Classes B1(b), B1(c), B2 and B8 and specified operational development within the area covered by the LDO, and also grants permission for specified waste management uses within a defined sub-zone.

However, the LDO also does not (indeed may not) grant permission for any development determined to require an environmental impact assessment (EIA). There is a 'pre-information process' (PIP) in place requiring all proposals in the LDO area to be screened by the Council to determine whether or not they fall within the scope of the LDO, or require planning permission.

Other Plans and Programmes for Walsall

The Council and its partners have other plans and programmes covering different service areas and functions which are potentially relevant to the SAD and AAP, although they are not themselves plans for land use and development. The Revised SA Scoping Report (V2 May 2013) referred to the most relevant plans and programmes prepared up to that time. Whilst some have been reviewed and changed since 2013 – and so are considered further below – the plans and programmes from that time included the following.

Walsall Contaminated Land Strategy (2001)¹² sets out how the Council will investigate for the existence of land that meets the statutory definition of 'contaminated' (Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended)). To meet the statutory definition of 'contaminated land', a site must be demonstrated to present a significant risk to human health or the environment, or be causing pollution of controlled waters, or there must be a significant possibility of such risks. While many sites are known or suspected to be affected by contamination, only one site in Walsall has been found to meet the statutory definition to date. Since the strategy was prepared, the Council has further developed the evidence base for areas at risk from industrial and mining legacy, and this has been taken into account in the development of the SA Framework, and in the evaluation of the site Options for the SAD and AAP.

¹¹ Further information about the Darlaston LDO is available on the Council website - see:

<http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/ldo.htm>

¹² The Strategy is available for download from the Council website – see:

http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/pollution/contaminated_land/contaminated_land_strategy-2.htm

Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2004) - since this was prepared the Council's approach towards waste collection and management has been reviewed and the current strategy is to rely on existing waste infrastructure and short-term contracts with waste operators to manage the waste collected from households and small businesses in Walsall. This arrangement is expected to continue throughout the SAD and AAP plan period. Fly tipping and scrap metal theft have also been identified as major priority areas for action in Walsall. The Council's current priorities for waste management have been taken into account in the development of the SA Framework¹³.

Walsall Air Quality Action Plan (2009) prepared to address the requirement (under Part IV of Environment Act 1995 (as amended) for such a plan in areas where an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) has been declared. A borough-wide AQMA for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) was declared in 2006 because monitoring showed that the statutory limit values for this pollutant were being exceeded in Walsall. The Action Plan identifies reducing emissions from HGVs as a priority but also other areas where action should be taken, including improving the road network to reduce congestion, reducing air pollution from industrial, commercial and residential areas, and changing levels of travel demand/ promoting alternative methods of transport. These issues are already addressed in part by the BCCS spatial strategy and the West Midlands LTP3, and have been taken into account in the SA Objectives and SA Framework.

Walsall Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2010) sets out nine key themes for how the Council will reduce its carbon footprint by reducing energy consumption across its buildings and services, and adapt and prepare the borough for climate change through appropriate planning and, where possible, investment and delivery of its services.

Walsall Transport Strategy (2011) is essentially a five-year action plan setting out how the Council and its partners will deliver transport improvements and transport infrastructure

¹³ The Council's existing waste infrastructure comprises a waste transfer station at Fryers Road in Bloxwich, to sort and segregate the collected waste, two household waste recycling centres at Fryers Road, Bloxwich and Merchants Way, Aldridge, where the public may bring waste, and the Walsall Council Environmental Depot in Brownhills, where the Council's waste collection vehicles are based, and where waste arising from green space management is stored. The Council is also one of four authorities who have recently developed an energy recovery facility at Four Ashes in Staffordshire, in partnership with Veolia.

The Council relies on short-term contracts with commercial waste facilities for recycling of commingled household waste, composting of green garden waste, and disposal of residual waste, and this is expected to continue. There are no plans for the Council to develop any new waste management infrastructure in Walsall either on its own or in partnership with other authorities or waste operators.

projects in Walsall also identifies the national, sub-regional and local transport projects that the Council and its partners are expected to be involved in developing.

Walsall Housing Strategy (2012) relates to the housing provided by the Council and its partners - in particular, Walsall Housing Group (WHG), which is the current holder of Walsall's housing register. The overall vision is to ensure access to a choice of sustainable, quality homes that meet the needs of all of the communities in Walsall. The strategic priorities are consistent with many of the SA Objectives for the SAD and AAP, and are identified as:

- Increasing housing choice and employment opportunities;
- Tackling fuel poverty and improving the quality and energy efficiency of existing and new homes; and
- Addressing diverse housing needs, including promoting independent living, health and well-being.

Walsall Equality and Diversity Protocol (2012) explains the Council's approach to equalities and delivery of the public sector equality duty (PSED), and its commitment to valuing equality, diversity and human rights. Four over-arching Equality Objectives have been identified for the Council as a whole, and related objectives have been identified for the Regeneration Directorate (now the Economy and Environment Directorate), which is responsible for the Council's planning functions.

The SA of the SAD and AAP is an integrated assessment and an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is being carried out as part of it. SA Objective 7: Equality and Diversity has therefore been developed to measure impacts on equality, having regard to the Council's current priorities and objectives for equality and diversity. The Revised SA Scoping Report (V2 May 2013) included a summary of the Council's Equality Objectives and explained their relationship to the preparation of the SAD and AAP (see Section 2, Table 2.1).-While the overall Equality Objectives have not changed since 2013, reports published in 2014 and 2015 give an indication of how well the Council is implementing the PSED and meeting its own Equality Objectives.

Table 14 at the end of this Chapter provides an update on how equality is currently being addressed through planning in Walsall, how the SAD and AAP could contribute towards the Council's Equality Objectives, and the SA Framework Criteria that can be used to evaluate the extent to which the SAD and AAP Options and Policies are likely to achieve this.

Walsall Council Corporate Plan – this has been reviewed and updated annually including since the SA Scoping stage. The Corporate Plan published in February 2015 has now been superseded by new corporate objectives agreed by the Council in September 2015,¹⁴ which are as follows:

- Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people into work;
- Improving health and well being, including independence for older people and the protection of vulnerable people;
- Creating safe, sustainable and inclusive communities;
- Improving safeguarding, learning and the life chances for children and young people, raising aspirations; and
- Creating a modern, dynamic and efficient workforce designed around what residents need.

The review of the SA Objectives for the SAD and AAP has had regard to the above priorities. The SAD and AAP will be expected to contribute towards the delivery of these priorities, for example, through safeguarding of land for industry, identification of opportunities for investment in Local Centres and in the Town Centre, allocation of land for new housing, and safeguarding of open space and other environmental assets which are important for the amenity and wellbeing of local communities.

Walsall Sustainable Community Strategy (2013) - ‘The Walsall Plan.’ This was produced by the Walsall Partnership which includes the Council and other key partners involved in delivery of services in the borough, such as the police, fire service, NHS Walsall and Walsall College. The current strategy covers the period 2013 – 2016 and replaced the previous version published in 2008.¹⁵ The Strategy identifies the priorities of the Partnership for Walsall Borough. It is based around four priorities, developed out of the shared Vision for Walsall to be “*a great place to live, learn, work and invest,*” which also underpins the current Walsall Council Corporate Plan (see above). The priority areas are as follows:

- Supporting businesses to thrive and supporting local people into work;
- Improving health, including wellbeing, and independence for older people;
- Creating safe and sustainable communities; and

¹⁴ Further information about the emerging Corporate Plan is available from the Council website - see: http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/index/council_and_democracy/corporate-plan.htm

¹⁵ The ‘Walsall Plan’ is available for download from the Walsall Partnership web pages: <http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/wp-index/wp-scs.htm>

- Improving safeguarding and learning/ life chances for children and young people.

These priorities are similar to the priorities of the Corporate Plan, and the SAD and AAP will contribute towards the delivery of them as identified above. The review of the SA Objectives has also taken these priorities into account. It is important to recognise, however that the Deregulation Act 2015¹⁶ repealed the Duty for the Council to prepare a sustainable community strategy and to have regard to such a strategy in preparing local development documents.

Walsall Area Partnership Plans - Walsall has six Area Partnerships, based around the administrative Wards within the borough:

1. Brownhills / Pelsall / Rushall / Shelfield
2. Aldridge & Beacon - Aldridge / Pheasey / Streetly / Walsall Wood
3. North Walsall - Bloxwich East / Bloxwich West / Blakenall / Birchills / Leamore
4. Walsall South - St. Matthew's / Paddock / Palfrey / Pleck
5. Darlaston & Bentley
6. Willenhall & Short Heath

Figure 9 below shows the areas covered by the Partnerships. The Area Partnerships have prepared Area Plans in consultation with the local community, identifying the main issues and priorities for each area.¹⁷

In most cases the priorities identified in the Area Plans do not relate to land use planning, and are issues that are being dealt with outside of the planning process, for example, local service delivery, events, litter collection, graffiti and dog fouling. However, they do identify some priorities of relevance to the SAD and AAP, which are summarised in Table 13 below.

¹⁶ The relevant part of the Deregulation Act 2015 can be found at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/20/section/100/enacted> and is explained at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/20/notes/division/5/99>

¹⁷ The Area Partnership Plans are available for download from the Walsall Partnership web pages - see: http://cms.walsall.gov.uk/wp-index/wp-area_partnerships.htm

Figure 9: Walsall Area Partnerships



Table 13: Walsall Area Plans – Key Issues for SAD and AAP

Key Issues/ Priorities Identified	Area Plans
Improvements to environmental network - public open spaces, sports and leisure facilities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
New housing developments	1, 5
Environmental improvements – regeneration projects, public realm improvements	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Social infrastructure – support for local community groups/ improvements to key facilities and services	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Transport infrastructure – public rights of way, highway improvements, traffic calming, community transport	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Employment and training - initiatives to improve training and access to jobs	1, 3, 4
Health and wellbeing - initiatives to improve health/ promote healthy lifestyles	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Shops and centres – need for improvements	4, 6
Waste management - recycling initiatives/ actions against fly tipping and other waste crime	1, 2, 3, 4, 6

Source: Published Area Plans for Walsall Area Partnerships (2013)

Walsall Health & Wellbeing Strategy (2014 Refresh) – this was published by the Walsall Health & Wellbeing Board in 2013, and was ‘refreshed’ in 2014. As the SA of the SAD and AAP is part of an integrated assessment which includes Health Impact Assessment (HIA), SA Objective 8: Health and Wellbeing has been developed to measure impacts on health, wellbeing and quality of life, having regard to the objectives and priorities identified in the Strategy. Regard has also been had to priorities identified by the Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), which is responsible for buying in and managing the majority of healthcare services in Walsall Borough.

The Health & Wellbeing Strategy identifies an over-arching Health and Wellbeing Ambition for Walsall, and 19 linked Health and Wellbeing Priorities, which are listed in Table 15 below. Many of the Priorities are related to service delivery and are not relevant to land use plans such as the SAD and AAP. However, some of them (in particular Priority 13: Ensure that we provide land and space for healthy living and that the health impacts of developments are properly assessed) are relevant.

Table 15 below identifies the relationship between all of the Priorities in the Strategy and the SA Objectives, how the SAD and AAP could contribute towards them, and the SA Framework Criteria that can be used to evaluate the extent to which the SAD and AAP Options and Policies are likely to achieve this.

Table 14: Walsall Council Equality Objectives (January 2015) – Relationship to SAD and AAP and SA Framework

Council Equality Objectives	Update on Progress @ January 2015	Implications for SAD and AAP	EqIA - Relevant SA Objectives/ Indicators
<p>Delivery of Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)</p>	<p>Overview of PSED: The “general duty” requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010; • Advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups; • Foster good relations between people from different groups. 	<p>Integration of EqIA with SA will allow us to assess the impacts of particular options or proposals on the general duty, such as the potential for unlawful discrimination and the potential for positive effects on equality of opportunity and community cohesion.</p>	<p>SA Objective 7 (7a, 7c, 7d)</p>
<p>Council Objective 1: The Council will strive to have a diverse workforce, representative of the communities living in Walsall.</p> <p>Regeneration Directive Objective 1: We will have a more representative and satisfied workforce at all levels.</p>	<p>Regeneration Directorate: The Directorate aims to create a learning, equal and safe but effective working environment, focussed on delivering high performance value for money services. A number of issues affecting the workforce, including stress, were highlighted in the most recent Employee Survey (2014) and actions are being identified to mitigate the impacts on staff welfare, led by a focus group comprising a cross-section of staff across the Directorate. It is proposed to repeat the survey in 12 – 18 months to review progress.</p>	<p>Relates to recruitment of Council staff and personnel issues within the Council, therefore not directly relevant to SAD and AAP.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Council Equality and Diversity Objectives	Update on Progress @ January 2015	Implications for SAD and AAP	EqIA - Relevant SA Objectives/ Indicators
<p>Council Objective 2: We will treat people fairly, justly and with respect to both service delivery and employment.</p> <p>Regeneration Directorate Objective 2: We will increase how equality is embedded and actioned in the way we carry out our business.</p>	<p>Regeneration Directorate: This objective is being met through various measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting of incidents - reporting and monthly review of incidents of discrimination, harassment or victimisation; • Recruitment - applicants are expected to demonstrate awareness of equality issues and how they relate to the service area; • Procurement – all significant procurement is subject to EqIA; • Cabinet Reports – all reports making recommendations to Cabinet on financial or policy decisions are subject to EqIA; • Training – equality and diversity training is promoted, and all new staff are required to complete Equality & Diversity Foundation course within 2 weeks; • Consultation and Engagement – consultation with relevant parties and sectors (including those representing protected characteristics) on all strategic activity, including formulation of local plans; and 	<p>Integration of EqIA with SA will allow us to assess the impacts of particular options or proposals – positive and negative - on different parts of the borough and on particular groups. A wide range of people and organisations, including those representing particular groups, are being consulted on the plans at each stage, and will be able comment on any proposals affecting them.</p> <p>During the SAD & AAP Issues & Options consultation (April – June 2013), Council officers met with various community groups to discuss the key issues of concern to them (see Objective 4 below for details). Community engagement will continue at subsequent stages in the plan process as necessary, to identify particular needs.</p>	<p>SA Objective 7 (7a)</p>

Council Equality and Diversity Objectives	Update on Progress @ January 2015	Implications for SAD and AAP	EqIA - Relevant SA Objectives/ Indicators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Safety – implementation of corporate health and safety policy in order to provide an environment where staff can carry out tasks safely and without fear of intimidation, harassment, violence or negative stress. 		
<p>Council Objective 3: We will find ways to support those who are disadvantaged or excluded.</p> <p>Regeneration Directive Objective 3: We will improve customer access to our services, delivering them “right, fast and simple.”</p>	<p>Regeneration Directorate: The following changes have been made to improve customer access to services and better tailor services to customers’ needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Stop Shop and Duty Officers - access to advice on planning and building control has been improved including the introduction of Duty Officers who are able to respond to general enquiries; Council Website – Council’s planning and regeneration web pages provide more information and advice on how to access and comment on the services provided; Planning Public Access System – online system where customers can submit a planning application, track its progress, comment on an application, or report possible breaches of control; and Land Charges – information has now been provided online to assist with land searches and conveyances. 	<p>Identifying sufficient land for new housing, employment, shops, open spaces, schools, health care facilities and other facilities close to public transport, cycling and walking routes will help to ensure that as many people as possible can access jobs and services in the borough.</p> <p>It will be particularly important for the AAP to deliver retail, office and leisure developments that are inclusive and accessible to all. Integration of EqIA with SA will allow us to assess the impacts of particular options or proposals – positive and negative – on groups already affected by inequality and disadvantage, or who may have greater need for particular developments or facilities (e.g. community facilities, open space) than others.</p> <p>Consultation material can also be made available in alternative formats on request, and where required, to engage effectively with particular groups. Consultation events will aim to reach as many people in the borough as possible.</p>	<p>SA Objective 4 (4b, 4c, 4d, 4e) SA Objective 6 (6a, 6b, 6d, 6e, 6f, 6g) SA Objective 7 (7a, 7b, 7c, 7d) SA Objective 8 (8a, 8b, 8c, 8d) SA Objective 11 (11c) SA Objective 13 (13e, 13f)</p>

Council Equality and Diversity Objectives	Update on Progress @ January 2015	Implications for SAD and AAP	EqIA - Relevant SA Objectives/ Indicators
<p>Council Objective 4: We will promote inclusion and celebrate diversity and engage with local communities to identify equality issues and agree priorities.</p> <p>Regeneration Directorate Objective 4: We will increase the effectiveness of engagement with local communities to identify equality issues and agree priorities.</p>	<p>Regeneration Directorate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality and Diversity Profile – a profile of the borough has been compiled by the Economic Intelligence Manager; • Case Studies – examples of how the Directorate has improved engagement with local communities to identify key equality issues and priorities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consultation on Walsall SAD and AAP Issues & Options – see column opposite for details; ○ Walsall Works – engagement with young people to find out about barriers to apprenticeships; ○ Town and District Centres Markets Service – Town Centre Champions groups set up to engage with stakeholders on priorities for business growth, regeneration, public realm and environmental improvements, events and marketing and community safety. ○ Town Centre Markets Feasibility – engagement with key stakeholders on future location of the Market. 	<p>Consultation and engagement on the Issues & Options was carried out in accordance with the Revised Statement of Community Involvement (2012), which sets out how the Council will involve residents, developers and other key partners in influencing new land use plans.</p> <p>A consultation plan was developed to identify the different groups that needed to be actively engaged, along with a strategy for undertaking the consultation. Special efforts were made during the consultation to ensure that those who might not be able to or might not choose to access a general consultation event were able to take part.</p> <p>These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A road show to reach as many people as possible within their local community; • Consultation in a shop unit in Walsall Town Centre and on market stalls; • Participation in community events at weekends and in the evenings; • Children’s colouring competition asking them to draw what they would like to see developed in Walsall; • Engagement via social media, including “Facebook” and “Twitter” and an online blog with different discussion topics each week; • Workshops with schools and students from Walsall College; 	<p>SA Objective 7 (7a, 7b, 7c, 7d)</p>

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Council Equality and Diversity Objectives	Update on Progress @ January 2015	Implications for SAD and AAP	EqIA - Relevant SA Objectives/ Indicators
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with Walsall Multi Faith Forum; • Workshops and focus groups with Walsall Disability Forum and other disability groups (Material was produced in easy read format and on audio tapes); and • Workshops with the Gypsy and Traveller community. <p>Consultation and engagement with local communities and community groups will continue throughout the plan process, including during consultation on the “preferred options” in late Summer 2015, to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to have their say about the proposals.</p>	

Source: Walsall Equality and Diversity Protocol (March 2012), Walsall Equality Objectives and Information (January 2015), Walsall Council

Table 15: Walsall Health & Wellbeing Strategy (2014 Refresh) Objectives – Relationship to SAD and AAP and SA Framework

Walsall HWB Overall Ambition and Objectives	Implications for SAD and AAP	HIA - Relevant SA Objectives/ Indicators
<p>Overall HWB Ambition: Improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in Walsall and reduce the inequalities by improving the outcomes of people in deprived communities and vulnerable groups faster than the average for the borough of Walsall.</p>	<p>Identifying land for development for housing, employment and other beneficial uses in areas of greatest need would help to encourage improvements in these areas, and may contribute towards reducing inequalities. Ensuring that sites that generate people movements (such as new homes, jobs, retailing and leisure) are allocated in locations where adequate access can be made by walking and cycling, and open space provided and maintained, so that physical activity is encouraged for all, including families and young people.</p>	<p>SA Objective 4 (4c, 4e) SA Objective 7 (7c, 7d) SA Objective 8 (8c, 8d) SA Objective 13 (13e, 13f)</p>
<p>HWB Priority 1: Promote emotional wellbeing and encourage people to be more self reliant</p>	<p>Consultation and engagement with all sectors of the community will ensure that they have the opportunity to have their say over where development should take place, and that the views of children, young people and older people are taken into account.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>HWB Priority 2: Help parents ensure children enjoy the best start in life</p>	<p>Ensuring that sites for developments occupied or used by children such as housing, schools, leisure and open space are allocated in locations that can be accessed safely by walking or cycling.</p>	<p>SA Objective 4 (4c, 4e) SA Objective 7 (7c, 7d) SA Objective 8 (8c, 8d) SA Objective 13 (13e, 13f)</p>
<p>HWB Priority 3: Reduce infant mortality</p>	<p>Not directly relevant but ensuring that existing or potential environmental problems are addressed when new development takes place, and that housing and community facilities are not developed in areas exposed to unacceptable levels of flood risk or pollution, will help to reduce some of the environmental factors that may contribute to infant mortality and other health problems</p>	<p>SA Objective 1 (1a – 1c) SA Objective 3 (3b) SA Objective 4 (4b, 4c, 4d) SA Objective 6 (6d) SA Objective 7 (7e) SA Objective 8 (8b) SA Objective 10 (10f) SA Objective 12 (12d) SA Objective 13 (13c) SA Objective 14 (14e)</p>

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Walsall HWB Overall Ambition and Objectives	Implications for SAD and AAP	HIA - Relevant SA Objectives/ Indicators
<p>HWB Priority 4: Reduce the gap in attainment between children from the least and the most deprived communities in Walsall</p>	<p>Ensuring that sites to provide employment and education are allocated in locations that are accessible to children and young adults from the most deprived communities</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>HWB Priority 5: Provide education to improve parenting skills</p>	<p>Ensuring that sites to provide education are allocated in locations that are accessible to children and young adults from the most deprived communities</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>HWB Priority 6: Help children maintain a healthy weight</p>	<p>Ensuring that sites for developments occupied or used by children such as housing, schools, leisure and open space are allocated in locations that can be accessed safely by walking or cycling.</p> <p>Identifying and safeguarding the existing open space network, and ensuring that new housing development is accessible to it and will facilitate improvements to existing open spaces, children’s play areas, allotments and community gardens, or provide additional open spaces where a need is identified, will improve access to green spaces for Walsall residents.</p>	<p>SA Objective 4 (4a, 4b, 4d, 4e) SA Objective 7 (7d) SA Objective 8 (8c) SA Objective 9 (9b, 9c)</p>
<p>HWB Priority 7: Ensure mental health services for children are fit for purpose</p>	<p>Not relevant</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>HWB Priority 8: Provide support for vulnerable adults so they can access jobs or training</p>	<p>Not directly relevant but maintaining an adequate supply of employment land in the borough and identifying land for new employment development if necessary will help support economic growth, job retention and job creation. The plans will also aim to address poverty and deprivation, access to jobs and services, and impacts on amenity.</p>	<p>SA Objective 4 (4b, 4c, 4e) SA Objective 6 (6a, 6b) SA Objective 7 (7d)</p>
<p>HWB Priority 9: Support businesses to provide healthy workplaces</p>	<p>Not directly relevant although well-designed workplaces are encouraged in the Designing Walsall SPD</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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Walsall HWB Overall Ambition and Objectives	Implications for SAD and AAP	HIA - Relevant SA Objectives/ Indicators
<p>HWB Priority 10: Reduce child poverty and the impact on families of workless parents</p>	<p>Not directly relevant but maintaining an adequate supply of employment land in the borough and identifying land for new employment development if necessary will help support economic growth, job retention and job creation. The plans will also aim to address poverty and deprivation, access to jobs and services, and impacts on amenity. Identifying land for housing development in appropriate locations, to meet a range of needs, will also help improve the overall quality of the housing stock and access to good quality housing. Ensuring that site allocation policies for housing require adequate provision for children’s play, open space and walking and cycling will encourage healthier lifestyles. Identifying opportunities for “district heating” may help improve affordability and reduce fuel poverty. SAD and AAP will also consider potential effects of development options on amenity and safety of communities.</p>	<p>SA Objective 4 (4a -, 4e) SA Objective 6 (6a, 6b) SA Objective 7 (7b, 7d) SA Objective 8 (8b, 8c, 8d) SA Objective 10 (10f) SA Objective 11 (11c) SA Objective 13 (13c, 13e, 13f)</p>
<p>HWB Priority 11: Ensure the best possible welfare advice for those in need</p>	<p>Not relevant</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>HWB Priority 12: Ensure staff of local service providers have knowledge and skills to improve the health of their service users</p>	<p>Not relevant</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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Walsall HWB Overall Ambition and Objectives	Implications for SAD and AAP	HIA - Relevant SA Objectives/ Indicators
<p>HWB Priority 13: Ensure that we provide land and space for healthy living and that the health impacts of developments are properly assessed</p>	<p>Ensuring that sites that generate people movements (such as new homes, jobs, retailing and leisure) are allocated in locations where adequate access can be made by walking and cycling, and open space provided and maintained, so that physical activity is encouraged for all.</p> <p>Identifying and safeguarding the existing open space network, and ensuring that new housing development is accessible to it or provide additional open spaces where a need is identified.</p> <p>Ensuring that existing or potential environmental problems are addressed when new development takes place and that housing and community facilities are not developed in areas exposed to unacceptable levels of flood risk or pollution will help to reduce some of the environmental factors that may contribute to health problems.</p>	<p>SA Objective 1 (1a – 1c) SA Objective 3 (3b) SA Objective 4 (4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e) SA Objective 6 (6d) SA Objective 7 (7d, 7e) SA Objective 8 (8b, 8c) SA Objective 9 (9b, 9c) SA Objective 10 (10f) SA Objective 12 (12d) SA Objective 13 (13c) SA Objective 14 (14e)</p>
<p>HWB Priority 14: Encourage ways to involve local people and communities in efforts to improve health</p>	<p>Consultation and engagement with all sectors of the community will ensure that they have the opportunity to have their say over where development should take place, and that the views of children, young people and older people are taken into account.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>HWB Priority 15: Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs</p>	<p>Not relevant</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>HWB Priority 16: Help people to find out how to improve their own health</p>	<p>Not relevant</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>HWB Priority 17: Ensure employees are trained to give appropriate healthy lifestyles advice and know about available local support, thereby helping people improve their health</p>	<p>Not relevant</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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Walsall HWB Overall Ambition and Objectives	Implications for SAD and AAP	HIA - Relevant SA Objectives/ Indicators
HWB Priority 18: Reduce the life expectancy gap by improving the health of the poorest people, and men in particular	Not relevant	N/A
HWB Priority 19: Reduce emergency admissions to hospital for over 75s and reduce the use of long-term residential care	Not relevant	N/A

Source: Walsall Health & Wellbeing Strategy (2014 Refresh), Walsall Health & Wellbeing Board