

# Annual Monitoring Report

## December 2006



**Walsall Council**

**Walsall Council**

**Annual Monitoring Report**

**2006**

The Annual Monitoring Report contains a lot of information about Walsall and explains how the Council's planning policies are performing against national, regional and local targets. If you have any difficulty in understanding the information provided please telephone 01922 652426 leaving a message in your own language on our telephone recording facility. Also please provide your telephone number and contact address for us to respond to you.

### Bengali

ওয়ার্ডসাল্‌ সম্পর্কে অনেক সংবাদ বাৎসরিক উপদেশ-সভাবর্ননন রিপোর্টটিতে রয়েছে, এক কাউন্সিল কিভাবে নীতিমালা পন্যয়নের পরিকল্পনা করে মাতীয়, আঞ্চলিক এবং স্থানীয় লক্ষ্যসমূহের বিরুদ্ধে পদক্ষেপ গ্রহন করিতেছে এই রিপোর্টটি তার ব্যাখ্যা করেছে। যদি এর কোন বিষয় আপনার বুঝতে অসুবিধা হয়, দয়া করে ০১৯২২ ৬৫২৪২৬ নম্বরে ফোন করে আপনার ভাষায় আমাদের টেলিফোন মেসেজ রেকর্ডিং সুবিধায় আপনার কথাগুলি বলতে পারেন। আপনার মেসেজে অবশ্যই আপনার টেলিফোন নম্বর ও ঠিকানা উল্লেখ করবেন যাতে আমরা আপনার সাথে যোগাযোগ করতে পারি।

### Gujerati

આ વાર્ષિક દેખરેખ રીપોર્ટ મા ઘણી વોલરોલની જાણકારી છે અને એલી રામજાવે છે કેવી રીતે કાઉનસની આમલ કરેલી નીતીઓ આખારાથીયુ, પ્રદેશીક અને લોકલ રામે કામ કરે છે.

આ જાણકારી રામજવામા તકલીફ પડતી હોય તો ૦૧૯૨૨ ૬૫૨૪૨૬ (01922 652426) પર ફોન કરી અને તમારી ભાષામા આનસારીગ મરીન પર મેરેજ મુકો, તમારા જ્ઞાન નંબર અને એડરેસ રાથે જે થી અમે તમને રામ્પર્ક રાધી રાકીયે.

### Hindi

वार्षिक मनीचरिंग रिपोर्ट में वासलसाल बारे बहुत सी जानकारी है, और इस का वर्णन है कि काउंसिल पलैनिंग पोलिसिआ किस तरह राष्ट्रीय, प्रदेशिक और स्थानिय लक्ष्यो पर कार्य करती है। अगर दी गई जानकारी को समझने में आपको कोई मुश्किल आ रही हो तो कृपा करके 01922 652426 पर फोन करके अपनी भाषा में हमारी टैलीफोन रिकार्डिंग की सुविधा पर सन्देश छोड़ें। कृपया अपना टैलीफोन नम्बर और पता आवष्य छोड़िये ताकि हम आपसे सम्पर्क कर सकें।

### Kurdish

رايۇرتى مەلۇماتى ي چاۋدۇيى زاتىياري زۇر سە بارە ت بە Walsall لە خۇ تە كرى. ھە روە ھا  
تە وە ش روۋ تە كاتە وە كە چۇن پائە دارىزراۋە كانى شمارە وانى لە بە رامبە ر نامائە  
تاۋخۇيى و ھە رايى و نىشتىماتىە كان كارنە كە ن. كە ر ھاتو ھە ر چۇرە كرىفتىكت بو لە تىگە  
يشتى تە و زاتىاريانە تەكايە بە يوە ندى بىكە بە 01922 652426 وبە زامانى خۇت بە يام  
ھى بىلگە .  
تەكايە ھە روە ھا زامارە تە لە قۇن و تە درە سى خۇت ھى بىلگە بۇ تە وە ي بتوانىن وە نامت  
بەدە پتە وە.

## Punjabi

ਸਲਾਨਾ ਮਨੀਟਰਿੰਗ ਰਿਪੋਰਟ ਵਿਚ ਵਾਲਸਾਲ ਬਾਰੇ ਬਹੁਤ ਸਾਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੈ, ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਖੁਲਾਸਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਕਾਉਨਸਿਲ ਪਲੈਨਿੰਗ ਪਾਲਿਸੀਆ ਕਿਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਮੁਲਕੀ, ਕੌਮੀ ਅਤੇ ਮਕਾਮੀ ਮੁਦੱਆ ਬਾਰੇ ਕੰਮ ਕਰਦੀਆਂ ਹਨ। ਅਗਰ ਚਿੱਠੀ ਗਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਕੁਝਾਨੂੰ ਕੋਈ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਿਲ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਮਿਹਰਬਾਣੀ ਕਰਕੇ 01922 652426 ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰਕੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿਚ ਸਾਡੀ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਰਿਕਾਰਡਿੰਗ ਦੀ ਸਹੂਲਤ ਤੇ ਸੁਨੋਹਾ ਛੱਡੋ। ਮਿਹਰਬਾਣੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਆਪਣਾ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ ਅਤੇ ਪਤਾ ਵੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰ ਛੱਡੋ ਤਾਂ ਜੋ ਅਸੀਂ ਕੁਝਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰ ਸਕੀਏ।

## Turkish

Yıllık denetim raporu, Walsall hakkında bir çok bilgi içermektedir ve konseyin siyasetlerini dini, milli ve yerel hedeflerine karşı nasıl planlamakta olduğunu açıklamaktadır. Eger sunulan bilgiyi anlamakta herhangi bir zorlukla karşılaşırsanız, lutfen 01922 652426yı telefon kayıt merkezimize kendi dilinizde mesaj bırakarak arayın. Bizim size cevap vermemiz için lutfen telefon numaranızı ve ulaşım adresinizi bırakın.

## Urdu

جانرے کی سالانہ رپورٹ میں وال سال کے بارے میں بہت سی معلومات دی گئی ہیں اور اس رپورٹ میں واضح طور پر یہ بتایا گیا ہے کہ قومی، علاقائی اور مقامی اہداف کے مترادف کو نسل کی پالیسیوں کے مطابق کی گئی منصوبہ بندی پر کس طرح عمل درآمد کیا جا رہا ہے۔ اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات سمجھنے میں مشکل پیش آرہی ہو تو براہ مہربانی 01922 652426 پر فون کر کے ہماری ٹیلیفون کی ریکارڈنگ سروس پر اپنی زبان میں پیغام چھوڑ دیں۔ اس پیغام میں اپنا ٹیلیفون نمبر اور پتہ بھی بتائیں تاکہ ہم واپس آپ سے رابطہ کر سکیں۔

## **HOW TO FIND OUT MORE**

For more information about any of the issues raised in this Annual Monitoring Report please contact:

Strategic Regeneration  
Regeneration and Enterprise Directorate  
Walsall Council  
Civic Centre  
Darwall Street  
Walsall  
WS1 1DG

**Telephone: 01922 652482**

Email: [ldf@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@walsall.gov.uk)

This document will also be available on the Council's website at:

[http://www.walsall.gov.uk/local\\_development\\_framework.htm](http://www.walsall.gov.uk/local_development_framework.htm)

Disclaimer: This Annual Monitoring Report has been prepared to seek to respond to the requirement to produce such a report, under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided, no liability is accepted for any errors or omissions.





# Contents

1.	Introduction.....	3
1.1	The Requirement for Monitoring .....	3
1.2	The Content of this Monitoring Report .....	3
2.	The Walsall Context .....	6
2.1	Developing Contextual Indicators for Walsall.....	6
2.2	Location and Urban Form .....	6
2.3	Walsall Population and Demographics.....	7
2.4	Environment.....	8
2.5	Economy .....	9
2.6	Education and Skills.....	10
2.7	Transport.....	11
2.8	Quality of Life .....	12
3.	The Local Development Framework.....	16
3.1	The Walsall Local Development Framework.....	16
3.2	Assessing Performance and Effects .....	16
	Local Development Framework Implementation.....	17
3.3	Environment & Amenity.....	17
	<i>Renewable Energy</i> .....	36
	<i>Water Resources, Water Quality and Flood Risk</i> .....	39
3.4	Jobs & Prosperity .....	46
	<i>Regeneration Areas</i> .....	49
	<i>Loss of Employment Land</i> .....	50
3.5	Strengthening Our Centres .....	52
	<i>Health of Town, District and Local Centres</i> .....	53
	<i>Retail, Office and Leisure Completions</i> .....	54
	<i>New Housing Development</i> .....	60
	<i>Housing Trajectory</i> .....	60
	<i>Housing Completions on Previously Developed Land</i> .....	62
	<i>Housing Densities, Sizes and Types</i> .....	63
	<i>Affordable Housing</i> .....	64
3.7	Transport.....	65
	<i>Transport in the West Midlands Metropolitan Area – Main Headlines</i> .....	68
	<i>Transport Infrastructure</i> .....	70

<i>Car Parking Standards</i> .....	70
<i>Accessibility</i> .....	72
3.8 Leisure and Community .....	74
<i>Open Space Provision and Management</i> .....	75
<i>Greenways</i> .....	76
<i>Sports Facilities</i> .....	76
<i>Other Community Facilities</i> .....	76
<i>Canals</i> .....	77
3.9 Minerals .....	77
<i>Production of Primary Aggregates</i> .....	79
<i>Production of Secondary and Recycled Aggregates</i> .....	81
<i>Production of Brick Clay</i> .....	82
3.10 Waste .....	82
<i>Planning for New Waste Management Infrastructure</i> .....	85
<i>Municipal Waste Management</i> .....	93
4. Local Development Scheme Update .....	98
4.1 Adoption of Local Development Documents, 2005/06 .....	98
4.2 Other Local Development Documents – Summary of Progress...98	
5. Conclusions.....	99
5.1 Issues Relating to Monitoring, 2005/06 .....	99
5.2 Monitoring 2005/06 – Implications for the LDF.....	100
APPENDIX A .....	101
<i>Progress on Preparing Local Development Documents</i> .....	101
APPENDIX B – PRIORITY SPECIES .....	103
APPENDIX C: DESIGNATED NATURE CONSERVATION SITES .....	105
APPENDIX D .....	107
<i>Core and Local Output Indicators - Progress on Data Collection and Monitoring</i> .....	107

# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1 The Requirement for Monitoring**

1.1.1 The reform of the planning system in England, under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, introduced a new development plan system. This is based on a Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for each region, which replaces previous Regional Planning Guidance, and a Local Development Framework (LDF) for each local planning authority. Each local authority is required to prepare a Local Development Framework, which will comprise a folder of Local Development Documents, aiming to provide an up-to-date and flexible set of plans for its area. In future, this will replace previous plans, including the Unitary Development Plan (UDP - a single document for the whole district), which was adopted in Walsall in March 2005.

1.1.2 It is intended that each planning authority's Local Development Framework should be continually reviewed and revised and that this should be informed by monitoring. To support this, the 2004 Act introduced a requirement for each local planning authority to produce an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) to be submitted to the Secretary of State by 31<sup>st</sup> December each year.

1.1.3 The purpose of the AMR is to assess and review:

- Whether the timetable and milestones are being met for the preparation of documents set out in the Local Development Scheme (the project plan, which sets out the timescales for the preparation of the documents that will comprise the Local Development Framework);
- The extent to which policies in Local Development Documents are being implemented and related targets are being achieved;
- Where policies are not being implemented, including with an explanation why and an outline of the steps being taken to ensure such policies will be implemented in the future, or where they are to be amended or replaced;
- The significant effects of implementing policies in local development documents, whether they are as intended, or whether policies are to be amended or replaced; and
- What impact policies are having in respect of national and regional or any other identified targets and whether policies need changing to reflect changes in national and regional policy.

## **1.2 The Content of this Monitoring Report**

1.2.1 This is Walsall Council's second LDF Annual Monitoring Report. It covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006. During this period, the only documents in the LDF were the adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and a supplementary planning document relating to Affordable Housing, which supports policies in the UDP. Chapter 4 below summarises progress on implementing the Local Development Scheme during 2005/06, and Appendix A provides an update on progress on local development documents currently in the pipeline.

1.2.2 As the UDP is still the main document within the Walsall LDF, this report provides information on progress with both the “old” and the “new” development plan systems. The AMR is also required to consider how the LDF will relate to other strategies, notably the borough’s Community Strategy (The Walsall Community Plan) prepared by the Borough Local Strategic Partnership. Progress on the Council’s UDP and LDF is considered in Chapter 3.

1.2.3 This AMR seeks to provide information to monitor the policies of both Walsall’s UDP and indicators that have been promoted by the Government in respect of the LDF system. The Government has produced a “Good Practice Guide” on Local Development Framework Monitoring (March 2005, updated October 2005), which advises on the indicators to be used for monitoring. These fall into three categories as follows:

- (i) **Contextual Indicators**, which give a description of particular aspects of the borough and can be used to identify particular issues and perhaps show major changes over time. The indicators chosen by the Council are considered in Chapter 2;
- (ii) **Output Indicators**, which seek to monitor the application of the council’s development planning policies and whether or not these are having the desired consequences; and
- (iii) **Significant Effects Indicators**, which the good practice guidance states are advisable to assess the significant social, environmental and economic effects of policies and enable a comparison to be made between the predicted effects and the actual effects measured during implementation of the policies.

1.2.4 There are two types of output indicators:

- a) **Core Output Indicators**, which are those recommended by the Government in the AMR good practice guidance; and
- b) **Local Output Indicators**, which authorities may identify to monitor the effects of local policies – in the case of this AMR, these have been based on the monitoring indicators set out in Walsall’s UDP.

1.2.5 The local output indicators referred to in Chapter 3 are those that the Council has already been asked to, or said it would try to, measure. However, some of the Core Output Indicators are additional to these, and in some cases, information is not readily available. In the first instance, priority has been given to those indicators that can be monitored using data that is readily available. However, in the future, consideration will be given to increasing the Council’s monitoring capabilities, if resources are available.

1.2.6 Chapter 3 considers performance against the core and local output indicators in a structure that reflects that of Walsall’s UDP. The conclusions are set out in Chapter 5, which identifies the main issues raised by the results of the monitoring and by the monitoring exercise itself. Appendix D to this report lists all of the output indicators, and identifies those that are currently capable of being monitored and those that are not.

1.2.7 No significant effects indicators have been identified in this AMR, as the Council has not undertaken any major sustainability appraisals<sup>1</sup> during 2005 -2006. It is anticipated that such indicators will be identified through the sustainability appraisal/ SEA of the joint Black Country Core Strategy, and once this is at a sufficiently advanced stage, monitoring against significant effects indicators will commence, and future AMRs will reflect this.

---

<sup>1</sup> A sustainability appraisal of a supplementary planning document (SPD) to the UDP policy on Affordable Housing was adopted in July 2005 (see Chapter 3), but no new monitoring indicators were identified as the appraisal concluded that the SPD would support the implementation of the relevant UDP policy.

## 2. The Walsall Context

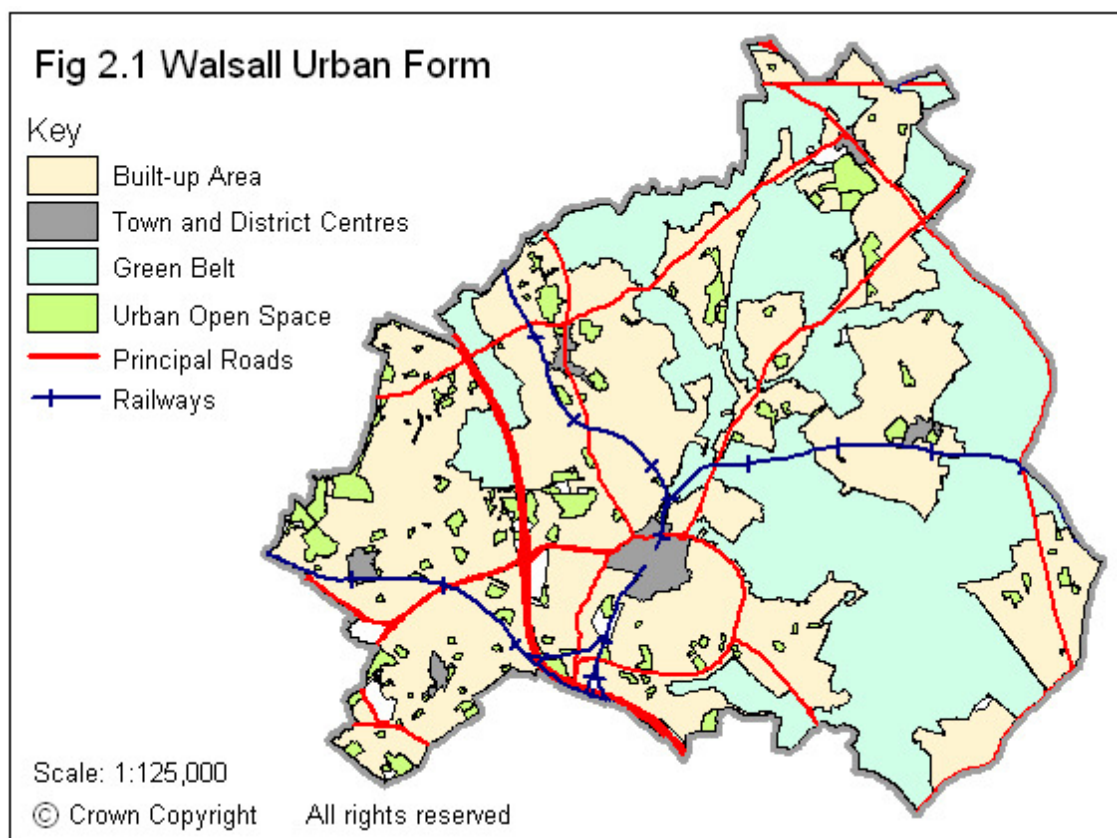
### 2.1 Developing Contextual Indicators for Walsall

2.1.1 The LDF Monitoring Good Practice Guide recommends that contextual indicators be identified, to enhance our understanding of the background to the LDF policies and proposals.

2.1.2 In the previous Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) we identified a limited number of contextual indicators, which related to common themes within the LDF and the Walsall Community Plan. Since then the Council has developed these further, taking into account the links between the LDF and the Walsall Community Plan and Local Area Agreement (2006), and also the RSS contextual indicators that West Midlands Regional Assembly has developed, as set out in its recent report "Contextual Monitoring for Urban and Rural Renaissance" (May 2006).

### 2.2 Location and Urban Form

2.2.1 Walsall Metropolitan Borough lies to the north-west of Birmingham and is one of the four authorities that make up the Black Country (the others being Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton).



2.2.2 The Borough has a population of about 253,500 (mid 2005) and covers an area of some 41 square miles (103.6 km<sup>2</sup>). It is made up of a number of distinct settlements, each with its own unique history and development, which came together through successive local government reorganisations in the 1960s and 1970s. These settlements have to a degree retained their own separate identities, and the Council has consistently aimed to maintain and

foster the advantages that this brings in terms of local identity and a “sense of belonging,” whilst also seeking to engender an awareness of strategic issues at the borough level.

2.2.3 The general urban form of Walsall is shown in Figure 2.1 above. The main settlements in the borough are:

- Walsall, still famous for its saddlery and leather goods industry that dates back to medieval times; and Bloxwich (metal goods);
- The Black Country towns of Willenhall (specialising in lock making) and Darlaston (formerly famous for nuts and bolts and other metal industries)
- The Brownhills area, comprising several settlements (Brownhills, Pelsall, Shelfield, Walsall Wood and Rushall), which have developed from mining villages; and
- Aldridge, a medieval town that expanded in the 1960s and 1970s through overspill from the conurbation; and Streetly and Pheasey which have developed as residential suburbs over the years.

2.2.4 Walsall's settlement pattern is a very sustainable one, with a well-spaced hierarchy of centres that includes Walsall Town Centre, which has a sub-regional role; the district centres of Bloxwich, Brownhills, Aldridge, Willenhall and Darlaston, which serve more localised role; and a large number of local centres whose main function is to meet the day-to day convenience shopping and local service needs of the local community. Unlike in many other towns of its size, Walsall can offer a good distribution of facilities within easy reach of its residents. The Council aims to uphold and improve still further this beneficial settlement pattern.

## 2.3 Walsall Population and Demographics

2.3.1 The population of Walsall is projected to decline very slightly over the next ten years, according to the 2004 population projections. Between 2004 and 2005 it is estimated that the natural population increase and international migration were outweighed by internal migration.

**Table 2.1: Demographic Indicators**

Contextual Indicators	Performance
Net in/ out migration	-190 (2005 population estimate as compared with 2004)
Projections/ forecasts of population growth	2005: 252,600 2010: 251,200 2015: 250,500 (2004 population projections)

Demographic structure of communities – age, gender, ethnic mix, etc.	49% male, 51% female Age 0-4: 6.5%; 5-15: 15.3% 16-29 16.6% 30-44 21.5% 45-59 18.5% 60-64 5.5% 65-74 9.2% 75+ 7.0% BME 14% (from 2001 census)
--	---

2.3.2 Walsall has a vibrant, multi-ethnic and multi-cultural population. 14% of its population are from black and minority ethnic groups. The proportion of young people is higher in Walsall than the UK average according to the 2001 census. The 2004 based population projections show that over the next 10 years the number of young people (those aged 0-24) will drop by 3.8%. In contrast, the number of older people (50+) will increase by 6.7%. However the increase in older people will be only about half the national one of 14%.

## 2.4 Environment

2.4.1 About one third of the land area of the Borough is open, mainly in agricultural use, and much of this is protected as Green Belt. The Green Belt and areas of urban open space, including canal corridors, help to maintain the identity of the constituent communities, as well as preventing the outward expansion of the conurbation.

Table 2.2: Environmental Indicators

Contextual Indicators	Performance
Percentage of area classified as urban open space/ green space	20.4% (2005)
Remediation of derelict and contaminated land	1.63ha (2005)
Air quality / percentage of area covered by AQMA	100% (from 31 August 2006)

2.4.2 According to Walsall Green Space Strategy, which was published in October 2006 (based on survey work undertaken in 2005), 20.4% of the total land area was composed of open space, and 59.6% of this was unrestricted open space. Improving access to green spaces and the natural environment is identified as a key issue in the Walsall Community Plan, under the “safer, stronger communities” pillar, and the impact of contaminated/ derelict land is also identified as a potential issue for health. The LDF indicators above reflect these issues.

2.4.3 The 2005 RSS monitoring report indicates that in 2004/05 there was about 3,023 hectares of derelict land in the West Midlands region, and that the amount of derelict land is gradually reducing. It is recognised that there are



still significant pockets of derelict and contaminated land in the Black Country, a legacy of its industrial past. The remediation of derelict and contaminated land is a key priority for the Council and for the Walsall Regeneration Company (WRC). Monitoring shows that at 31 March 2006, there was about 155.5 hectares of derelict land in Walsall. This is a reduction from 205 ha in 2005; however most of this appears to be due to the reclassification of the figures. 1.63ha of derelict land was reclaimed and another 11ha added in 2005/6.

2.4.4 Another important environmental issue in Walsall and the wider West Midlands conurbation is air quality. Most parts of Birmingham and the Black Country suffer from poor air quality, mainly as a result of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from traffic. Although the main concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> are within transport corridors, monitoring has shown that the whole borough is affected, and in August 2006, the whole of the borough was declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).<sup>2</sup> The purpose of the AQMA is to address the causes of the pollution so that national NO<sub>2</sub> quality objectives (annual mean and hourly) are met. The Council is therefore preparing an Air Quality Management Plan to tackle these issues.

2.4.5 Economic development and enterprise is one of the four “pillars” of the Walsall Community Plan and Local Area Agreement (LAA). The Walsall Local Area Agreement (LAA) identifies a number of links between public behaviour, transport and the environment. These are set out below.

## 2.5 Economy

**Table 2.3: Economic Indicators**

<b>Contextual Indicators</b>	<b>Performance</b>
Range of employment sectors represented	13 (2001 Census)
Percentage of people who are economically active/ unemployed	Claimant Count 4.5%
GDP per head	Not available
Numbers of new VAT business registrations	5830 (5765 2004/5) (Small Business Service Website)

2.5.1 Walsall remains a traditional manufacturing economy, with proportionately far more employment in production sectors than the UK as a whole, and far fewer in services. Output from manufacturing, at 37% of the economy, is nearly twice the proportion in the UK as a whole. Walsall's generally low output growth, when compared regionally and nationally, is reflected in lower employment growth. Typically for a manufacturing-led economy, full time male employment is proportionately higher than in the West Midlands region or the UK (Prism, Local Economic Prospects for Walsall, 2002, p65, 66).

<sup>2</sup> Air Quality Management Areas are designated under the provisions of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, in areas where air quality falls below national standards.

2.5.2 However, Walsall as a whole suffers from a relative lack of economic demand; and this fundamental problem tends to trap the Borough in a low wealth creating cycle. Low aggregate demand means that there will be fewer job opportunities and lower incomes; in turn this reduces household expenditure. The level of unemployment in the Borough is 4.5% compared with 3.4% in the West Midlands Region and 2.7% nationally<sup>3</sup>. Male unemployment is a particular problem with Walsall having a rate of 6.3%. As a consequence, there is relatively high and continuing deprivation (see also following section). Walsall, out of 354 local authorities in England, ranks in the top 51 in the overall Indices of Deprivation 2004, coming 32<sup>nd</sup> for income deprivation.

## 2.6 Education and Skills

**Table 2.4: Educational Indicators**

Contextual Indicators	Performance
Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A* - C GCSE grades, compared to national and regional average	Walsall 46.2, WM54.3, England 57.1 (2005)
Percentage of school leavers not in education, employment or training (NEET)	Walsall 12.0; England 8.6 (2005, source: Black Country Connexions)

2.6.1 The Regional Assembly has identified skill levels and educational attainment as indicators to measure the extent to which urban renaissance is being realised. Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership has also identified similar indicators for the Community Plan, for example, gross domestic product, employment rates and rates of business formation. The contextual indicators for the Walsall LDF reflect these, and are summarised in Table 2.5 below.

2.6.2 In 2004, out of the 354 local authority areas, Walsall was the 9<sup>th</sup> most deprived in terms of education and training. The Walsall Community Plan therefore identifies educational attainment as a key issue affecting the borough's long-term economic prospects. Although it is improving, educational attainment in Walsall persistently lags behind that for England as a whole, which is shown in the table below.

<sup>3</sup> Rates are estimates for March 2006 based on claimant count as a proportion of the resident working age population

**Table 2.5: Educational Attainment in Walsall**

<b>Walsall: GCSEs: 5+ A*-C, comparison with average for West Midlands Region and average for England</b>								
<b>Year</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Walsall	34.6	36.1	37.0	40.6	42.4	42.6	43.4	46.2
WM Region Average	41.3	43.5	44.8	45.8	48.1	50.2	50.8	54.3
England Average	46.3	47.9	49.2	50.0	51.5	52.9	53.7	57.1

2.6.3 A related issue is the number of young people who are not either in education, employment or training (NEETs). In 2005, Walsall had about 900 NEETs, which was 12.0% of the total number of 16 – 18 year olds (as compared with 7.6% for England as a whole). About 50% of NEETs are concentrated in deprived areas within the north of the borough.

## 2.7 Transport

**Table 2.6: Transport Indicators**

<b>Contextual Indicators</b>	<b>Performance</b>
Changes in trunk road traffic speeds	No detailed information available.
Average duration/distance of journeys to work	Distance: 17% of all Metropolitan Area employees travelled less than 2km to work. 80% travelled under 20km (2001 census). No figures for duration of travel.
Percentage of primary and secondary school children arriving at school by car	No systematic information. Surveys being completed by January 2007.

2.7.1 Walsall has a major advantage in being close to the hub of the national motorway network and the rail network. However, many of the local connections into this road and rail network need to be improved so that the borough can reap the benefits of this potentially advantageous geographical position.

2.7.2 Increasing congestion is likely to be one of the factors contributing towards falling trunk road traffic speeds in the West Midlands region, and increases in the average duration of journeys to work, particularly in major urban areas. There are also problems with access to key services within the borough. Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership has recently undertaken research into the accessibility of key services, and is currently preparing a Local Accessibility Action Plan. Although the draft plan published in July 2006 did not include any monitoring indicators, it did highlight a number of important issues and barriers to accessibility in Walsall, such as:

- The availability and physical accessibility of transport – nearly one in three households in the borough does not have access to a car, and for many people, public transport does not go to the right places at convenient times;
- The cost of transport – the cost of public transport has risen at a greater rate than transport by car – between 1990 and 2003, bus fares have risen by 26% in real terms, compared to a 4% increase in the cost of motoring;
- Services and activities located in inaccessible places. Whilst the settlement pattern in general is helpful and allows residents to obtain easy access to goods and services (see above), there are cases where out-of-centre shopping and leisure developments, and some public services, are not necessarily located in the most accessible places to serve their catchments. Moreover, nobody has been responsible for ensuring that people can get to key services.

## 2.8 Quality of Life

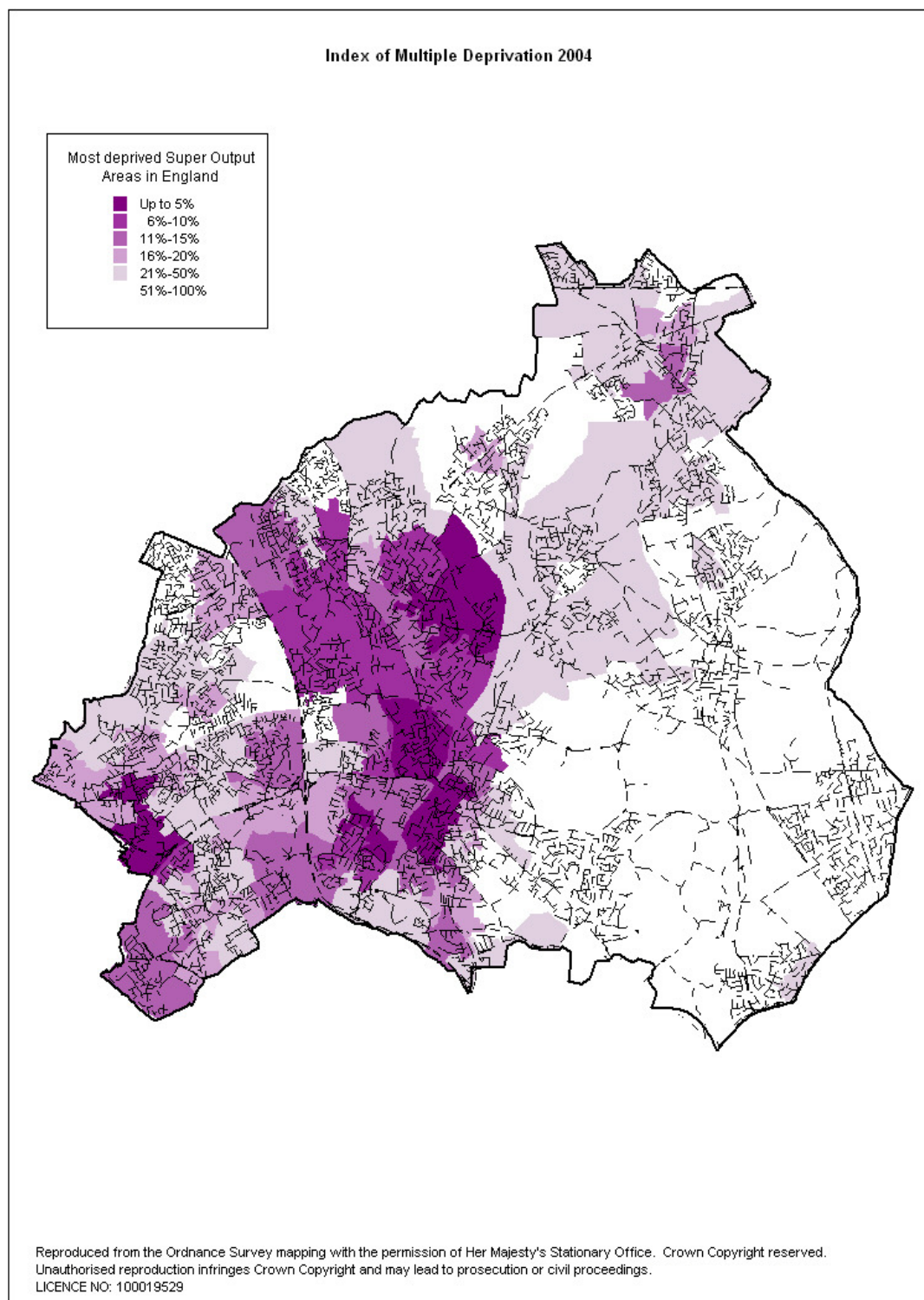
**Table 2.7: Quality of Life Indicators**

Contextual Indicators	Performance
Patterns of deprivation/ proportion of population suffering from multiple deprivation	5.9% of Walsall residents live in the 5% most deprived areas according to the 2004 deprivation scores & 2001 census.
Structure of housing stock (types, tenures)	Owner occupied: 64.7% (2001 census) Rented: 35.3% (2001 census)
House prices	UK Jul-Sept 06: £211,453: WM: Jul-Sept 06: £156,051 (source: Land Registry) Walsall: Sept 05-Aug 06: £149,927 (source: Halifax)
Number of homes below decent homes standard	Total stock: 108,015 Social rented non-decent: 8,677 Private sector non-decent: 18,159. (Walsall Housing Returns)
Levels of crime and people's perception of crime	103.4 per 1,000 people (Eng & Wales: 104.1) (from West Midlands Police)
Life expectancy and mortality rates	2002-04: males 75.6, females 80.4 (76.5 & 80.8 England & Wales)
levels of obesity	19% of all adults (one-off survey; source: Walsall Primary Care Trust)

Percentage of residents satisfied with living in their local community	71.5% of residents (one-off tracker 2004 survey)
--	--

2.8.1 The four “pillars” of the Community Plan and Local Area Agreement (LAA) include the creation of safer, stronger communities and healthier communities. Indicators such as multiple deprivation, health, crime rates and the perceived ability to influence local decisions have been identified as indicators to measure progress in achieving these aims. Similar indicators are identified by the Regional Assembly in their report on the RSS. The indicators for urban renaissance also include others relating to the quality of housing, such as the structure, condition and affordability of housing.

**Figure 2.8: Deprivation in Walsall**



2.8.2 There are sharp contrasts between the older areas in the central and western parts of the borough and the easterly areas. The west and centre have inner-city characteristics of poor housing, higher unemployment, high concentration of social deprivation and a poor environment, whereas much (though not all) of the eastern parts are relatively wealthy and enjoy better housing and social conditions. The geographical pattern of deprivation in the

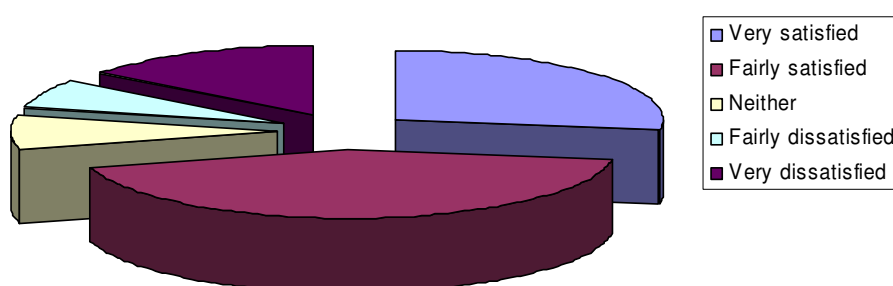
borough is shown in figure 2.8 above. The extent of multiple deprivation is used as an indicator for Walsall's Community Plan.

2.8.3 Walsall's reported crime rate remains slightly below the average for England and Wales (103.4 crimes per 1000 population in 2005/6, compared to national average of 104.1). In 2003/4, 95% of residents surveyed in relation to the LAA said that they felt safe during the daytime, although only 55% felt safe after dark. The LAA has a target to increase perceptions of safety between now and 2008/09, to 93% (daytime) and 60% (after dark). The Safer Walsall Borough Partnership (the body responsible for delivering the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998) has recently undertaken a detailed three-year audit of levels of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and drug misuse within Walsall. This found that since 2001, total crime has decreased by 10.1%, whereas disorder and anti-social behaviour has increased across the borough. Overall, crime is most prevalent in the areas in and around Walsall Town Centre and in the areas around Bloxwich and Darlaston.

2.8.4 Walsall faces major health challenges. In 2002/04 the life expectancy of men was 0.9 years lower than that for England and Wales, and the life expectancy of women was 0.4 years lower. However, life expectancy varies considerably in different parts of the borough, from 72 to 80 years in men, and from 78 to 86 years in women. Walsall also has significantly higher levels of obesity than the average for the West Midlands region – for women it is 19% compared to the regional average of 16%.

2.8.5 Despite relatively high level of deprivation, joblessness, pockets of poor quality housing and crime, and health problems, residents express generally high levels of satisfaction with living in Walsall. A Tracker Survey which took place in April 2005 revealed that 71.38% of residents interviewed were either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with Walsall as a place to live.

**Figure 2.9: Satisfaction with living in Walsall, April 2005**



Source: BVPI Tracker Survey, April 2005

## **3. The Local Development Framework**

### **3.1 The Walsall Local Development Framework**

3.1.1 At April 2006, the Walsall Local Development Framework (LDF) included the following adopted documents:

- Walsall Unitary Development Plan 2005
- Affordable Housing SPD

3.1.2 This chapter summarises progress on implementing the key policies, proposals and targets in the above documents. We have also summarised performance against relevant targets in the Regional Spatial Strategy – Regional Planning Guidance for the West Midlands, June 2004 (RSS), since this also forms part of the development plan for Walsall.

### **3.2 Assessing Performance and Effects**

3.2.1 The following sections consider the extent to which LDF policies are being applied, and whether or not they are effective. The Appendix to this report summarises all of the core and local output indicators used, and which of them have been monitored this year.

3.2.2 In assessing the implementation of LDF policies, we have considered performance against relevant indicators and national, regional and local targets. In most cases, it is possible to relate LDF policy to specific indicators and targets, but where there are gaps, it has been necessary to refer back to the contextual summary, or to other information that helps us to understand the extent to which the policy is being implemented.

3.2.3 Because of the number of indicators, this chapter is broken down into sections that reflect the chapters of the UDP. Both the core and the local output indicators are addressed in these sections, in the same order as the relevant policies are set out in the UDP.

3.2.4 Given the number of indicators and the data required, it was not possible to ascertain performance against every indicator and target in 2005. This year, we have been able to do more, but there are still some gaps. Whilst it is unlikely that all of the information gaps can be addressed in the short-term, the Council is aiming to make gradual improvements each year, so that eventually, data will be available for all of the indicators.

3.2.5 We must also take account of the fact that over time, the LDF will expand to include new local development documents (LDDs), and that the implementation of the policies and proposals in these documents must also be monitored as and when they are adopted. In some cases, it will be necessary to identify new indicators and targets, and to include them in future Annual Monitoring Reports.

3.2.6 For each part of the LDF, we have graded its overall performance/ the extent to which it is being implemented as follows:



Policy being implemented





Progress on implementing policy



Policy not being implemented



Not clear whether or not policy is being implemented


## Local Development Framework Implementation

### 3.3 Environment & Amenity

#### Green Belt

3.3.1 The UDP includes policies aimed at protecting the Green Belt and controlling development in the Green Belt (Policies ENV 1 – ENV 6), and maintaining the character of the local countryside (Policy ENV 7). The Council has also prepared a series of Countryside Area Profiles covering most of the areas of open countryside in Walsall, which have been adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance. The UDP includes a local output indicator relating to the protection of the Green Belt against inappropriate development (see Table 3.1 below).

**Table 3.1: Implementation of LDF Green Belt Policy**

LDF Policy	Monitoring Indicators	Targets	Performance 2005/06
UDP Policy ENV2	Local Output Indicator – Green Belt:  Protection of the Green Belt.	UDP Target:  100% protection	 <p>Although significant development proposals have been approved in the Green Belt, these are all either extensions to existing buildings, conversions or replacements for existing buildings, and are therefore considered “appropriate.”</p>

### **Development in the Green Belt**

3.3.2 Between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006, 9 applications were submitted for development in the Green Belt, of which 7 were determined by the Council during the same year. Of the remaining two applications, one was withdrawn by the applicant, and the other was not determined at 31 March.

**Table 3.2: Planning Permissions Granted for Development in the Green Belt in Walsall, 2005/06**

<b>Application Reference</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type of Development</b>
03/2197/FL/E	St Francis Of Assisi School, Erdington Rd, Aldridge	Extension to existing school
03/2305/FL/E	Waldoc, Former Goscote Hospital, Goscote Lane, Walsall	Extension to existing building
04/0311/FL/E	Former Walsall Airport, Aldridge Park, Walsall Road, Aldridge	Extension to existing car showroom
188864	St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr	Outline permission for residential development.
03/2170/FL/E2	Shire Oak Café, 250 Chester Road, Stonnall	Replacement of existing café building with apartment block.
02/1710/FL/E3	Calderfields Farm, Aldridge Road, Walsall	Conversion of barn to dwellings/ office.
05/0395/RM/H1	Phase 1, St. Margaret's Hospital, Queslett Road, Great Barr	Reserved matters application for Phase 1 of redevelopment (152 apartments/houses).

3.3.3 All 7 of the applications determined during 2005/06 were approved, one on appeal. This application related to the redevelopment of St. Margaret's Hospital in Great Barr, and was reported in the 2005 Annual Monitoring Report. As a previously developed site in the Green Belt, the redevelopment of St. Margaret's Hospital is in principle regarded as "appropriate" development and does not in conflict with UDP policy.


3.3.4 A further application, submitted later in the year, related to reserved matters for the first phase of the redevelopment. The remaining approvals related to extensions to existing buildings, a barn conversion, and the replacement of an existing building with apartments. All of these proposals were therefore considered to be “appropriate” developments.


3.3.5 Of the applications approved during 2005/06, none has been completed, but the Phase 1 development at St. Margaret’s Hospital is under construction.

## Biodiversity

3.3.6 The UDP contains several policies (ENV19-ENV24) that seek to protect species and habitats, promote local nature reserves and protect site of local importance for nature conservation, control development that might adversely affect protected species, take account of nature conservation in new development and protect wildlife corridors. The plan also contains policies (ENV15-19) promoting forestry initiatives, tree planting generally and the protection of trees and hedgerows. The indicators and targets relating to these policies are set out in Table 3.3 below, with an indication of how the policies have performed during 2005/06.

**Table 3.3: Implementation of LDF Biodiversity Policy**

LDF Policy	Monitoring Indicators	Targets	Performance 2005/06
UDP Policies ENV 19 – 24	<p>LDF Core Output Indicator 8: Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance, including:</p> <p>(i) Change in priority habitats and species (by type); and</p> <p>(ii) Change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional, sub-regional or local significance.</p>	None	<p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Significant progress has been made during 2005/06 in identifying the priority species and habitats present in Walsall, and this will continue. The only changes that are measurable at present are quantitative changes to designated sites and qualitative changes to SSSIs. The data currently available suggests that there has been a net loss of designated site area since 1995, and that Walsall’s SSSIs are below standard compared to SSSIs nationally. However,</p>

			<p>the planning process has little influence over the condition of SSSIs. In future, changes to designated sites will be measured in the following ways:</p> <p>(i) Area (ha)/ % of SSSIs, SINC's and SLINC's lost to development requiring planning permission; and</p> <p>(ii) Area (ha)/ % of SINC's and SLINC's surveyed every 5 years/ every 10 years.</p>
UDP Policies ENV 19 – 24	<p>Local Output Indicator – Biodiversity:</p> <p>Progress in relation to targets in Biodiversity Action Plan for Birmingham and the Black Country</p>	None specific to Walsall	<p><b>?</b></p> <p>At present it is not possible to establish the extent to which the LBAP targets are being met.</p>
UDP Policies ENV 19 – 24	<p>Local Output Indicator – Nature Conservation Sites:</p> <p>Protection of designated sites.</p>	100% protection	<p></p> <p>The data currently available suggests that there has been no net loss of SAC, SSSI or SINC since 1995, and indeed, that there has been a net gain in the area of SINC's. However, there has been a net loss of areas of SLINC.</p>
UDP Policies ENV	Local Output Indicator – Tree Planting:	None identified	

15 – 19	Progress in relation to targets in forest plans/ strategies		<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">?</p> <p>No monitoring targets have so far been identified for the Forest of Mercia initiative.</p>
---------	---	--	--

3.3.7 Since the previous Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) was produced, considerable work has been done to establish baseline data to enable annual changes to be reported in the future. The Black Country Boroughs, the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country, EcoRecord and the University of Wolverhampton have met regularly to establish baseline data relating to priority habitats and species. It is the intention that the biodiversity section of the AMR will gradually become more detailed and sophisticated.

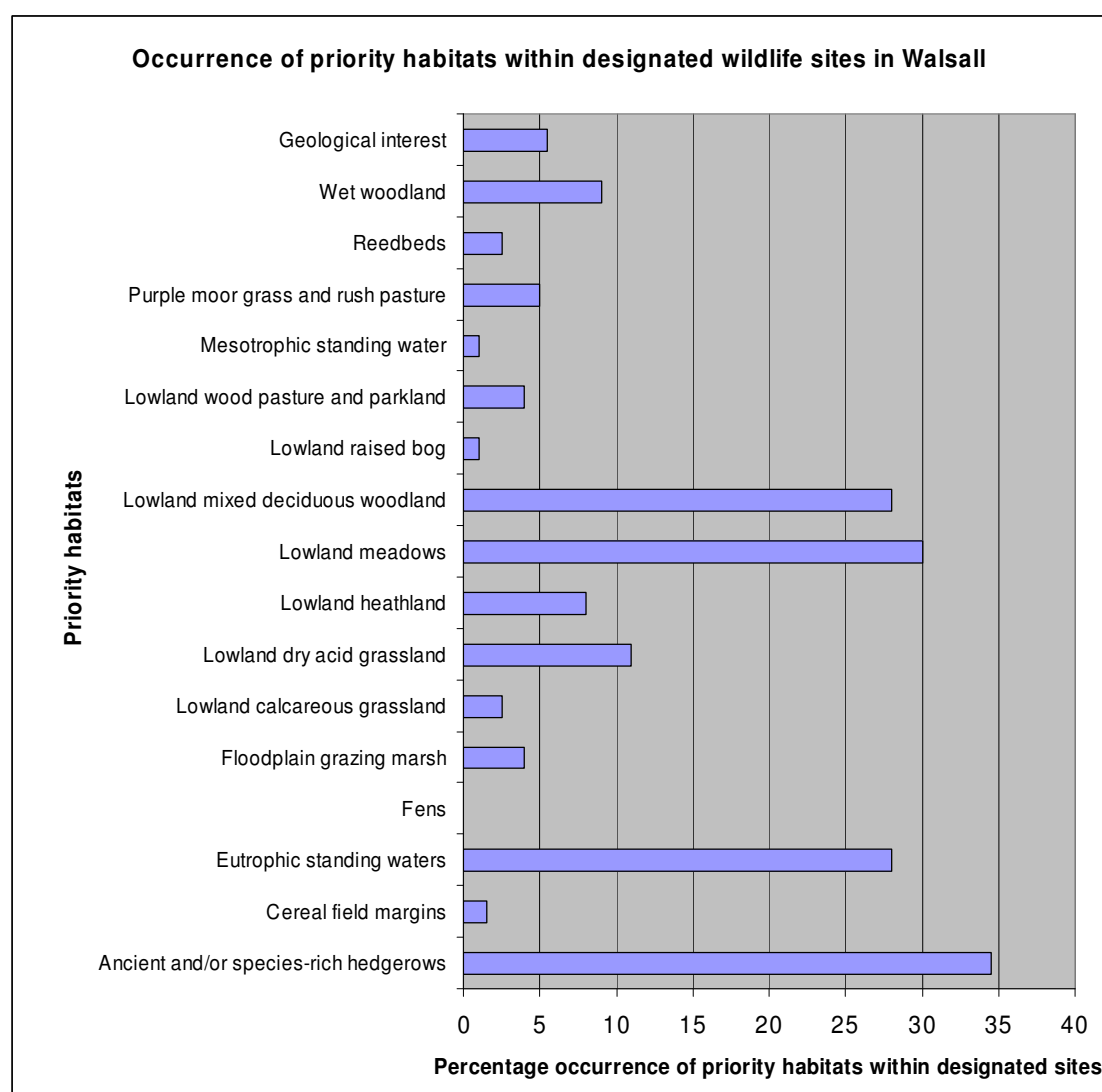
#### **Changes in Areas of Biodiversity Importance**

3.3.8 The AMR guidance defines “change” as something to be considered in terms of “impact of completed development, management programmes and planning agreements,” thus it can involve both quantitative and qualitative change. The UDP indicator is more straightforward to measure, since it relates to protection of designated sites against inappropriate development.

#### **(i) Priority Habitats and Species**

##### **Priority Habitats**

**Figure 3.1: Priority Habitats in Walsall**



3.3.9 The following legislation and local Biodiversity Action Plans have been used to identify protected species and other species requiring active conservation intervention at a local level:

- Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000 (UK BAP priority habitats)
- Habitats listed under Annex B of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan habitat priorities

3.3.10 All of the “priority” habitats present in Birmingham and the Black Country are listed in Figure 3.1 above. All of these habitats except fens are recorded in Walsall. Figure 3.1 shows the percentage occurrence of priority habitats within areas of designated wildlife sites in Walsall. This table measures habitats presence/absence only, not habitat extent. All priority habitats considered are shown.

3.3.11 It is intended to undertake survey work and analysis of the distribution and condition of each priority habitat in future monitoring reports to ascertain the impact of Walsall’s planning policies in protecting these habitats.

### Priority Species

3.3.12 A number of sources have been used to define “priority” species. The following legislation as well as local and national Biodiversity Action Plans each list protected species and other species requiring active conservation intervention at a local or national level:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended; most recently by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000);
- European Union Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (‘Habitats Directive’). The Habitats Directive is transposed into UK law also by the Habitats Regulations, which provide additional protection to species listed on its Annex IV. These are commonly referred to as “European protected species;”
- Other legislation protecting species in the UK includes the Protection of Badgers Act, 1992;
- UK priority Biodiversity Action Plan Species; and
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan Species.

3.3.13 The complete list of “priority” species for Birmingham and the Black Country is set out in Table 3.4 overleaf. Those printed in bold lettering occur in Walsall. Those underlined are species for which 30% or more of all sub-regional records originate from Walsall. Further details are found in the table in the Appendices (see Appendix B, Table B1).

**Table 3.4: Priority Species in Birmingham and the Black Country**

Species	Common name
<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	Marsh Warbler
<b><u>Alauda arvensis</u></b>	<b>Skylark</b>
<b><u>Alcedo atthis</u></b>	<b>Kingfisher</b>
<i>Amara famelica</i>	a ground beetle
<b><u>Anguis fragilis</u></b>	<b>Slow-worm</b>
<b><u>Arvicola terrestris</u></b>	<b>Water Vole</b>
<i>Bombus ruderatus</i>	Large Garden Bumble Bee
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Bittern
<b><u>Bufo bufo</u></b>	<b>Common Toad</b>
<b><u>Callophrys rubi</u></b>	<b>Green Hairstreak</b>
<b><u>Carduelis cannabina</u></b>	<b>Linnet</b>
<b><u>Charadrius dubius</u></b>	<b>Little Ringed Plover</b>
<b><u>Emberiza schoeniclus</u></b>	<b>Reed Bunting</b>
<b><u>Erynnis tages</u></b>	<b>Dingy Skipper</b>
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine
<b><u>Falco subbuteo</u></b>	<b>Hobby</b>
<b><u>Falco tinnunculus</u></b>	<b>Kestrel</b>
<b><u>Gallinago gallinago</u></b>	<b>Snipe</b>
<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Wryneck
<b><u>Lacerta vivipara</u></b>	<b>Viviparous Lizard</b>
<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Red-backed Shrike
<b><u>Lepus capensis</u></b>	<b>Brown Hare</b>
<i>Lutra lutra lutra</i>	Otter
<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Common Scoter
<b><u>Meles meles</u></b>	<b>Badger</b>
<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Corn Bunting
<b><u>Muscicapa striata</u></b>	<b>Spotted Flycatcher</b>
<b><u>Myotis daubentonii</u></b>	<b>Daubenton's Bat</b>
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	Whiskered Bat
<b><u>Myotis nattereri</u></b>	<b>Natterer's Bat</b>
<b><u>Mythimna turca</u></b>	<b>Double Line moth</b>
<i>Natrix natrix</i>	Grass Snake
<b><u>Noctua orbona</u></b>	<b>Lunar Yellow Underwing moth</b>



<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Leisler's Bat
<b><i>Nyctalus noctula</i></b>	<b>Noctule Bat</b>
<b><i>Passer montanus</i></b>	<b>Tree Sparrow</b>
<b><i>Perdix perdix</i></b>	<b>Grey Partridge</b>
<b><i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i></b>	<b>Black Redstart</b>
<b><i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i></b>	<b>Pipistrelle Bat</b>
<b><u><i>Plecotus auritus</i></u></b>	<b><u>Brown Long-eared Bat</u></b>
<b><i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i></b>	<b>Bullfinch</b>
<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>	Argent and Sable moth
<b><i>Streptopelia turtur</i></b>	<b>Turtle Dove</b>
<b><i>Triturus cristatus</i></b>	<b>Warty Newt</b>
<b><i>Triturus helveticus</i></b>	<b>Palmate Newt</b>
<b><i>Triturus vulgaris</i></b>	<b>Smooth Newt</b>
<b><i>Turdus philomelos</i></b>	<b>Song Thrush</b>
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl
<i>Vipera berus</i>	Adder

3.3.14 Many of the species recorded are known only from a few records. Of most significance are those species where:

- there are significant numbers;
- a disproportionate number of records originate in Walsall; and/or
- there is evidence of established local populations.

3.3.15 The availability of monitoring data for species is limited (with some exceptions, namely water vole). Although species recording and species records have greatly increased, the majority of recording is ad-hoc and incidental. There are a few exceptions such as water vole surveys and some invertebrate monitoring survey work.

3.3.16 A number of water vole surveys between 1997 and 2002 in the Birmingham and the Black Country area have established that there are significant breeding populations. In 1997 a survey of 208 potential Water Vole sites and found that 17% were unsuitable but the rest had water voles present or were suitable habitat for water voles. In 2002 another survey of around 60% of those sites showed that water voles were still present in 74% of sites. These are very high proportions, given that, nationally, water voles are now extinct from many counties. More work is proposed to consolidate this work.

3.3.17 Future monitoring reports will assess one or more priority species to assess the impact that the planning system has on such populations. This will require specialist field survey work and analysis.

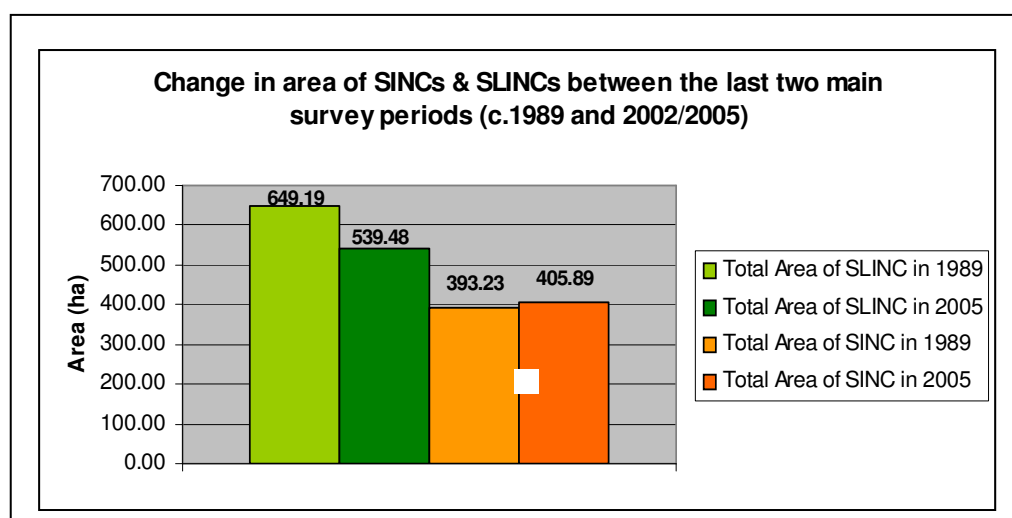
## (ii) Designated Nature Conservation Sites

### Quantitative Changes

3.3.18 Whilst quantitative changes in the area of designated nature conservation sites at all levels can be measured, significant changes are unlikely to occur on an annual basis. However, there will be occasional changes when new sites of national or regional importance are designated, or as a result of reviews of existing sites, which take place approximately every 10 years. There may also be changes to sites as a result of development. The UDP includes a target of protecting 100% of designated sites against development, and the achievement of this is being monitored.

3.3.19 The Wildlife Trust/ EcoRecord have analysed difference in the extent of SINCs and SLINCs between the major periods of habitat survey work carried out between 1989-1990 and 2002 and 2005. The results are shown in Figure 3.2 below. An identical analysis has been carried out for the five Birmingham and Black Country authorities. Overall, in Walsall there has been a decrease of about 17% of the area designated as SLINC and an increase of just over 3% of areas designated as SINC.

**Figure 3.2: Areas (ha/ % of resource) of SINC and SLINCs lost/ gained between the last two main survey periods (circa 1989 & 2002 & 2005)**



3.3.20 The table below provides additional detail on the cause/ type of change. This analysis shows a considerable loss of Walsall's SLINC sites since the late 1980s but does not identify the extent to which the planning system is responsible for these changes.

**Table 3.5: Quantitative Changes in areas of SINC's & SLINC's in Walsall, 1989 - 2005**

Change (by type)		Area (ha)
<b>Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation</b>	<b>Total area actually lost</b> (due to development and poor management)	<b>109.71</b>
	<b>Total area of newly designated land</b>	<b>none</b>
	<b>Total area upgraded to SINC</b>	<b>none</b>
<b>Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation</b>	<b>Total area actually lost</b> (due to development and poor management)	<b>36.15</b>
	<b>Total area of newly designated land</b>	<b>48.81</b>

3.3.21 It is therefore important to begin monitoring the extent of quantitative change in the area of designated sites, where change is due to development requiring planning permission. It is proposed to provide information annually using the following indicator:

- Areas (ha/ % of resource) lost to development requiring planning permission during each annual monitoring period. This data has been collected for SSSIs, SINC's and SLINC's.

**Table 3.6: Quantitative Changes in Designated Nature Conservation Sites in Walsall, 1995 – 2005**

2000-2001

Loss of designated nature conservation areas due to planning permissions granted following adoption of first UDP (23/1/95)		Loss of designated conservation areas due to planning permissions granted following adoption of revised UDP (7/3/05)	
Reduction in area of Special Areas of Conservation due to planning permissions implemented.			
Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
None	None	None	None
Potential reduction in area of Special Areas of Conservation due to planning permissions granted but not implemented.			
Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
None	None	None	None
Reduction in area of Sites of Special Scientific Interest due to permissions implemented.			
Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
None	None	None	None
Potential reduction in area of Sites of Special Scientific Interest due to planning permissions granted but not implemented.			
Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
None	None	None	None
Reduction in area of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation due to planning permissions implemented.			
Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
0.04	0.01	None	None
Potential reduction in area of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation due to planning permissions granted but not implemented.			
Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
0.53	0.13	None	None
Reduction in area of Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation due to planning permissions implemented.			
Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
11.25	2.6	None	None
Potential reduction in area of Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation due to planning permissions granted but not implemented.			
Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
2.88	0.66	None	None

3.3.22 To set this information in context, baseline data is included in this report showing:

- Areas (ha/ % of designated site resource) lost to development requiring planning permission since the first UDP was adopted in January 1995;

- Areas (ha/ % of designated site resource) with extant but yet to be implemented planning permissions granted since the first UDP was adopted in January 1995;
- Areas (ha/ % of designated site resource) lost to development requiring planning permission since the revised UDP was adopted on 7 March 2005; and
- Areas (ha/ % of designated site resource) with extant planning permissions granted since the revised UDP was adopted on 7 March 2005.

3.3.23 For this report, all planning applications affecting a designated wildlife sites were assessed between 23 January 1995 (when the Council's first UDP was adopted) and 31 March 2006 (the cut-off date for the current AMR). More than 1,000 planning applications were reviewed. This sets a baseline context for the whole of the period the Council has had an adopted UDP in place. The changes to the extent of designated sites in Walsall are shown in the table below. The full table is appended to this report (see Appendix C, Tables B2 and B3).

3.3.24 The result of the analysis described in this report shows that losses to the wildlife resource due to development needing planning permission have slowed considerably since the late 1980s. This is due in no small part to more effective planning policies and more specialist officers to advise planning officers.

### **Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)**

3.3.25 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated by English Nature in response to European legislation. The borough currently has one such site: Cannock Extension Canal, which was identified as a candidate for designation on 31 August 2001 and confirmed in April 2005. Only 0.65 ha (of the total site area of 5.47 ha.) is within the borough, the remainder being within Cannock Chase District in Staffordshire. There were no losses to this site between 23 January 1995 and 31 March 2006.

### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)**

3.3.26 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are designated by English Nature. The borough has seven Sites of Special Scientific Interest covering 69.2 ha, including the Cannock Extension Canal which is also a SAC. Between 23 January 1995 and 31 March 2006 there were 23 applications within SSSIs. None caused any loss or potential loss in area. There were no losses or potential losses between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006.

### **Local Nature Reserves (LNR)**

3.3.27 The borough has nine Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) covering 226.7 ha. These sites are usually designated as SINC or occasionally SLINC. There have been no changes to the site boundaries between 23 January 1995 and 31 March 2006. No new sites have been declared since 31 March 2004. The most recently declared site was created on 18 November 2003. There were no losses or potential losses between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006

### **Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)**

3.3.28 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) are designated by the local authorities in collaboration with English Nature and the Wildlife Trust. The Borough currently has 32 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation covering some 406 ha. This represents a total of 19.5% of the total Birmingham and Black Country SINC resource. Walsall's total land area is 17% of the Birmingham and Black Country.

3.3.29 Between 23 January 1995 and 31 March 2006 there were 265 applications within or immediately adjacent to a SINC. Only one application resulted in an actual loss of 0.04 hectares to a SINC. A further application resulted in a potential loss of 0.53 hectares should the permission be implemented. There were no further losses or potential losses between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006.

3.3.30 No new sites have been designated within the reporting period. A review is underway and will be completed in 2007.

### **Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINCs)**

3.3.31 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINCs) are identified by the local authority in conjunction with the Wildlife Trust. The borough has approximately 76 Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation covering some 439 ha. This represents a total of 18.4% of the total Birmingham and Black Country SLINC resource. Walsall's total land area is 17% of the Birmingham and Black Country. These sites were first identified in 1990 when approximately 98 sites were placed on the schedule covering some 556 ha. When reviewed in 1996, approximately 88 ha had been lost to development or boundary changes. A new review is underway and will be completed in 2007.

3.3.32 Changes to these sites cannot accurately be monitored because, until the current review is completed, there have never been defensible boundaries or detailed site descriptions. Indeed, until the Council's UDP was adopted in March 2005, there were no policies protecting these sites. The current review will establish a precise schedule of sites for future monitoring.

3.3.33A tentative assessment of losses due to planning permissions was carried out. Between 23 January 1995 and 31 March 2006 there were 742 applications within or immediately adjacent to a SLINC. Eight applications cumulatively resulted in an actual loss of 11.25 hectares due to development. A further application resulted in a potential loss of 2.39 hectares should the permission be implemented. There were no further losses between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006.

3.3.34No new sites have been designated within the reporting period. A review is underway and will be completed in 2007.

### **Qualitative Changes**

3.3.35 English Nature currently monitors the quality of SSSIs for its PSA target, which aims to have 95% of all SSSI in favourable or recovering condition by 2010. However, the monitoring frequency is sporadic and few Walsall sites have been monitored since 31 March 2004. Walsall's SSSIs are in a mixed condition. Only 50.3% of the sites assessed are favourable or recovering. The national picture in September 2005 is that 73.49% are in a

favourable/recovering condition, with 92.94% for the West Midlands Region. Therefore, Walsall is not a high-performing authority.

3.3.36 This stark statistic needs some interpretation. The two Council-owned SSSIs are in favourable condition, but the privately owned ones range from unfavourable: declining to favourable. The unfavourable sites are either mismanaged due to over-grazing, simple neglect or fertiliser run-off. The Council has little control over these activities, and certainly not through the planning system. This situation has not changed since the previous year's report. English Nature/ Natural England have carried out no further monitoring between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006.

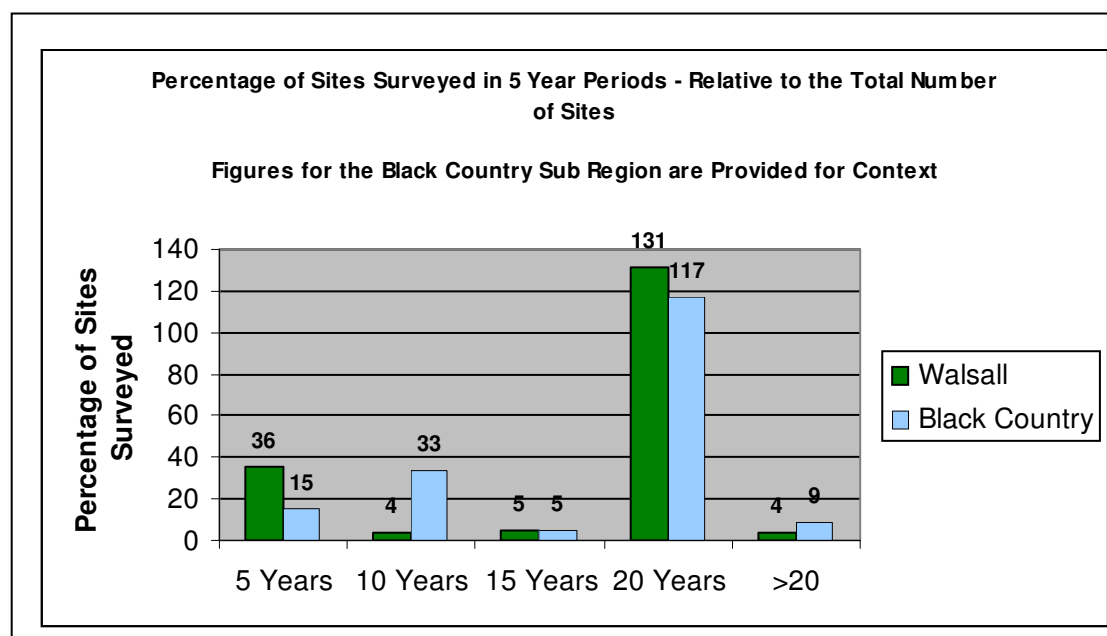
3.3.37 Monitoring qualitative change to the SINC and SLINC sites is the responsibility of the local authority and is impractical to carry out annually without a considerable increase in capacity. Condition monitoring, even using indicator species or sample areas, is resource intensive. However, from next year it will be possible to assess the condition of a sample of these non-statutory sites based on analysis of fieldwork. To achieve consistency across Birmingham and the Black Country, a methodology for such assessments will be identified.

3.3.38 To assess the quality of the sites it is vital to have up-to-date survey information so that the condition of any site can be accurately assessed. Carrying out a rolling programme of survey work is essential in maintaining up-to-date records. It is therefore proposed to include the following two indicators across Birmingham and the Black Country in this and subsequent AMRs:

- Areas of designated wildlife sites (ha/ % of resource) surveyed within last 5 years, and
- Areas of designated wildlife sites (ha/ % of resource) surveyed within last 10 years.

3.3.39 The Wildlife Trust/ EcoRecord have processed the data pertaining to these indicators. The analysis found that 30.5% (288.32 ha) of the total area of SINC and SLINC sites was surveyed within the last 5 years and that around 1% (around 12 ha) of the total area of SINC and SLINC sites was surveyed between five and ten years ago. These figures relate to the Phase I and Phase II habitat survey work only, as vegetation and habitat surveys are the most critical in monitoring most designated wildlife sites. The figures do not account for survey work the Council has carried out on its own sites which was not made available. It is possible that the statistics could improve considerably with this information.

**Figure 3.3: Frequency of Surveys of Nature Conservation Sites in Walsall and the wider Black Country, 1989 - 2006**



3.3.40 The analysis also showed that 36% of wildlife sites were surveyed in the last 5 years and 4% were surveyed between five and ten years ago. The general trend, with regard to recorded survey activity (data held by EcoRecord), is shown in Figure 3.3 above. Figures for the Black Country sub region are presented for context. This shows that Walsall Council has performed relatively well in comparison with the other Black Country authorities during the last five years.

#### Proposed Future Work to Support Biodiversity Indicators

3.3.41 In the previous AMR it was proposed to:

- Deal with the borough on a sub-regional basis and agree priority habitats and species with other local authorities, English Nature, EcoRecord and the Wildlife Trust. **This has been done and priority habitat and species have been identified in the preceding report. This report could not have been written without the strong collaboration of these partners.**
- Agree monitoring methods across the sub-region which are achievable and which provide useful results. **This is the next major task.**
- Ensure Walsall's current budget for survey work continues to provide baseline data which can be used for monitoring biodiversity. **Survey work continues to be carried out.**
- Establish baseline schedules of designated sites, particularly SINC's and SLINC's. This will be completed in 2006 when the current review of these sites is complete. **This review has taken longer than expected and will now be completed in 2007.**
- Increase capacity to monitor biodiversity indicators. This may be within the authority, or through support to sub-regional bodies such as



EcoRecord. It is proposed to appoint a Birmingham and Black Country Biodiversity Project Officer from 2 January 2007 and to employ a second EcoRecord member of staff in early 2007. A key part of both posts will be to monitor and analyse wildlife trends.

- Continue to seek resources for a Black Country (and Birmingham?) biodiversity audit. **There has been no success.**

3.3.42 Following this current report it is proposed to undertake the following work in the next monitoring report:

- Agree a methodology for assessing condition of sites at a sub-regional level.
- Monitor the condition of a sample number of designated wildlife sites based on the most recent survey data.
- Identify priority species which can be usefully investigated.
- Monitor selected priority habitats.

3.3.43 The need to complete an Annual Monitoring Report has proved a useful catalyst to undertake monitoring at a sub-regional level. It is an enormous task which can only be introduced relatively gradually.


### **Tree Planting - Progress**


3.3.44 The UDP supports the Black Country Urban Forest initiative, which has now been completed. The UDP also supports the Forest of Mercia, which is a Community Forest initiative covering large parts of the Borough. The area covered is a mix of Green Belt land and established suburban areas. However, the authorities concerned have no intention of preparing any statutory plan to implement the Forest of Mercia initiative, and consequently, there are currently no targets that can be monitored at the present time.

### **The Historic Environment**

3.3.45 UDP Policy ENV27 seeks to protect buildings that that are Listed because of their historic or architectural interest (and to protect the settings of these buildings) from inappropriate development or alterations. The Council also maintains a 'Local List' of buildings that do not have statutory protection, but are considered to be of historic or architectural interest, and protection of such buildings is sought under UDP Policy ENV28. Policy ENV29 seeks to preserve or enhance Conservation Areas.

**Table 3.7: Implementation of LDF Historic Environment Policy**

<b>LDF Policy</b>	<b>Monitoring Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Performance 2005/06</b>
UDP Policies ENV 27 – 29	Local Output Indicator – Historic Environment:  Protection of buildings of historic or architectural interest.	100% protection	  No statutorily listed

			buildings were lost during 2005/06. Several buildings have been added to the statutory list in 2005/06 and progress has been made on securing the future of several buildings "at risk."
UDP Policy ENV 29	New Local Output Indicator – Conservation Area Management:  Preparation of character appraisals and management strategies.	5 to be prepared by April 2007	  On target, will be adopted by Cabinet before the end of the financial year.

### **Protection of Historic Buildings**

3.3.46 The information for listed and locally listed buildings for 2005/06 can only cover those buildings that are statutorily protected and local listed buildings in Conservation Areas (it has to be recognised that without statutory protection many changes to Locally Listed buildings, including demolition, are not subject to planning controls). No statutorily listed buildings or locally listed buildings were demolished during 2005/06.

3.3.47 As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 there were:

- 155 entries on the Statutory List<sup>4</sup>, covering 208 buildings or structures, 113 of which are in conservation areas; and
- 267 entries on the Local List, covering 308 buildings,<sup>5</sup> 102 of which are in conservation areas.

3.3.48 English Heritage maintains a register of "Buildings at Risk" but this only includes the most important buildings or structures at risk, i.e. buildings of Grade I or II\* status and buildings forming part of Scheduled Ancient Monuments. There is only one entry on the Buildings at Risk Register in Walsall, which is Great Barr Hall. The Council has 6 Grade II\* buildings and no Grade I therefore this represents 16.7% of our Grade II\* buildings. The

<sup>4</sup> This figure is higher than that in the 2005 AMR due to a number of successful applications to "spot-list" buildings. These include three buildings that relate to the leather trade and associated trades, upon which Walsall prospered during the nineteenth century.

<sup>5</sup> Some entries on the Local List may cover a number of buildings, for example 100 & 101 Union Street. This figure is also higher than that given in the 2005 AMR, partly due to the fact that the Council has added 27 entries to the local list, and partly because the associated review of the local list has provided a more accurate count of the entries and structures.

Council are continuing to work with the owners to achieve the restoration of the Hall and its landscape.

3.3.49 The Council keeps its own “Buildings at Risk Register,” which is not comprehensive but gives an indication of the numbers of statutorily listed buildings and “local list” buildings that are at risk due to lack of maintenance or for other reasons. The Council seeks to take a proactive approach towards buildings on the Register, and examples are given below of progress on the protection of buildings considered to be “at risk.” A more comprehensive assessment would require survey work to be undertaken, and there are currently no resources to do this.

3.3.50 The Council is currently in the process of surveying all its listed buildings which will be used to inform a comprehensive update of the Buildings at Risk Register. Significant progress has been made on the following buildings at risk during 2005/06:

- 13-14 High Street (Grade II Listed, Church Hill Conservation Area)  
Planning permission and Listed Building Consent has been granted for the rebuilding of the front range of these buildings with a contemporary residential development to the rear.
- Albion Flour Mills (Locally Listed, Walsall Locks Conservation Area)  
The conversion of this building to residential apartments is almost complete. As a result the building has been removed from the Register.

3.3.51 In addition the Council has served a Repairs Notice on the former Mellish Road Methodist Church (Grade II listed, Arboretum Conservation Area). Due to non-compliance with the notice the Council are now in the early stages of pursuing a CPO. It is expected to be able to report significant progress next year.

### **Management of Conservation Areas**

3.3.52 At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006, the borough contained 18 conservation areas. The Council has a statutory duty under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to manage conservation areas. Character appraisals had been prepared for two of these (Arboretum and Caldmore Green), but no management plans or strategies had been prepared.

3.3.53 However, the preparation of character appraisals and management strategies is now a BVPI indicator, and will also become a CPA indicator for 2006/07. The Council is therefore proposing to establish a rolling programme for the management of conservation areas. The Council is currently preparing three further Conservation Area Appraisals and five Management Plans. Following public consultation, these will be formally adopted by the Council's cabinet before the end of this financial year (2006/2007). This will result in 27.7% of our designated conservation areas having an up-to-date appraisal and management plan.

3.3.54 The reports in preparation are:

Conservation Area Appraisals for:

- Darlaston Conservation Area
- Church Hill Conservation Area
- Walsall Locks Conservation Area

Conservation Area Management Plans for:

- Arboretum Conservation Area
- Caldmore Green Conservation Area
- Darlaston Conservation Area
- Church Hill Conservation Area
- Walsall Locks Conservation Area.

### **Registered Parks and Gardens**

3.3.55 There are three registered parks and gardens in the Borough all Grade II. They are:


- The Arboretum
- Great Barr Hall
- Memorial Gardens

There is a Heritage Lottery Fund bid being compiled for submission in March 2007 for the Arboretum which will see original elements of the park repaired and restored, planting improved alongside an education and community involvement programme.

### **Renewable Energy**

3.3.56 UDP Policy ENV 39: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency - encourages proposals for the development of renewable energy sources and for efficient energy use (Policy EN1 of the RSS takes a similar approach). To measure performance, there is a national Core Output Indicator relating to energy (see 3.8 below).

**Table 3.8: Implementation of LDF Energy Policy**

<b>LDF Policy</b>	<b>Monitoring Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Performance 2005/06</b>
UDP Policy ENV 39	LDF Core Output Indicator 9:  Renewable energy capacity installed by type.	Regional Energy Strategy Target:  5% of electricity to be from renewable sources by	  Although one or two energy-related projects have recently come forward through the planning process,

		2010	there is as yet no evidence that renewable or low carbon energy technologies have been taken up to any great extent in Walsall.
--	--	------	---

3.3.57 Government policy towards energy has changed significantly since the UDP policy was prepared. A new planning policy statement – Planning Policy Statement 22 (PPS22): Renewable Energy - was issued in August 2004. This encourages local planning authorities to adopt development plan policies that require a percentage of the energy to be used in new residential, commercial and industrial developments to come from on-site renewable energy sources. Unfortunately, the new PPS came out too late to influence the UDP policy, since by then the UDP review was at an advanced stage.

3.3.58 Although it is more supportive of renewable energy than the PPG it replaced, PPG22 does not explicitly require local planning authorities to adopt policies towards on-site generation of renewable energy, and cautions against placing an “undue burden on developers.” However, the Government has more recently recognised the need for greater urgency. The Climate Change and Energy Act, which received Royal Assent in June 2006, now requires all public authorities to have regard to climate change, the desirability of eliminating fuel poverty, and the desirability of securing a diverse and viable long-term energy supply. A Parliamentary Statement issued at the same time to support PPS22 makes it clear that the Government now expects all local authorities to set requirements for on site renewables in developments. The Energy Review Report, “The Energy Challenge” (July 2006) also urges local planning authorities to promote greater use of renewable energy and low carbon energy technologies through planning policy.

3.3.59 In the short-term, the Council can only go so far in encouraging developers to incorporate renewable energy technologies in new developments, in line with the existing UDP policy. The main action that the Council proposes to take during the next 12 months is to incorporate guidance in the Designing a Better Walsall SPD (currently in preparation) on how developments can be designed so as to maximise energy efficiency, minimise energy use, and incorporate on-site generation. However, as this is a SPD, it can only advise and encourage and cannot go further than the UDP policy that it supports. In the longer-term, it is anticipated that the UDP energy policy will be replaced by new energy policies, to be included in the joint Black Country Core Strategy and the forthcoming Environment DPD.

### **Energy Consumption**

3.3.60 Nationally, domestic and commercial/ industrial consumption of gas and electricity is rising. Consumption is now outstripping supply, and the UK is now a net importer of fuel (Source: DTI Energy Trends, September 2006). Experimental figures published by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) (<http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/statistics/regional/index.html>) suggest that in 2004, average domestic gas and electricity consumption in the Black Country was lower than the UK average, but industrial/ commercial consumption was

higher. However, average domestic and industrial/ commercial consumption in the Black Country was lower than that for the region as a whole.

### **Renewable Energy Generation - Targets**

3.3.61 Under the European Renewables Directive (2001/77/EEC), the UK “share” of the overall EU renewable energy target is for renewable sources to account for 10% of UK electricity consumption by 2010, and the Government has also set a target for doubling this to 20% by 2020. However, the current regional targets for renewable energy generation are less ambitious. The Regional Energy Strategy, published in 2004, recognised that at the time that it was prepared, only around 1% of the electricity consumed within the region was generated from renewable sources, hence the target for the West Midlands region is for 5% of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2010, and 10% by 2020.

### **Renewable Energy Generation in Walsall**

3.3.62 The DTI website provides information on renewable energy generation nationally and regionally, but does not give sufficient information to assess performance at a local level. Nationally, the capacity of, and energy generated from, renewable sources has increased steadily since 1998. It is estimated that between 1998 and 2005, installed capacity increased from around 2,563.1MWe to around 4542.8MWe, and that during the same period, generation increased from around 8,648GWh to around 16,919GWh.

3.3.63 As part of its target-led approach, Government policy has encouraged renewable energy through a “Renewables Obligation” on each electricity supplier in Great Britain to supply a specific proportion of electricity from eligible renewables<sup>6</sup>. Ofgem is the body that, among other things, tracks and monitors renewable energy capacity. A search of the Ofgem website in 2005 revealed no generators in Walsall that are accredited under the Renewables Obligation. A further search in 2006 revealed only one: the Vigo Utopia Landfill site (see also below).

3.3.64 The Council’s development control system (working on categories obtained previously from the Government) is still not capable of identifying developments for renewable energy, but a new system is currently being developed, and it may be possible to address this when the new system is up and running.

**Table 3.9: Approved Renewable Energy Capacity in Walsall – 2005/06**

<b>Application Reference</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type of Facility</b>	<b>Capacity (kW)</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>
05/1735/FL/E3	Sports Centre and Youth Club, Foley Road East,	Photovoltaic Panels	26.7	8/12/05

<sup>6</sup> The Government also provides tax advantages and grant aid and promotes research and development into renewable energy.

	Streetly			
05/1559/WA/E3	Vigo Utopia Landfill Site, Coppice Lane, Aldridge	Landfill Gas Utilisation plant	2,096.0	3/2/06

3.3.65 A word search of the register of applications determined between 2002/03 – 2004/05 did not reveal any proposals involving the generation of energy from renewable sources, although it is possible that some schemes may have incorporated Microgeneration technologies not revealed in the application description. However, a search of applications determined during 2005/06 revealed that there were two applications for renewable energy, and that both were approved. Both schemes have also been implemented. These are summarised in Table 3.9 above.

3.3.66 The Vigo Utopia scheme is the most important scheme implemented so far in Walsall. According to the application, the scheme will generate around 16,000MWh of energy per year, enough to power up to 5,000 homes. However, the information on the Ofgem website suggests that it has a capacity of 2,096Kw. The latter figure has been included in the table above.

3.3.67 There does now appear to be interest in renewable energy technology. Since April 2006, there has been a further proposal involving renewable energy generation at Walsall Waterfront, which will be reported in the next Annual Monitoring Report. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that whilst developers are now more aware of the need for energy efficient buildings, there is a reluctance to invest in new technologies because of the cost. This may change over time, now that more grants are available through the Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust.

3.3.68 It should be noted that not all forms of provision for renewable energy require planning permission. Realistically, local planning authorities cannot monitor what is not under their control. Given that the Government is proposing to remove even more Microgeneration projects (e.g. domestic wind turbines) from planning control, in future, it will not be possible for the Council to determine the extent to which Microgeneration has taken off in Walsall unless there is an alternative source of information.


3.3.69 It must be accepted that, given these limitations, local planning authorities will only ever be able to monitor the capacity of installations that require planning permission. Even then, it will only possible to do this with confidence if the forthcoming Standard Application Form requires applicants to state the capacity of renewable energy technologies included within schemes. Unless this is addressed, monitoring of renewable energy capacity will remain difficult, and local planning authorities may not necessarily identify all of the new capacity coming forward.

## **Water Resources, Water Quality and Flood Risk**

3.3.70 UDP Policy ENV40 is concerned with conserving and protecting water resources and maintaining water quality as well as preventing flood risk. The policy only permits development in areas where supplies of water are adequate, and where the risk of flooding has been properly assessed. It also requires developments to maintain water quality through pollution control and other measures, and encourages sustainable urban drainage systems

(SUDS). There is a national Core Output Indicator relating to flood risk and water quality (see Table 3.10 below).

**Table 3.10: Implementation of LDF Water Policy**

<b>LDF Policy</b>	<b>Monitoring Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Performance 2005/06</b>
UDP Policy ENV 40	<p>LDF Core Output Indicator 7:</p> <p>Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality.</p>	None	 <p>No applications were approved by the Council contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency during 2005/06.</p>

3.3.71 The UDP policy was prepared in the context of Planning Policy Guidance Note 25 (PPG25): Development and Flood Risk, which has now been replaced by Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25): Development and Flood Risk, published in December 2006.

3.3.72 Although the UDP policy already addresses many of the issues covered in the new PPS, no Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was carried out when the UDP was prepared, as this was not a requirement at the time. However, PPS25 now requires such an assessment to be carried out to inform the sustainability appraisals of plans and strategies. It is therefore proposed to commission such an assessment for the joint Black Country Core Strategy, which is being prepared by the Council jointly with the other Black Country authorities (Dudley MBC, Sandwell MBC and Wolverhampton City Council).

### **Protection of Water Resources**

3.3.73 Walsall's water is supplied by South Staffordshire Water Plc and sewerage services are provided by Severn Trent Plc. Water supplies come from three main sources: Blithfield Reservoir in Staffordshire, boreholes, also mostly in Staffordshire, and the River Severn.

3.3.74 This means that a proportion of the borough's water supply comes from groundwater. The Environment Agency has identified Source Protection Zones within Walsall, which contain important groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs, which are used to supply public drinking water. The main areas affected are Brownhills, Aldridge, Streetly and Caldmere/Palfrey. Within these areas, certain activities are restricted. There are three different zones, reflecting the distance from the source, and the relative risk of contamination from activities that might cause pollution in the area.

3.3.75 The European Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) has established new ways of protecting rivers, lakes and groundwater, with the objectives of reducing pollution, maintaining ecosystems, promoting the



sustainable use of water, and helping to reduce the effects of floods and droughts. This involves a single method of managing water, based on river basin planning. The Environment Agency has identified 11 River Basin Districts throughout England and Wales, and is preparing River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) for each District. Walsall lies within the Humber River Basin District (but only just), and is also immediately adjacent to the Severn River Basin District.

3.3.76 RBMP are currently at an early stage, but the characteristics of the water bodies within each District have now been defined. Within Walsall, only the River Tame and Sneyd Brook have been assessed against the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Both are considered to have a small catchment, and are identified as provisional Heavily Modified Water Bodies.<sup>7</sup> Both are also considered to be at risk from point source pollution,<sup>8</sup> diffuse source pollution,<sup>9</sup> but are probably not at risk from water abstraction or flow regulation. So far, the Council has not been directly involved in the river basin planning process, but there is an opportunity to comment on the Working Together and Plan of Action consultation documents for both the Humber and Severn River Basin Districts, which have recently been published for consultation. It is also anticipated that the preparation of the joint Black Country Core Strategy will act as a catalyst for future engagement with the river basin planning process.

3.3.77 In order to manage the amount of water removed from natural sources in the area, the Environment Agency has also set up Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS), covering the Staffordshire Trent Valley and Tame, Anker and Mease. Walsall lies on the boundary between the two CAMS. Both CAMS are at very early stages in their development, and it is anticipated that the emerging strategies will inform the forthcoming joint Black Country Core Strategy.

### **Water Quality**

3.3.78 Water quality can be influenced by many factors, many of them outside the scope of planning control. For example, whilst local planning authorities can control the use of land and can require developers to implement measures designed to minimise pollution or contamination, they have no control over management practices. Most pollution incidents result from poor management rather than the land use itself. Many agricultural practices such as the spreading of fertilisers can also affect water quality, and these are also not subject to planning control.

3.3.79 Walsall has 46.7km of natural watercourses, 7.6km of culverted watercourses, several lakes and ponds and a network of canals. Under the Land Drainage Act 1991, the Council is responsible for maintaining many of

---

<sup>7</sup> Heavily Modified Water Bodies are water bodies that have been subject to physical alterations, such as strengthening of banks or installation of dams and weirs.

<sup>8</sup> Point source pollution is pollution from a specific source or sources close to the water body.

<sup>9</sup> Diffuse pollution is pollution from a variety of sources, such as fertiliser and manure from farming, and oils, solvents and metals from car maintenance and industrial run-off.

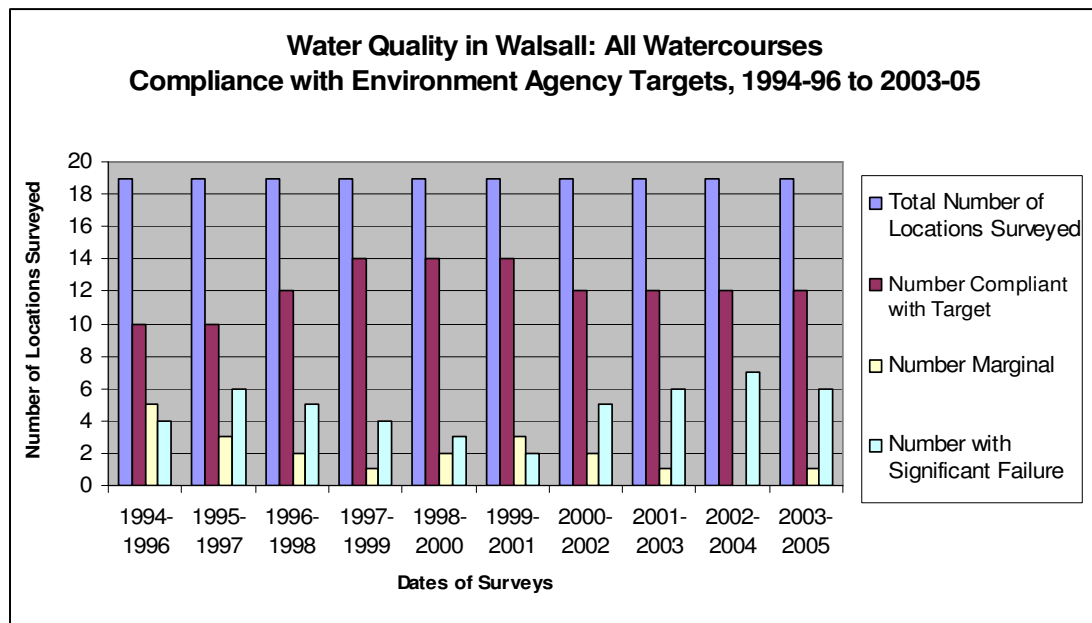
the natural watercourses in Walsall, and it does this through a programme of regular maintenance work. However, the Environment Agency is responsible for maintaining and improving any watercourses designated as Main Rivers, and for maintaining the quality of the water. The Environment Agency has set targets for the quality of the water in the following watercourses in Walsall:

- River Tame
- Rough Brook
- Stubbers Green Brook
- Ford Brook
- Sneyd Brook
- Darlaston Brook
- Fullbrook
- Cannock Extension Canal
- Wyrley & Essington Canal
- Daw End Branch Canal
- Anglesey Branch Canal
- Walsall Canal
- Rushall Canal

3.3.80 Monitoring has been carried out on a regular basis since the late 1990s, to establish whether the targets are being met. The quality of the water is assessed by taking samples from 19 specific locations, and looking at the nutrients, chemistry, and biology present.

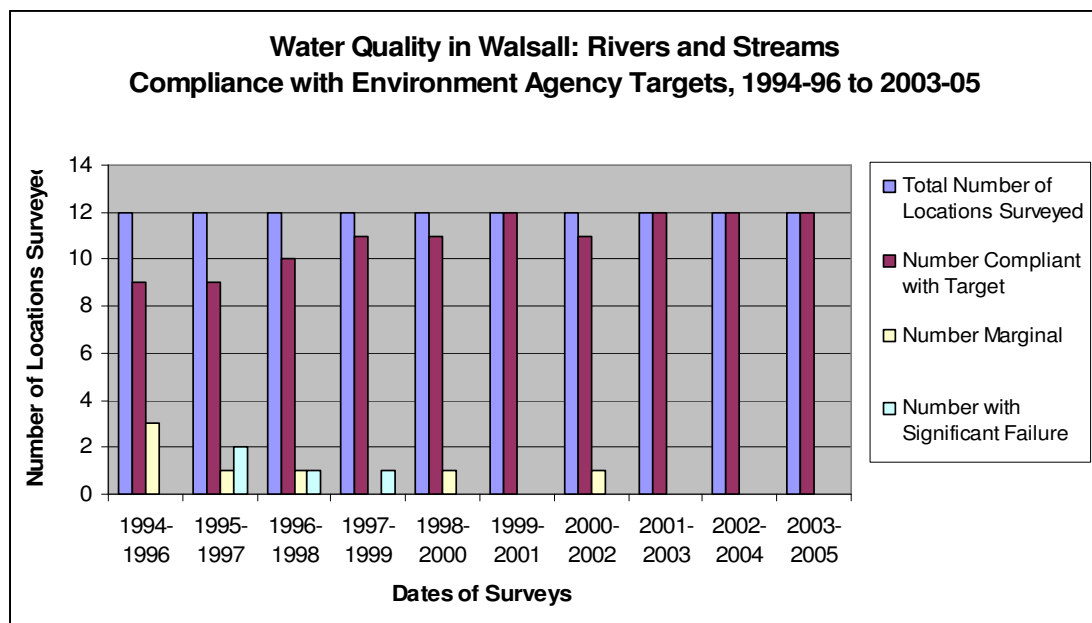
3.3.81 Information obtained from the Environment Agency's website ([www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)) suggests that the water in the natural watercourses (rivers and streams) in Walsall is currently compliant with the Agency's targets and has improved overall since monitoring began. By contrast, during the same period, the quality of the water in Walsall's canals appears to have deteriorated, and in all cases it is now either marginal or failing to meet the targets. The graphs below illustrate the general trend.

**Figure 3.4: Watercourses in Walsall – Compliance with EA Targets**



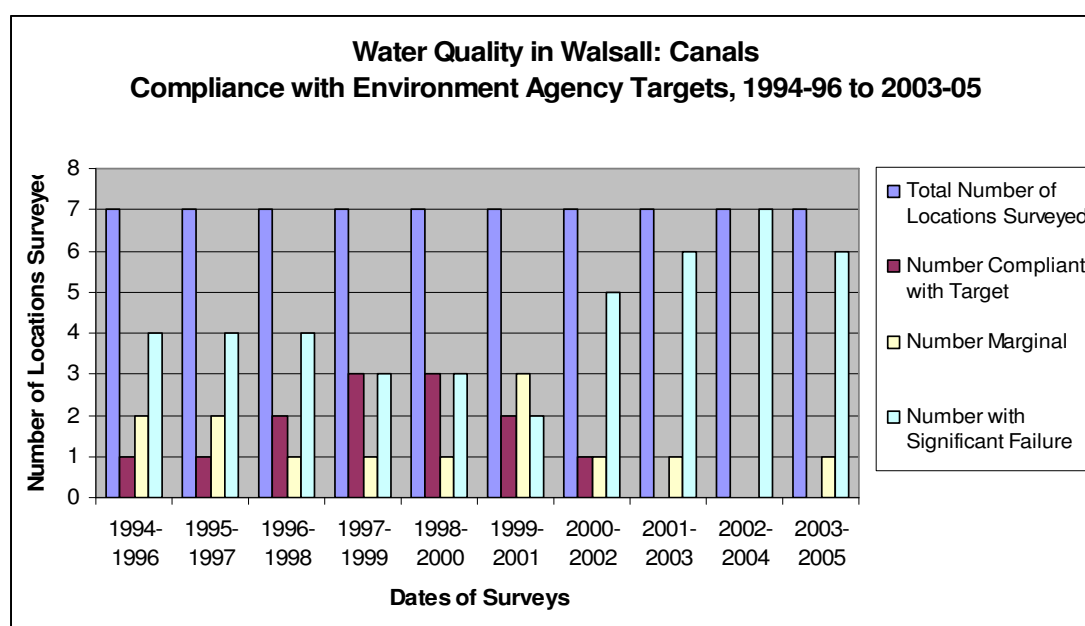
Source: Environment Agency Water Quality Target Data

**Figure 3.5: Rivers and Streams in Walsall: Compliance with EA Targets**



Source: Environment Agency Water Quality Target Data

**Figure 3.6: Canals in Walsall – Compliance with EA Targets**



Source: Environment Agency Water Quality Target Data

3.3.82 This trend in part reflects the fact that the Agency's targets for canals are stricter than its targets for urban rivers and streams. When we look in more detail at the data relating to the nutrients, chemistry and biology of the water, we can see that the quality of water in the rivers and streams is generally not as good as that in the canals, despite recent improvements. Indeed, the poorest quality water in terms of chemistry (Class F – bad) can be found in two of the urban streams – the Rough Brook and Ford Brook. Both streams run through the heart of Walsall's historic industrial areas, and have suffered from contamination with heavy metals, as well as having excessively high levels of nitrates and phosphates. However, other urban streams, such as Stubber's Green Brook and Fullbrook, have low levels of nitrates and phosphates, similar to the canals.

3.3.83 The Council consults the Environment Agency on planning applications that may have implications for water quality. A schedule of applications that the Environment Agency has objected to on the grounds of water quality during 2005/06 may be found on the Agency's website ([www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)). This shows that the Agency has not objected to any applications in Walsall on grounds of water quality during 2005/06. Thus, no application has been granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency in relation to water quality.

### **Flood Protection**

3.3.84 The Environment Agency has identified areas adjacent to rivers and streams in Walsall that are considered to be at risk of flooding. The areas at greatest risk of flooding (i.e. those falling within Zones 2 and 3) are shown in Figure 3.3 of the UDP. The highest risk areas are within the floodplains of the River Tame, Full Brook, Sneyd Brook and Ford Brook, parts of which fall within Zone 3. The Council consults the Agency on all planning applications for new development within these areas. When objections are received, the

Council aims to resolve these through negotiation where possible, in accordance with the advice in PPS25.

3.3.85 Schedules of applications that the Environment Agency has objected to on the grounds of water quality during 2004/05 and 2005/06 may be found on the Agency's website. These show that during 2004/05, the Agency objected to four applications in Walsall on flood-risk grounds, and that during 2005/06, the Agency objected to a further four applications on the same grounds. The applications and the outcomes in each case are summarised in the table below.

**Table 3.11: Planning Applications in Walsall 2005/06 - Objections by the Environment Agency on Grounds of Flood Risk**

<b>Application Ref</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type of Application</b>	<b>Reason for EA Objection</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
05/0411/FL/E2	Former Eagle Envelopes Bloxwich Road Leamore	Residential – Major (76 dwellings)	Request for FRA <sup>10</sup>	Approved 10/7/06
05/0500/FL/W1	Former Willenhall Radiator Grounds Noose Lane Willenhall	Educational – Minor (new 2 form entry primary school)	Request for FRA	Approved 24/6/05
05/0548/OL/E4	Bailey Brothers Sneyd Lane/ Chepstow Road Walsall	Residential – Major (28 apartments)	Request for FRA	Refused 14/6/06
05/1394/OL/E7	Harden Road/ Station Road Rushall	Heavy Industry/ Warehousing – Minor (outline application for B1/B8 development)	Request for FRA	Refused 25/10/05

3.3.86 The two applications that were refused by the Council were refused partly on the grounds that no Flood Risk Assessment had been submitted and that the development was contrary to UDP policy.

3.3.87 The two applications that were approved by the Council were only approved after a Flood Risk Assessment had been submitted by the applicant. As a result of this, the Environment Agency withdrew its objections, subject to appropriate conditions being imposed if the application was approved. In both cases, in accordance with the Agency's advice, conditions were attached to the permissions, requiring details of schemes to limit surface run-off, prior to the commencement of the development. In the case of Eagle Envelopes, a further condition was imposed requiring details of remedial measures to deal with any identified and potential hazards arising from contamination, in order to prevent surface or groundwater pollution, also in accordance with the

<sup>10</sup> FRA = Flood Risk Assessment

Agency's advice. Consequently, during 2005/06, the Council did not grant permission for any development contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency in relation to flood risk.



3.3.88 From January 2007, if the Council is minded to approve any application for major development in a flood risk area, despite there being an outstanding objection from the Environment Agency, it will be required to refer the application to the Secretary of State.<sup>11</sup> Applications may be called-in for determination by the Secretary of State if there are overriding concerns about flood risk and compliance with national policy guidance.

### 3.4 Jobs & Prosperity





3.4.1 Walsall's UDP has the policy aim "to boost jobs and prosperity in the borough by providing enough land of the right quality to meet the full range of employment needs and by promoting the enhancement of existing employment areas" (paragraph 4.7).



3.4.2 To this end, Proposal JP1 allocates land for employment, whilst other policies (Policies JP5 and JP6) seek to protect and enhance employment land and employment areas and to reserve them for development with employment uses (i.e. uses within Classes B1 b/c, B2 and B8). Class B1a offices can also be allowed on employment sites, but generally this will be only if a series of tests can be satisfied, which derive from policies to direct office development towards town centres (see the "Strengthening Our Centres" section below, especially Core Output Indicator 4b).

**Table 3.12: Implementation of LDF Economic Policy**

UDP Policy	Monitoring Indicators	Targets	Performance 2005/06
	LDF Core Output indicator (1a): Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type.	No specific target	  24,821sqm (B8). Only one scheme was completed 2005/06.
	LDF Core Output Indicator (1b): Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type, in employment or regeneration areas.	No specific target	24,821sqm The only scheme completed 2005/06 was within an existing employment area.
	LDF Core Output Indicator (1c): Amount of floorspace by employment	No specific target	

<sup>11</sup> A new requirement set out in the Town and Country Planning (Flooding) (England) Direction 2007.

	type, which is on previously developed land.		24,821sqm – the only scheme completed 2005/06 was on a previously developed site.
UDP Policies JP1, JP2, JP4.1, JP4.2	LDF Core Output Indicator (1d): Employment land available by type.	No specific target	 <p>All UDP sites are currently available for either B1(b/c), B2, B8, aside from two sites JP4.1 and JP4.2</p>
UDP Policies JP1, JP5, JP6	LDF Core Output Indicator (1e) - Losses of employment land in:  (i) Employment/regeneration areas (ii) Local authority area.	No specific target	 <p>(i) 8.98 ha (ii) 12.1 ha</p> <p>Since 2001/02 there has been a net loss of employment land to other uses within regeneration areas.</p>
UDP Policies JP1, JP5, JP6	LDF Core Output Indicator (1f): Amount of employment land lost to residential development.	No specific target	 <p>10.3ha</p> <p>The amount of employment land lost to housing has increased steadily since 2001/02.</p>
UDP Policy JP1	Local Output Indicator: Land developed for employment uses.	UDP Target:  13 ha per annum	 <p>6.43ha (10.2 ha average 1991–2006) Performance since 1991 has been slightly below the UDP target</p>

UDP Policy JP1	Local Output Indicator: The proportion of development that takes place on brownfield sites.	UDP Target:  95% of all land developed	  100% - the only scheme completed 2005/06 was on a previously developed site.
UDP Policy JP1	Local Output Indicator: Employment Land Supply: The extent to which the New Employment Sites allocated in Policy JP1 are successfully protected from loss to other, inappropriate uses.	UDP Target:  95% of the total land area (taking into account flexibility of Policy JP4.1 and JP4.2)	  90.1%  Although most UDP sites continue to be protected, the rate of protection has fallen since 2004/05 to less than the UDP target.

3.4.3 The Core Output Indicators in the Government's Annual Monitoring Report guidance are similar to the three local output indicators identified in the UDP; see Table 3.13 below), which shows performance against both the local UDP and the national indicators, with information based on the regional monitoring system.

3.4.4 The table below sets out what happened on large sites (part of the Regional Monitoring System) and other smaller sites that the Council monitors for LDF purposes. Development rates fluctuate between years and in cycles over time. In relation to Walsall, the average over the current cycle was 10.2 ha per annum. 2004/5's total was close to this. But in 2005, only one eligible site of 6.43 ha was developed, which was a distribution headquarters for the TK Maxx company on the former Sterling Tubes site, creating 850 jobs. Permission was also given for 2.06ha of development for an Ikea distribution warehouse adjacent to their store at Park Lane, Wednesbury on site E17. Construction had started by April 2006.



**Table 3.13: Employment Proposals in Walsall – Progress, 2005/06**

<b>Employment Development (Ha), April 2005 – April 2006</b>			
<b>Large Sites (Over 0.4ha):</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Area (Ha)</b>	<b>Progress</b>
EMR, Kendrick's Road/Heath Road	Outline B1/B2/B8	0.41	pp
FMR Pleck Gasworks (part), Industrial Units (Site E29)	B1(b&c)/B2/B8	0.79	pp
Cable Drive (Site E22)	B1a	1.98	pp
Park Lane, Ikea Distribution Warehouse (site E17)	B8	2.06	pp, u/c
Sterling Green, TKMaxx Distribution HQ, (site E32)	B8	6.43	comp
<b>Small Sites (0.1-0.4 ha):</b>			
Site adj IBM Unit 6, Woods Bank	B1/B2/B8	0.19	pp, u/c
Northgate, Aldridge	B2	0.25	pp
<b>Total planning permission at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006</b>		5.68	
<b>Total Under Construction</b>		2.25	
<b>Total Completed</b>		6.43	

Source: Walsall Council Monitoring

3.4.5 Between 2005 and 2006, planning permission was given for a total of 3.7ha of land for core employment purposes (ie, industry and distribution), as the above table shows. Consent was also granted for 1.98ha of B1a office on a UDP employment site. This was to cater for the expansion of Homeserve's headquarters, and was a departure from the UDP. Offices are not Core Employment Uses in that they should be directed to town centres. There is substantial capacity to accommodate office development in Walsall town centre. However in this case the company was able to demonstrate that there were no suitable sites in Walsall town centre. (This is now under construction and will show up as such in next year's monitor). This means however that the proportion of land under Proposal JP1 to be used or safeguarded for Core Employment Uses fell from 94.1% to 90.1% against a target of 95%. No new employment sites became available to offset this reduction.

3.4.6 Virtually all of the land being developed of any size in the industrial category in 2005-2006 was on one site – Ikea at Park Lane, granted in Feb 2006 and started soon afterwards. This accounted for 2.06ha of the total of 2.25ha under construction on industrial sites. The large TKMaxx distribution headquarters was completed, a total of 6.43ha.

3.4.7 The adequacy of the supply of employment land is to be reviewed further through work on the Black Country Study.

### **Regeneration Areas**

3.4.8 The Core Output Indicators seek information on development completed in employment and regeneration areas. In Walsall the UDP defines Core Employment Areas. In addition, most of the western and central

parts of the Borough fall within the Walsall, Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire Regeneration Zone (“Future Foundations”) and large parts of Walsall Town Centre and Darlaston are covered by the Walsall Regeneration Company area. These are the areas regarded as “regeneration areas” for the purpose of monitoring performance against Core Output Indicator 1b. The UDP recognises the importance of the Regeneration Zone and the Regeneration Company for the regeneration strategy of the borough as a whole.

3.4.9 As with other commercial development, it is not possible to monitor completions at all scales, because private building inspection services are not required to provide information on all of the developments they are responsible for and the Council does not have the resources to survey every development. Therefore, the information given here is based only on UDP or RELS sites – ie those above 0.1ha. During 2004–2005, the only development completed that falls into this category was the TKMaxx distribution warehouse (6.43ha), creating 850 jobs. This development took place on UDP site E32, one of Walsall’s best quality sites.

3.4.10 It remains notable that only a very limited amount of office investment has been secured for the borough in recent years. In 2003 an extension to an existing operation for Homeserve Insurance, an expanding company, was approved, in an out-of-centre location. Planning permission was given for a further extension to this in early 2005, which would take place on UDP industrial site E22 at Cable Drive, as a departure from the UDP (see above). The lack of an office market in the Borough, and in particular, the town centre, has previously been identified by Prism Research (‘Local Economic Prospects for Walsall’, 2003) and SQW (‘Stepping up for Change,’ 2004) and the need to promote office development in Walsall town centre is a major part of the strategy for Walsall Regeneration Company and of the strategy emerging from the Black Country Study, which aims to inform a review of the RSS.

3.4.11 As with other analyses of development, the most useful and informative approach is likely to be on the basis of trends considered over a number of years and in relation to other local authority areas. The council will consider the feasibility of providing such analyses in future, in the light of on-going monitoring work at the regional level.

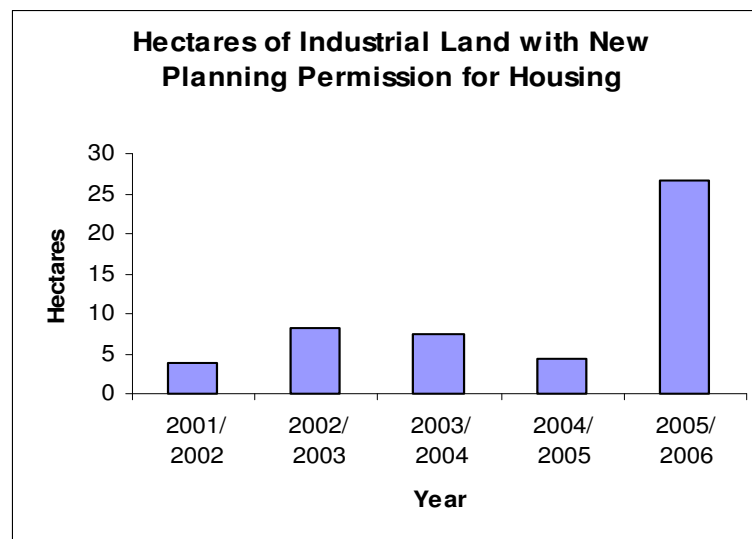
### **Loss of Employment Land**

3.4.12 With reference to LDF Core Output Indicator 1e (i), there is a generally rising trend for land in industrial regeneration areas (as defined by the Walsall Regeneration Company Area and the Core Employment Areas) to be used for housing. The figures for 2001/2 are 1.0ha; for 2002/3 0.7ha; for 2003/4 6.6ha; and for 2004/5 7.0ha. The 2005/6 figure is 8.98 ha. 7.0ha of this went to housing; the remainder was the site E22 at Cable Drive on which office B1 was permitted.

3.4.13 With reference to LDF Core Output Indicator 1e (ii), consent for 1.98ha of B1a office was given on UDP site E22 in 2005/6. This meant that the total land area (identified for UDP purposes) now used by or protected for core employment uses fell to 90.1 from 100%. Permission was also given for open

B1/B2/B8 uses on a small site (Woods Bank) but the development which started subsequently has been composed of industrial uses.

**Figure 3.7: Amount of Industrial Land in Walsall with Permission for Housing, 2001/02 – 2005/06**



3.4.14 With reference to LDF Core Output Indicator 1(f), a further 10.3ha of industrial land as a whole was lost to housing, as shown in figure 3.7 above. This was down from almost 20ha in 2004/5.

3.4.15 The total industrial land lost to other uses in the Borough therefore totalled 12.1 ha (taking into account the Woods Bank site which was developed for industry). In cumulative terms, the amount of housing units actually completed on industrial land since 2001/2 is set out in figure 3.8 below

**Figure 3.8: Number of Housing Units Permitted on Industrial Land in Walsall, 2001/02 – 2005/06**






3.4.16 Whilst housing development is being promoted by Government policy (to meet housing needs) and is part of the aspirations of the Black Country Study (to increase local economic demand), it is necessary to strike a balance between such development and the preservation of sufficient employment land, to ensure that there continue to be enough employment opportunities for local residents.


### 3.5 Strengthening Our Centres

3.5.1 The main aim of the UDP strategy towards centres is to “*promote established town, district and local centres as the main focus for shopping, services, leisure and other aspects of community life, and to make sure that these centres are easily accessible to everyone*” (paragraph 5.12). Accordingly, UDP Policies S1 – S5 seek to focus ‘town centre’ development (principally retailing, offices and leisure) within Walsall Town Centre, the District Centres of Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall, and the Local Centres defined in Policy S5. More detailed guidance on new development in the Town and District Centres is provided in separate UDP chapters.

**Table 3.14: Implementation of LDF Centres Policy**

UDP Policy	Monitoring Indicators	Targets	Performance 2005/06
UDP Policies S1 – S7	LDF Core Output Indicator (4a):  Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development.	No specific targets	  5,914 sq.m. gross <sup>12</sup>  Overall, the level of completions remains low.
UDP Policies S1 – S5	LDF Core Output Indicator (4b):  Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development in town centres.	No specific targets	  3,459 sq.m. gross (see below).
UDP Policies S1 – S5	Local Output Indicator – Shopping Centres:  Amount of vacant floorspace in centres	UDP Target:  Vacancies to be at or below the national average	  Council surveys show that the figures for 4 of the 5 District Centres are at or below the

<sup>12</sup> All of the figures in this section give floorspace in terms of gross external measurements, which reflect the data used in the planning system.

		(10.6% - from GOAD, as quoted in "Regional Centres Study" by Roger Tym & Partners <sup>13</sup> , February 2006).	national average, but Darlaston's vacancy rate is 14%, whilst Walsall town centre has 11.5% of its premises vacant. See 'the Health of Town, District and Local Centres', below.
UDP Policies S1 – S5	Local Output Indicator - Town Centre Development:  The proportion of all retail, leisure and other 'town centre' uses that takes place in established centres.	UDP Target:  90%	  58.5%  The proportion of retail development in centres is in line with the UDP target but there is still pressure for office and leisure schemes in out-of-centre locations.

3.5.2 UDP Policies S6 and S7 provide guidance on the circumstances when edge-of-centre or out-of-centre development will be acceptable, and the tests that will be applied to proposals outside centres. The policy approach reflects national and regional policy, and work – through the Black Country Study - on the first phase revisions of the Regional Spatial Strategy should seek to strengthen the approach and to support the regeneration of the area, with the aim of increasing the demand for retail, leisure and office development in future.

3.5.3 The effectiveness of the application of the UDP policies is measured through a range of local and Core Output Indicators, as set out in Table 3.14 above.

3.5.4 The vacancy indicator has to be used with care. The results in terms of the amounts and locations for retail, office and leisure development also have to be considered carefully. This year the results have been skewed by individual schemes as there has only been a very limited amount of development for town centre uses, particularly for offices. But it is notable that children's 'play centres' have come forward outside of existing centres.

### **Health of Town, District and Local Centres**

3.5.5 The UDP recognises that centres are important not only for shopping but also as focal points for many aspects of community life. The overall health of centres is important if they are to continue to fulfil this role. One way of measuring the health of centres and their relative attractiveness to investors is

<sup>13</sup> For West Midlands Regional Assembly, to inform the forthcoming second phase revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

the level of vacant units, and accordingly, the UDP identifies this as a monitoring indicator.

3.5.6 Whilst information could not be provided last year, this year the Council was able to resume its annual survey of the Town and District Centres. These showed that the vacancy rates (in terms of previously-used premises<sup>14</sup>) are set out in Table 3.15 below.

**Table 3.15: Vacancy Rates in Major Centres in Walsall, 2006**

Centre	Vacant Floorspace (sq.m. gross)	Total Floorspace Surveyed (sq.m. gross)	Vacancy Rate (%)
Walsall	32,990	285,299	11.5
Aldridge	2,499	42,683	5.9
Bloxwich	3,508	42,616	8.2
Brownhills	2,236	35,844	6.2
Darlaston	3,037	21,620	14.0
Willenhall	4,718	44,477	10.6

Source: Council surveys, April 2006

3.5.7 However, vacancy rates should be treated with caution, as a high level of vacancies may not necessarily be due to a lack of interest from investors. For example, vacancies would be expected where a major site is awaiting redevelopment. As referred to below, Walsall Town Centre is attracting interest investment in several major developments, whilst the Valuation Office does not consider the District Centres to be of interest to major investors and developments that come forward there are smaller in scale and less quick to let.

### **Retail, Office and Leisure Completions**

3.5.8 When last year's report was prepared it was not possible to monitor commercial developments below the sizes used for monitoring at the regional level<sup>15</sup>. However, it is recognised that the Government aspires to the monitoring of all types of commercial development at all scales, although the cost and difficulty to the local authority might well outweigh any benefits. There are practical difficulties in accounting for small-scale developments and for when completions occur<sup>16</sup>. In addition, as the Council has begun to seek to monitor all scales of development<sup>17</sup>, there are difficulties in being able to

<sup>14</sup> These cover premises of all types, including upper floors, which will tend to emphasise the proportion of vacant floorspace. To offset recently-completed development that has not yet been brought into use (including the recent development in Brownhills referred to elsewhere in this section) has been excluded.

<sup>15</sup> For retailing, developments of 1,000 square metres gross and over, for offices, developments of 500 square metres gross and over, and for leisure, Class D2 developments of 1,000 square metres gross and over and hotels with 5 or more bed-spaces.

<sup>16</sup> Especially as many commercial developments use building control services not linked to the Council.

<sup>17</sup> Ancillary and short-term temporary uses have been omitted.

account for proposals that have been approved prior to 2005-2006. Nevertheless, it is clear that the amounts of retail, office and leisure development that have been completed in the Borough during the past year have been limited, as shown in the table below.

3.5.9 Individual developments have had a marked effect on the balance between in-centre and out-of-centre development. However, the major issue is probably the relatively low levels of development over the year. The planning strategy for the Borough should encourage greater development, particularly in the Town, District and Local Centres in future years and there are important developments in the pipeline.

**Table 3.16: Completion of Retail, Office and Leisure Development in Walsall, 2004 - 2005 (square metres gross)**

Type of Development	Total Floorspace Completed in the Borough	Floorspace Completed in Town, District or Local Centres (1b)	Percentage Completed in Town District or Local Centres (1c)
Retailing	3,566	3,254	91.3
Offices B1(a)	255	80	31.4
Leisure	2,093	125	6.0
Total	5,914	3,459	58.5

Source: Regional monitoring returns. Note: Floorspace in terms of gross **external square metres**.

### **Retail Development**

3.5.10 Whilst no major retail developments were completed anywhere in the Borough in 2004-2005, relatively large developments were completed in the District centres of Bloxwich (an extension to the Market Centre, providing 1,336 sq.m. gross of additional floorspace to accommodate Wilkinsons) and Brownhills (1,918 sq.m. gross for unit shops, which has not yet been let). The other retail development was for a Somerfield convenience store at a petrol station in an area of local need (in terms of UDP Policy S6).

3.5.11 The principal retail development remains the need to secure major investment to support the role of Walsall Town Centre. Walsall Regeneration Company is working with developers and landowners to try to ensure this, but during the past year planning permission has been granted for a large Asda store as part of what is now termed the 'St Matthew's Quarter', where more development is being sought, whilst a planning application was received for the relocation of Tesco to a large 'Extra' store in association with the redevelopment of the Technical College as part of plans for a 'Business and Learning Campus' on the northern side of the centre.

### **Office Development**

3.5.12 The report for 2004-2005 identified the principal issue concerning office development as being not so much out-of-centre schemes, rather the lack of office investment in Walsall town centre. Whilst previous studies have identified the lack of an office market in Walsall town centre, promoting office investment in Walsall town centre is a major part of the strategy for Walsall

Regeneration Company and of the emerging Black Country Study, which aims to inform the first phase revision of the RSS. However, during 2005-2006 there was a marked lack of office completions in the Borough, with the completion of only three small developments that required planning permission. In two cases these involved the change of use of upper floors above shops (one in the centre of Bloxwich, one out-of-centre), whilst the third scheme was a temporary (though to 2013) permission for a project office to support the improvement of Walsall Arboretum.

3.5.13 For the future, the 'Business and Learning Campus' initiative referred to previously and emerging plans for 'Walsall Waterfront' are intended to pursue office investment for the town centre.

### **Leisure Development**

3.5.14 Similarly, there have been only three relatively small leisure developments completed in the Borough. One of these was a change of use to upper floors to provide a gymnasium in the centre of Aldridge. The other two were children's indoor 'play centres' occupying former warehouse premises in out-of-centre locations. There has been a particular issue as these developments (partly because they seek premises with high eaves heights) have resisted efforts to direct them towards centres.

3.5.15 There remain some commitments for leisure and hotel developments in out-of-centre locations. However, it is hoped that the 'Walsall Waterfront' development will help to develop a critical mass of leisure investment in the town centre in future.

## **3.6 Housing**




3.6.1 Walsall's UDP Policies H2 and H3 seek to ensure that land is available for housing development, both through the allocation of sites and through "windfalls" (sites that come forward for housing development, which have not previously been identified). Policies H1 and H3 also encourage the renewal of existing residential areas and use of previously-developed land for housing. In addition, the UDP includes policies towards affordable and special needs housing (Policies H4 – H6), and the Council has adopted a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Affordable Housing, which provides further detail on how Policy H4 will be applied.




3.6.2 The UDP also sets out specific requirements on housing density and mix (Policies H9 and H10), in line with the guidance in PPG3, which was in force when the UDP was prepared. Most of the national Core Output Indicators correspond to similar local output indicators identified in the UDP, although there are additional local indicators relating to vacancies, windfalls and housing types and sizes (see Table 3.13 below).




**Table 3.17: Implementation of LDF Housing Policy**

<b>LDF Policy</b>	<b>Monitoring Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Performance 2005/06</b>
UDP Policies H2,	LDF Core Output Indicator (2a):	Performance linked to LDF	



H3	<p>Housing trajectory showing:</p> <p>(i) Net additional dwellings over the previous five year period or since the start of the relevant development plan document period, whichever is the longer;</p> <p>(ii) Net additional dwellings for the current year;</p> <p>(iii) Projected net additional dwellings up to the end of the relevant development plan document period or over a ten year period from its adoption, whichever is the longer;</p> <p>(iv) The annual net additional dwelling requirement; and</p> <p>(v) Annual average number of net additional dwellings needed to meet overall housing requirements, having regard to previous year's performance.</p>	requirements and targets.	  1,355  266  2,000 (up to 2011)  455  -95 (effectively nil)  Trajectory shows that housing completions are currently exceeding the UDP target.
UDP Policies H2, H3	<p>Local Output Indicator – Housing Requirement:</p> <p>Progress towards RPG11 target for the provision of additional dwellings.</p>	422 new dwellings per annum (gross) *  *RSS (2004) target is 500 new dwellings per annum	  452 dwellings completed 2005/06. Remainder @ 2006 is 307/yr.
UDP Policies H2, H3	<p>Local Output Indicator – Housing Windfalls:</p> <p>The contribution of</p>	275 dwellings per annum on windfall sites (gross)	  473 dwellings came forward

	windfall sites to housing provision.		as "windfalls" during 2005/06 (5yr average is 381).
UDP Policies H1, H3	LDF Core Output Indicator (2b):  Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land.	PPG3 target :  60%	  99.996% of dwellings completed 2005/06 were on previously developed land, well in excess of national target.
UDP Policies H1, H3	Local Output Indicator – Brownfield Housing Completions:  Provision of housing on previously-developed sites (including conversions).	95%*  *RSS (2004) target is 79%	  99.996% of dwellings completed 2005/06 were on previously developed land, exceeding the UDP and RSS targets.
UDP Policy H1	Local Output Indicator – Housing Vacancies:  The reduction of vacancy rates in the existing housing stock.	Reduce vacancies to 3% by 2011	?  The current vacancy rate is 5.2% (and the rate has risen since 1995). However, some of these vacancies are properties awaiting redevelopment. A longer time series of data is needed to fully understand the underlying trend.
UDP Policy H9	LDF Core Output Indicator (2c) :  Percentage of new dwellings completed at:  (i) Less than 30 dwellings per hectare;  (ii) Between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare; and	PPG3 target:  At least 30 dwellings per hectare	  (i) 17% (ii) 22% (iii) 61%  Although 17% of the new dwellings built 2005/06 were at densities of less than 30 per hectare, the proportion of dwellings built at a minimum density of 30 per hectare has risen steadily since 2000/01.

	(iii) Above 50 dwellings per hectare.		
UDP Policy H9	Local Output Indicator – Housing Density:  Density of new housing development.	Overall average density of at least 30 dwellings per hectare	 <p>Overall, the average density of new housing developments built during 2005/06 was 47.3%, significantly higher than the UDP target.</p>
UDP Policy H10	Local Output Indicator – Housing Types and Sizes:  The types and sizes of dwellings built – aim to achieve a mix of types and sizes appropriate to local circumstances.	None	<p>?</p> <p>Data on dwelling mix has not been collected up to now and is only available for 2005/06. A longer time series of data will be needed to establish the extent to which the UDP policy is being implemented.</p>
UDP Policy H4 & Affordable Housing SPD	LDF Core Output Indicator (2d):  Affordable housing completions.	None	 <p>Only 2 affordable homes were completed during 2005/06.</p>
UDP Policy H4 & Affordable Housing SPD	Local Output Indicator – Affordable Housing:  Progress towards the provision of affordable housing.	184 new affordable dwellings per annum	 <p>During the last 5 years (2001/02 – 2005/06), an average of 34 affordable dwellings per annum have been completed, which is well below the UDP target.</p>

3.6.3 During 2005-06 performance exceeded targets for overall completions, use of previously-developed land and density, but the provision of affordable housing continued to decline; see below under affordable housing. Overall density of new residential development has increased from 41.6 in 2004-05 to dwellings per hectare to 47.3.

## New Housing Development

3.6.4 The overall provision for housing land was made in the context of RPG11 (April 1998), and the UDP proposed a local output indicator to measure progress against the RPG11 housing requirement, progress which is now being assessed through the “housing trajectory” required by the Government’s AMR guidance in relation to Core Output Indicator 2a.

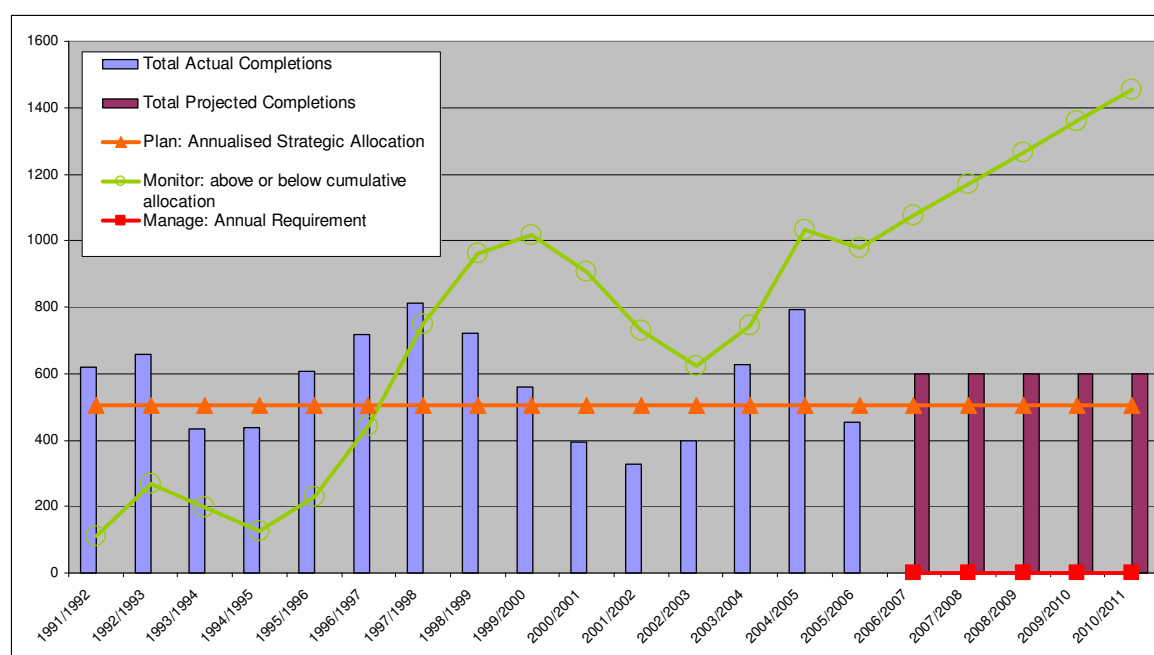
3.6.5 The UDP made provision for 10,100 additional dwellings during the period 1991-2011, an average of 505 units per year. During the period 1991-2006, 8,567 dwellings were completed in the borough, leaving a requirement of 1,533 units to 2011, so the residual UDP housing target is 307 dwellings per year.

## Housing Trajectory

3.6.6 The housing trajectory below shows progress towards the UDP target from 1991 – 2006 and projected progress 2006 – 2011. Projected completions for the future are based on the figure of 600 dwellings per year put forward for the council’s last ‘best value’ submission. Because actual completions have, on average, exceeded the annual requirement of 505 dwellings and the projected outturn of 600 completions per year is also expected to exceed the annual requirement there is no need to identify further capacity to meet the target. The trajectory is based upon a model put forward by Government Office for the West Midlands.

3.6.7 The revised RPG11 issued in 2004 (now the RSS) set Walsall’s target at 500 units per year up to 2011, but aims to increase it to 825 dwellings a year from 2011 onwards. The review of RSS Phase 1 indicates a requirement of 696 dwellings per year and Phase 2 up to 896 per year. Work on a Joint Black Country Core Strategy towards Issues and Options will help to provide projections for new home building beyond 2011. Until then it would not be possible to prepare a meaningful housing trajectory.

**Figure 3.9: Walsall Housing Trajectory 1991 - 2011**



### PPS 3: Housing - Implications

3.6.8 PPS 3 was published in November 2006. Paragraph 7 says that on publication of this PPS local planning authorities will need to assess and demonstrate the extent to which existing plans already fulfil the requirement to maintain a 5-year rolling supply of deliverable land for housing, particularly in connection with making planning decisions (for which the PPS is not a material consideration until 1 April 2007).

3.6.9 Prior to the release of relevant practice guidance, there are two ways to show Walsall's position (April 2006; assuming that we could allocate commitments if we were preparing a DPD now):

1. Compare existing land supply with annual RSS requirement

Commitments (unconstrained)	6,854	dwellings (inc under construction)
Commitments (constrained)	5,491	discounted in line with Tapping the Potential
Annual requirement in RSS	500	2006-2011
Years' supply	10.9	

2. Compare actual progress with the overall RSS target (1991-2011)

Completions 1991-2006	8,567	dwellings
Commitments (constrained)	5,491	as above
Total capacity	14,058	excludes windfall allowance, conversions, etc.

RSS requirement 1991-2011	10,000
Projected surplus	4,058

3.6.10 Therefore, although the remaining capacity on UDP allocated sites is only 363 dwellings, sites with planning permission can accommodate much more than 5 years' development at the rate required by the RSS. In terms of actual progress on the ground dwellings completed are about 3 year's development short of the overall RSS requirement with 2 years' worth under construction (952) (net shortfall of 1 year) and 5 years remaining.

Comparison with RSS Review Phase 2 Options:

Option	1	2	3
Annual rate	696	840	896
Years' supply	8.5	6.5	6.1

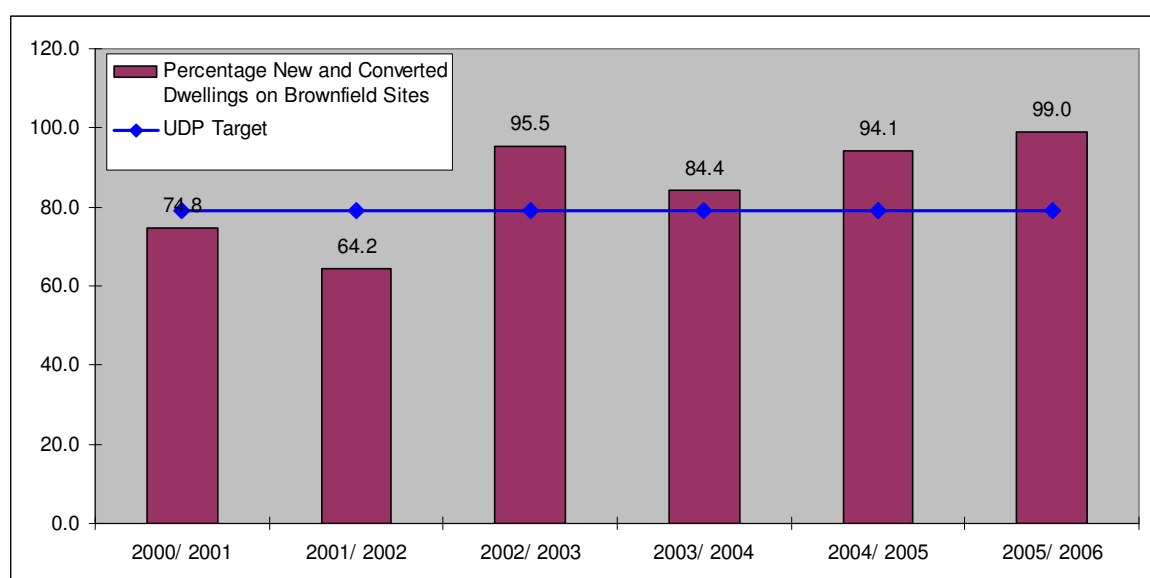
3.6.11 Even at these levels, sites under construction and with planning permission, suitably discounted, would cater for more than 5 years, i.e. if we were doing the LDF now, we could allocate 5 years' worth of sites. We also know about other development proposals at pre-application stage that could deliver approximately 2,700 dwellings; a further 3-4 years' worth.

3.6.12 Consequently, there is no immediate concern. Medium to longer-term concerns will be addressed through the RSS Review and preparation of the joint Black Country Core Strategy.

### Housing Completions on Previously Developed Land

3.6.13 Core Output Indicator 2b is the same as the local output indicator in the UDP relating to housing on previously-developed land. In considering the identified housing land supply and the provision for “windfall” sites in the context of Government guidance in PPG3 (which set a national target for 60% of new dwellings to be on previously-developed land), the UDP set a local output indicator target of 95% for the period 2002-2011. Subsequently, the RSS set a regional target for housing completions on previously-developed sites of 76%, with a specific target of 79% for Walsall 2001-2011. See chart below.

**Figure 3.10: Walsall - Housing Completions on Previously-Developed Land, 2000/01 – 2005/06**



3.6.14 The results show that the Council is exceeding the national and regional targets for housing completions on previously-developed land. In recent years such completions have been consistently above the more ambitious UDP target of 79%. There are still some commitments on greenfield sites that are likely to come forward prior to 2011, so the 2006 level of 99% is unlikely to continue in the next few years. However, the Black Country Study has identified capacity that indicates very high proportions of development can be on previously-developed land beyond 2011.

3.6.15 The Council is also seeking to maximise investment in the existing housing stock through the renewal of existing residential areas and by bringing back empty properties into use where possible. The Council’s Empty Homes Strategy aims to bring 45 empty homes into use in 2005-06 and 60 in 2006-07. The actual outturn for 2005-06 was 77. In addition Walsall Housing Group is engaged in a programme of renewal including refurbishment and replacement in the New Deal for Communities area, focused on Blakenall,

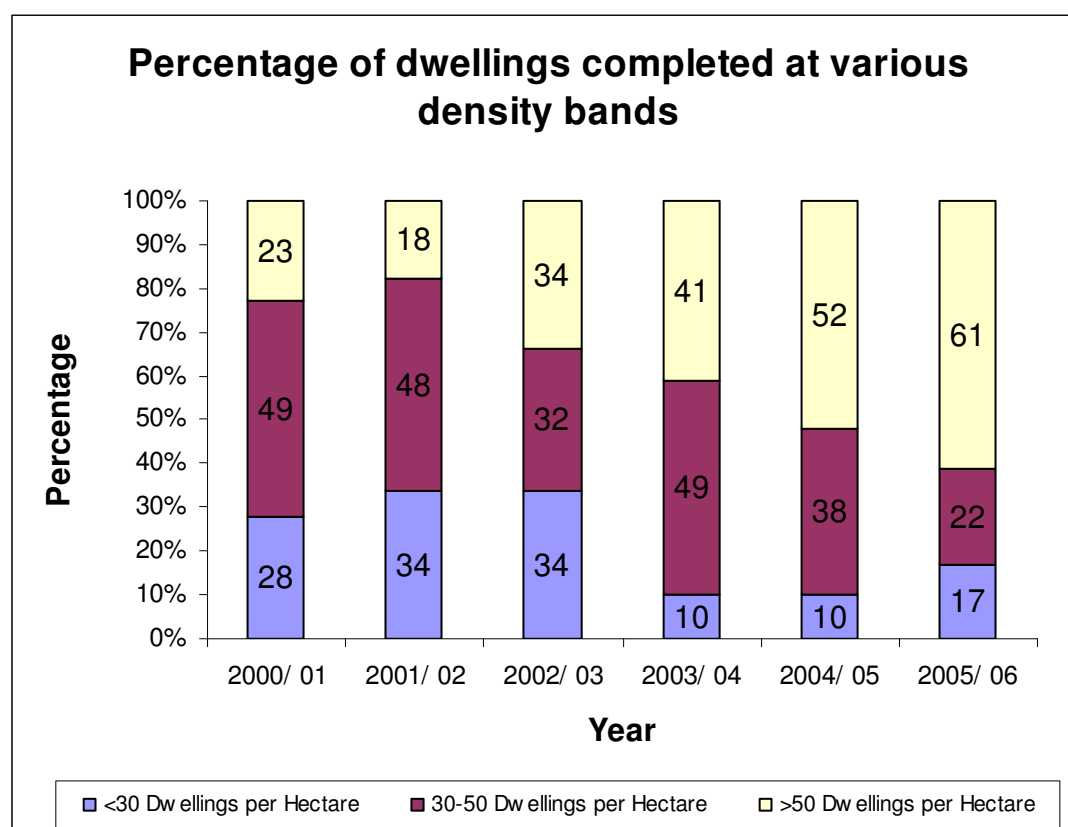
and in Pleck where planning permission is being sought to replace tower blocks with modern low-rise homes<sup>18</sup>.

3.6.16 The UDP includes a local output indicator and target to reduce vacancies in the existing housing stock to 3% by 2011. Council Tax figures submitted in the Council's "Local Authority Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix" showed that, at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 there were 5,613 vacant dwellings (of all kinds, tenures and periods of vacancy) from a total stock of 108,015. This gives a vacancy rate of 5.2%; up from 4.4% in 1995. Part of the increase can be explained by properties vacated in preparation for redevelopment schemes. A longer time series is needed to establish the general trend in vacancy levels.

### Housing Densities, Sizes and Types

3.6.17 Government policy in PPG3 has sought to increase the density of housing development, to make more efficient use of land. In response to this Walsall's UDP includes a local output indicator with a target to achieve an overall average density of new development of at least 30 dwellings per hectare. This is also reflected by the Core Output Indicator 2d in the Government AMR guidance. The table below shows the densities achieved on housing sites in Walsall since 2001, within the Core Output Indicator bands.

**Figure 3.11: Average Density of Housing Developments in Walsall, 2000/01 – 2005/06**



<sup>18</sup> Granted in November 2006.

3.6.18 The results show that the densities of new housing developments have been increasing in recent years. In 2006 over 60% of completions were at a density of 50 dwellings per hectare. 22% were at densities of between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare and 17% below 30 per hectare; there remains a need for some relatively low density development to support the economic development of the borough. The overall average density was 47.3 per hectare; up from 41.6 in 2005.

3.6.19 The UDP includes a monitoring indicator relating to the achievement of a mix of sizes and types of housing. Although data on the types and sizes of dwellings was not collected before 2005/06, in recent years, the overall impression is that there has been an increase in the number of smaller dwellings being completed, particularly apartment schemes in the Town Centre and in affluent suburban areas within the Borough. This appears to be borne out by the data for 2005/06, which is set out in Table 3.18 below. This shows that 57% of all new dwellings completed in 2005/06 were flats, and that 54.3% were either 1 or 2 bedroom. However, it is recognised that to establish the extent to which the UDP policy is being implemented, a longer time series of data will be needed.

**Table 3.18: Sizes and Types of Dwellings Completed in Walsall, 2005/06**

<b>Types of Dwelling</b>	<b>Sizes of Dwelling</b>				
	<b>Number of 1 Bed</b>	<b>Number of 2 Bed</b>	<b>Number of 3 Bed</b>	<b>Number of 4+ Bed</b>	<b>Total Number of Dwellings</b>
<b>Houses</b>	1	8	120	77	206
<b>Flats</b>	55	205	13	0	273
<b>Total</b>	56	213	133	77	479

Note: includes conversions

### **Affordable Housing**

3.6.12 RPG 11 (1998) estimated that the West Midlands region would need around 130,000 additional social-sector homes between 1991 and 2011. This helped to provide the basis for the figure of 3,600 affordable dwellings in Walsall over the period to 2011, leaving a residual figure of 184 dwellings per year, which has been proposed as an indicative target (local output indicator) for the purposes of the UDP. Subsequently, the RSS (2004) has not set a target for the provision of affordable housing, although it states that the figure of 6,000-6,500 affordable dwellings across the region each year would be used as a basis for monitoring.

3.6.13 Affordable housing is provided in two main ways:

- (i) Through direct provision by Housing Associations and other social landlords; and/or
- (ii) By private housing developers, usually as a result of planning requirements placed on private sector housing developments through, for example Planning Obligations or Section 106 Agreements.



### **UDP Affordable Housing Requirement**

3.6.14 Taking account of completions to 2002 (a total of 1,658 from all sources), the remaining requirement for the UDP period to 2011 is 1,656, an average of 176 a year, which is close to the UDP target of 184. In Walsall the number of new dwellings that have been completed by housing associations since 2001 is set out in the table below.

**Table 3.19: Affordable Homes Completed in Walsall 2001/02 – 2005/06**

Monitoring Year	Housing Association Completions	%	Private Completions	%	Total Completions	%
2001 - 2002	52	100	0	0	52	100
2002 - 2003	65	100	0	0	65	100
2003 - 2004	37	100	0	0	37	100
2004 - 2005	14	100	0	0	14	100
2005 - 2006	2	100	0	0	2	100
<b>TOTAL</b>						
<b>2001/02 – 2005/06</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Annual Regional Planning and Housing monitoring returns

3.6.15 This shows that the amounts of affordable housing provided by housing associations have been falling. Private developers had not constructed any affordable homes up to March 2006 as the Council had no statutory policy in place that could deliver development by then.

3.6.16 However, the adoption of the UDP in March 2005 provided the opportunity to produce supplementary guidance to explain the Council's approach to provision of affordable housing in relation to private sector development and a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Affordable Housing was adopted in July 2005. Up to 31 March 2006 Section 106 Agreements had provided for the construction of 121 units in line with the SPD and further negotiations have been concluded since then, but the figures for 2007 should show a marked increase.

### **Affordable Housing SPD**



3.6.17 Between adoption of the SPD in July 2005 and March 2006 Section 106 Agreements were concluded overwhelmingly to provide intermediate housing in the western part of the borough and this has continued since. One concern is that the SPD is not flexible enough to enable or encourage a better balance between intermediate and social rented homes. It is therefore considered necessary to review the SPD, taking into account a forthcoming refresh of the Housing Needs Study, during 2007-2008.




## **3.7 Transport**

3.7.1 The policies in Chapter 7 of Walsall's UDP seek to help everyone to get around by a choice of means of transport, including bus and rail transport and for cycling, as well as seeking to manage traffic growth and improve the highway network for all users. The effectiveness of these policies is

measured through local output indicators relating to modal share and road traffic, and Core and Local Output Indicators relating to car parking provision and accessibility.

**Table 3.20: Implementation of LDF Transport Policy**

UDP Policy	Monitoring Indicators	Targets	Performance 2005/06
	Core Output Indicator 3a: Percentage of completed non-residential development complying with car parking standards set out in UDP.	UDP Parking Standards:  Non-residential development: Range from 1 space per 14m <sup>2</sup> to 50m <sup>2</sup> of gross floorspace	  Industrial: compliant Office: compliant Shopping: compliant Leisure: compliant
	Core Output Indicator 3b – Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of: a GP; hospital; primary school; secondary school; areas of employment; major retail centres.	No specific target	?  It has not been possible to measure the accessibility of new housing development completed during 2005/06 to key facilities.
	Local Output Indicator: car parking provision for new housing development to be in line with standards in Policy T13.	Residential development: 2 spaces for 1,2,3 bedroom houses; 3 spaces for housing above this; flats: 1.5/2 spaces per unit	?  It has not been possible to monitor provision in housing schemes.
	Local Output Indicator: Increase number of bus journeys in line with LTP target.	LTP target is for 310 million journeys within West Midlands Met. Area	  During 2005/06 there was a fall from 310 million bus journeys to 307.3 million journeys.

	Local Output Indicator: Increase number of rail passenger journeys in line with LTP target.	No longer a specific target	 <p>During 2005/06 there was a rise in train journeys from 29.3 to 30.9 million journeys.</p>
	Local Output Indicator: Keep traffic growth in line with LTP target.	LTP target is for no more than a 7% increase in road traffic mileage between 2004 and 2010. Projection is 101.8 based on index of 100 at 2004.	 <p>During 2005/06, road traffic mileage dropped slightly from 100 to 99.7.</p>
	Local Output Indicator: Increase proportion of trips made by bike in line with LTP target	Revised LTP Target is 93, based on trajectory of index of 100, to reach 101 by 2010. No proportional figures available.	 <p>During 2005/06 there was an increase from 94 to 103.8.</p>

3.7.2 The previous version of the WMLTP “Moving with the Times” (2003) included targets for rail patronage. Under the latest 2006 LTP these have been abandoned as rail is not effectively under the control of Local Authorities. Nevertheless, figures for rail patronage in the Metropolitan area (from Centro) and walking in Walsall (based on the 2001 Census) have been included for information. The revised WMLTP for 2006/07 – 2010/11 was approved in March 2006. This document outlines the main transport implementation and monitoring proposals for the whole of the West Midlands Metropolitan area, including Walsall, over the next 5 years.

3.7.3 The LTP document includes a large number of transport indicators and targets that will be monitored throughout the 5 year period to determine how effective the Plan has been in delivering real transport improvements for residents and visitors of the Metropolitan Area. These include indicators designed to measure modal shift, away from single occupancy car use through increased public transport patronage levels, positive responses to user satisfaction surveys, increased cycle trips, improved bus punctuality and increased implementation of Travel Plans.

3.7.4 However, these indicators are currently being monitored for the West Midlands Metropolitan Area as a whole, and in most cases data is not disaggregated down to individual authority level. Because transport movements cross administrative boundaries, collecting such data purely

within local authority areas is not meaningful. The only data likely to be available on a regular basis specifically for Walsall is that collected from the “cordon counts” of Walsall Town Centre, which are undertaken every two years (see below).

## **Transport in the West Midlands Metropolitan Area – Main Headlines**

3.7.5 The headline figures for the Metropolitan Area are:

- **Road traffic.** The **2006 LTP target** was to try to ensure that there would be **no more than a 7% increase in traffic mileage between 2004 and 2010**. An index of 100 was set at 2004 with the traffic projection at 101.8 for 2005. In fact the outturn figure for 2005 shows 99.7 for the Met area – a slight fall.
- **Bus journeys.** 2006 **LTP target BVPI102** was to **increase the number of bus journeys from a base of 325 million trips (2000/1) to 355m trips in 2010/11**. The trajectory for the years 2004/5 and 2005/6 was for 315 falling to 310, with rises towards the target projected after 2006/7. In 2005/6 patronage continued its steady decline, falling from 314.5 trips to 307.3 trips. This is below even the revised trajectory, which itself was a downward revision of the original LTP target which was to increase bus patronage year on year from 2000/1. According to the 2001 census, 11.9% of Walsall residents travelled to work by bus compared with 7.4% nationally.
- **Train journeys.** The LTP target for this has been dropped. However it is interesting to note that the number of rail journeys in the metropolitan area is continuing to climb steadily by around 7% a year. In 2000/1 22.8 million journeys were made by train; in 2004/5 29.3 and in 2005/6 30.9. The 2005/6 figures represent an increase of 36% on 2000/01, and are the highest since records began in 1980.
- **Walking.** Because of the difficulties of measuring this mode of transport, there is no target and performance indicator. However, the 2001 census states that 10% of employees travelled to work on foot. This was the same proportion as nationally.
- **Cycling: 2006 LTP target 3** was for a **1% increase in the cycling index between 2003/4 and 2010/11**. The trajectory allows for a drop below 100 in most years. The latest figures for 2005 in fact show a jump from 94.5 in 2004/5 to 103.8, above the revised target. Meanwhile, an index comparing the West Midlands Met area with national cycling trends based on 100 at 2000/2001 now has the Met area at 84.3 compared with a national figure of 104.5. However this was an increase from very low 74.4 in 2004/5.

## **Walsall Town Centre Transport Patterns**

3.7.6 The 2006 West Midlands Local Transport Plan has set the following targets for Walsall Town Centre:

- Increase a.m. peak trips by public transport into Walsall Town Centre from 32.73% (2004/05) to 33.8% by 2009/10

- No increase in a.m. peak traffic flows into Walsall Town Centre between 2005/06 and 2010/11.

**Table 3.21: Total Vehicles by Time Period in Average Day, Walsall Town Centre Cordon Surveys, 1999 - 2005**

Monitoring Year	Time Period				
	07.30 - 09.30	10.00-12.00	16.00-18.00	07.00– 900 (12 hour)	00.00 –24.00 (24 hour)
<b>1999</b>					
Inbound	13,627	9,227	9,940	60,363	73,819
% of 24 hr	18.5	12.5	13.5	81.8	100
Outbound	9,244	8,744	13,649	60,124	74,137
% of 24 hr	12.5	11.8	18.4	81.1	100
NET	4,383	483	-3,709	116	-318
<b>2001</b>					
Inbound	13,704	9,400	9,424	59,212	72,190
% of 24hr	19.0	13.0	13.1	82.0	100
Outbound	9,410	8,823	14,383	61,319	75,068
% of 24hr	12.5	11.8	19.2	81.7	100
NET	4,294	577	-4,959	-2,107	-2,878
<b>2003</b>					
Inbound	12,044	8,354	9,265	54,438	67,271
% of 24hr	17.9	12.4	13.8	80.9	100
Outbound	7,935	7,831	12,003	53,404	66,556
% of 24hr	11.9	11.8	18.0	80.2	100
NET	4,109	523	-2,738	1,034	715
<b>2005</b>					
Inbound	12,135	8,653	9,676	56,255	69,019
% of 24hr	17.6	12.5	14.0	81.5	100
Outbound	7,956	7,984	12,546	54,954	68,060
% of 24hr	11.7	11.7	18.4	80.7	100
NET	4,179	669	-2,870	1,301	959

Source: Mott Macdonald

3.7.7 Evidence from the Cordon Survey of Walsall Town Centre, which measures the amount of trips by car, bus and train into the town centre in the morning peak every two years, shows that between 0730 and 0930 the total number of trips has been gradually falling over the years, from 21,633 in total for 1997 to 19,544 in 2003 (see Table 3.21 above). The 2005 figures show another fall to 19,365 trips – this was caused by drops in bus and train trips. As a result the public transport modal share, which had been rising to 33.3% in 2003, fell to 32.6% in 2005. This is still however close to the target. In respect of car traffic, the 2005/6 baseline for total car trips into the town centre is 13,045. This was almost identical to 2003's figure of 13,043.

3.7.8 Because of the downturn in public transport, the car modal share increased to 67.4% from 2003's 66.7%. This rise in car travel was also reflected throughout the day in 2005 compared with 2003, as shown by table 3.17, which deals with all road vehicles. There are no public transport figures throughout the day to compare the road vehicle count with, though it is unlikely, given the Metropolitan area figures set out above, that bus patronage increased.

3.7.9 As a whole, this is not good news in relation to the vitality and viability of the town centre. If Walsall Town Centre were growing as an employment destination there would have been a net increase in travel at peak times. The increase in road vehicles over the rest of the day could point however to slightly increased shopping trade, though it should be noted that buses (which might be carrying fewer people) and other vehicles are counted in this total.

### **Transport Infrastructure**

3.7.10 Compulsory Purchase orders for the Town Centre Transport Package, a £17million package of **highway infrastructure improvements** around the northern and north-western side of Walsall Town Centre, were received in November 2004. A submission for the economic case for the road was made to the Department for Transport in May 2005. Ministerial Approval for funding was received in April 2006. Works commenced in July 2006, with a completion date for August 2008. Other roads were being constructed by the private sector to serve large housing developments in Streetly (Poets Wood) and Pheasey (St Margaret's Hospital).

3.7.11 A **Bus Showcase improvement** was started in March 2005 on the route serving Brownhills and Hednesford by Walsall Council in partnership with Staffordshire County Council. This included upgrading bus shelters and kerbs. This was completed in May.

3.7.12 There were no large **rail infrastructure improvements** in Walsall in 2005/6. However, some existing Monday to Friday daytime services from Walsall to Birmingham New Street were extended to Birmingham International (serving Airport).

### **Car Parking Standards**

3.7.13 The UDP car parking standards for non-residential development are in line with those set out in PPG13 Annex A. The UDP also includes car parking standards for residential development, which are in line with the guidance in

the new PPS3. There is a UDP monitoring indicator relating to compliance with the residential parking standards in Policy T13.

3.7.14 Although the UDP policy includes specific parking standards, it also states that developers must demonstrate that there is adequate parking in all cases so that the development can meet its own needs and that there will be no adverse effects on highway safety and the environment (UDP Policy T13A, 1.). The Council may therefore judge that in some cases the car parking provision should be set above, or indeed below, the maximum standards as set out in the UDP for these uses. Such a policy is in line with PPG13 paragraphs 51, 54 and 56. This means that in practice, all developments comply with the local planning framework, even though in some cases the level of parking provision may not be in line with the specified standards.

3.7.15 The 2005 Annual Monitoring Report, identified a number of potential problems with monitoring car parking provision for all types of development. The main problem is that car parking provision is regarded as a matter of detail, and is often subject to amendment either through reserved matters or through minor amendments to approved schemes. This is a particular feature of large, complex town centre and edge-of-centre developments that take time to come to fruition. Only schemes that have actually been implemented within the last 12 months can be assessed with any confidence, and even then, it can be difficult to check the precise number of car parking spaces provided on-site when we are dealing with large schemes.

3.7.16 At the present time, the Council does not have the resources to analyse data on car parking provision within all permitted schemes. Nevertheless we have been able to establish that all office, shopping, industrial and leisure development complied with the UDP and PPG13 standards.

3.7.17 In 2006, a major study into car parking provision commissioned by the Council and carried out by the consultants Faber Maunsell reported. This surveyed the car parking stock in Walsall Town Centre and the District centres and considered issues to do with attractiveness, safety and security of car parking. The stock of publicly available off-street parking spaces in Walsall town centre and the District centres is set out in Table 3.22 below.

3.7.18 The Study found that demand was consistently high for short stay parking throughout the year; on a Saturday car parks in and around Walsall Town Centre are virtually full. This is also the case generally in the District centres but there appears to be a particular problem in Darlaston and Bloxwich. The Study considered that if the town centre is to expand and remain attractive to visitors, there needs to be an increase in the amount and quality of short stay parking. The report made a number of recommendations about improving car parking provision in the Borough.

**Table 3.22: Car Parking Provision in Major Centres in Walsall, 2005**

<b>Centre</b>	<b>Total Number of Spaces</b>	<b>Number of Short Stay Spaces</b>
<b>Walsall</b>	3681	2851
<b>Aldridge</b>	599	292
<b>Bloxwich</b>	645	0 (100% long-stay)

<b>Brownhills</b>	904	520
<b>Darlaston</b>	427	315
<b>Willenhall</b>	820	275

Source: Walsall Parking Strategy Report, Faber Maunsell/ AECOM (April 2006), data @ Nov. 2005

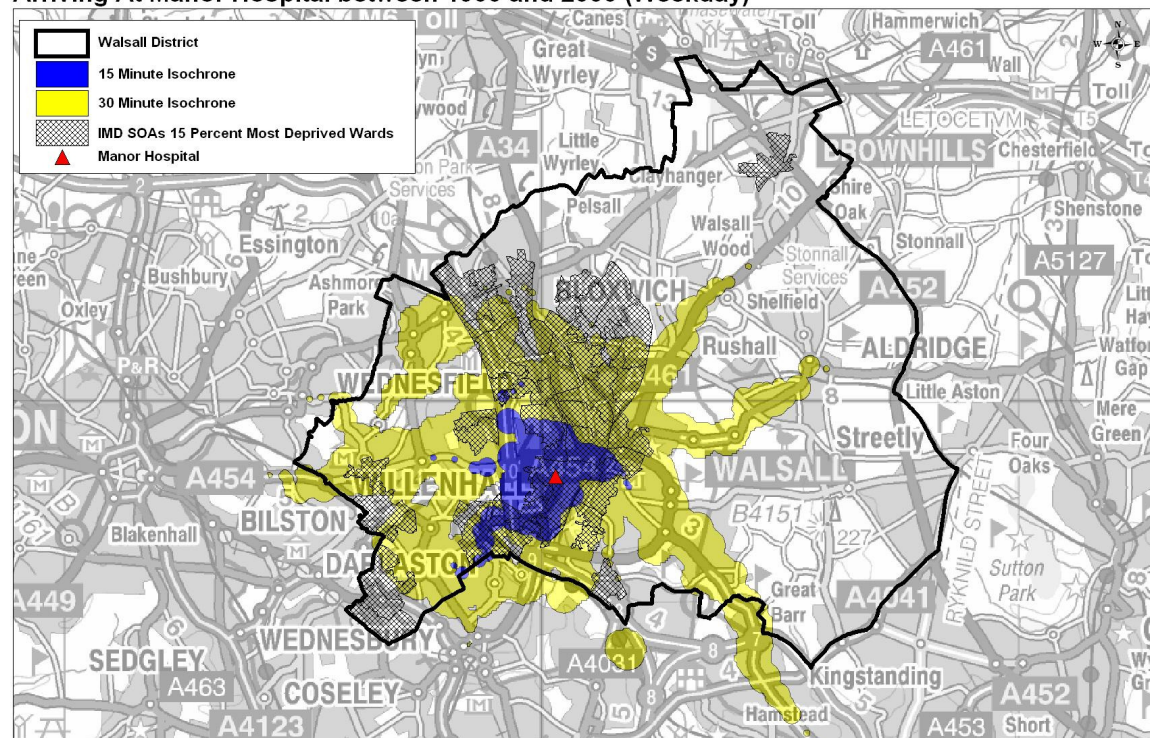
## Accessibility

### Accessibility of New Residential Developments

3.7.19 It was not possible, due to lack of resources, and in the time available, to provide data on accessibility of new residential developments in 2005/06 to key facilities. It is hoped that the skills and resources will be in place to measure this over the coming year. In the meantime, the diagrams from the 2005 AMR are reproduced here for reference. This shows that many parts of the Borough are not currently accessible to the Manor Hospital during the evening (i.e. the main visiting time) or to major employment sites during the morning peak, by public transport.

**Figure 3.12: Public Transport Times to the Hospital During the Evenings**

Arriving At Manor Hospital between 1900 and 2000 (Weekday)

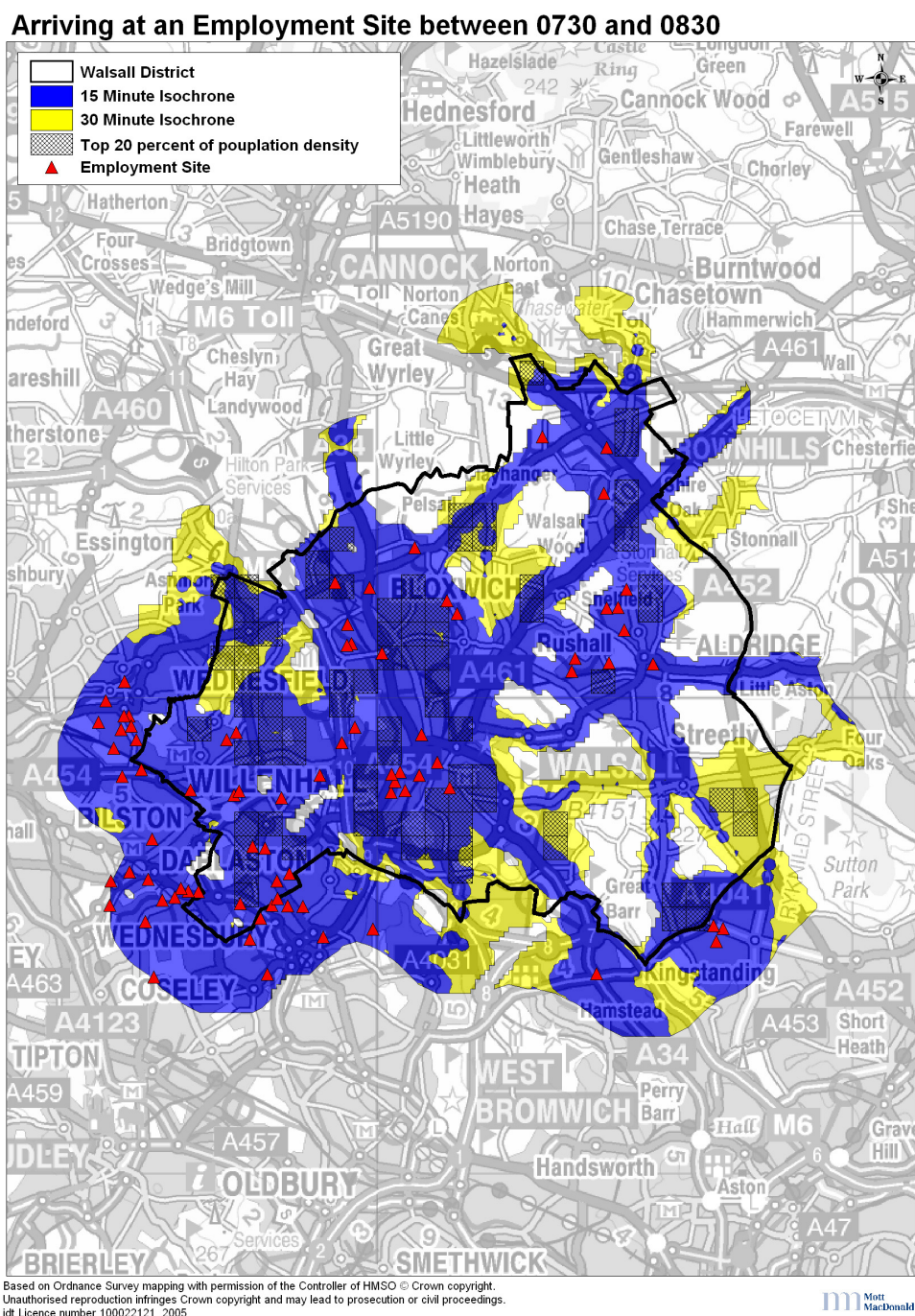


Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
© Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
Licence number LA 00022121L, 2005

**Mott MacDonald**



**Figure 3.13: Public Transport Times to Employment Areas, Morning Peak**



### **Walsall Local Accessibility Action Plan**

3.7.20 Accessibility planning is one of Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership's (WBSP) six core areas for delivery. Unique in the West Midlands, *Accession* modelling is carried out by the Shared Partnership Information Resource (SPIR) team which assembles and maintains a core indicator set on behalf of WBSP.

3.7.21 A draft Local Accessibility Action Plan (LAAP) was developed through the WBSP structure and published in July, and LAA process and has been




subjected to widespread consultation. By being more evidence-led, the LAAP enables policy development and service delivery to be improved to better meet the accessibility needs of local communities and for partners to work collaboratively to effectively assign resources. The working group will be tasked with establishing robust systems to provide partners with monitoring and evaluation information, assessing the impacts of individual projects on targeted groups and areas. Local accessibility targets will be established which will take account of accessibility related targets in the Community Plan and LAA for Walsall, together with any national or regional indicators promoted through other wider-reaching initiatives. This will permit the process and outcomes at the local level to be benchmarked.



### 3.8 Leisure and Community

3.8.1 The UDP includes a range of policies aimed at providing a range of sport, recreation, leisure, entertainment, arts, education, health and other community facilities in accessible locations within Walsall. Policies LC1 – LC5 relate to outdoor recreational facilities such as open space, children’s play areas, allotments, and green corridors, referred to as “greenways.” These policies seek to protect existing urban open space from redevelopment, and where appropriate they require new developments to incorporate outdoor recreational facilities or accommodate them where such proposals are allocated in the UDP.

3.8.2 There are similar policies relating to sporting facilities such as sports pitches and indoor sporting facilities (Policies LC6 – LC7), other community facilities (Policy LC8) and development adjacent to or near to canals (Policy LC9). In addition, the strategic policy statement makes it clear that new residential developments will only be permitted where there is adequate provision for healthcare and education.

**Table 3.23**

<b>LDF Policy</b>	<b>Monitoring Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Performance 2005/06</b>
LC1	Core Output Indicator (4c):  Amount of eligible open space managed to Green Flag Award standard.	1 site by 2008	  None but see Greenspace Strategy (below).
LC1	UDP Monitoring Indicator: Protection of urban open spaces from inappropriate development.	UDP Target:  100% protection	  100%
LC2	UDP Monitoring Indicator:  Provision of new urban open spaces.	UDP Target:  At least 24 hectares of new urban open space 1991-2011	  None in 2005-06 (but 6.27 ha completed previously).

LC5	UDP Monitoring Indicator:  Length of greenways constructed.	UDP Target:  At least another 10 miles (16 km) 2002 - 2011	  None in 2005-06 (but 48 km previously).
LC6	UDP Monitoring Indicator:  Protection of playing fields / sports pitches.	UDP Target:  100% protection	  100%

## Open Space Provision and Management

3.8.3 The UDP includes two monitoring indicators that relate to open space. One indicator relates to the protection of existing urban open space from inappropriate development in line with UDP Policy LC1, and the other relates to the provision of new urban open space during the plan period, in line with UDP Policies LC1 and LC2.

3.8.4 UDP Policy LC1 seeks to retain and enhance urban open spaces and Policy LC2 proposes an additional 26.44 hectares of open space over the plan period, i.e. up to 2011. No designated areas of open space were lost during 2005-2006, and no planning permissions were granted during the year that would lead to the loss of such spaces. No new open space was provided during the year, though improvements were carried out to several parks and other spaces through, for example, Transforming Your Space.

### **Greenspace Strategy 2006 - 2011**

3.8.5 The Council was preparing a Greenspace Strategy (GSS)<sup>19</sup> to guide the management of open spaces in the borough and to inform preparation and implementation of an Urban Open Space SPD. An Audit of existing open space with analysis of quality, value, distribution and proximity to people was completed in October 2005.

The key issues identified were:

- The Borough has broadly the right amount of open space, though distribution is variable.
- The quality and value of open spaces is broadly comparable to similar authorities for which information is available, though there is considerable variation within the Borough.
- Some parts of the Borough were relatively well provided for, but some areas had poor or no proximity to unrestricted open spaces.
- In all parts of the Borough improvements were needed in terms of quality and/or value of open spaces.

<sup>19</sup> The GSS was approved in October 2006.

- Provision for children and young people was considered to be well below the standard required.

### **Urban Open Space SPD**

3.8.6 A Supplementary Planning Document for Urban Open Space was prepared following the Audit for the Greenspace Strategy<sup>20</sup>. The purpose of the SPD is to explain how the Council will implement UDP policy LC1, which requires house builders to ensure adequate open space provision; specifically to set out the amount of money they will be asked to contribute towards off-site provision or improvements. As the SPD was not adopted by the end of March 2006, so no new or improved provision has yet been obtained as a result of the SPD. An officer in Planning Services has been appointed to monitor all Section 106 Agreements and this will be a useful source of information for future AMRs.

3.8.7 In addition to the UDP monitoring indicators, there is a Core Output Indicator relating to the number of eligible open spaces within the borough that are managed to “Green Flag” standard. The Green Flag scheme, run by the Civic Trust, relates to standards for the management of public open spaces. Unfortunately, as the planning system has little or no influence on the management of existing open spaces, we do not regard this as a very good measure of the performance of LDF policies.

3.8.8 Currently, there are no spaces in the Borough with Green Flag status. One purpose of the GSS is to establish a programme of work towards achieving Green Flag awards between 2007 and 2011.

### **Greenways**

3.8.9 UDP proposal LC5 states that the Greenway network will continue to be created, enhanced and safeguarded. The length of greenways constructed is a local output indicator. The total length of greenways completed up to the end of March 2006 had reached 48 km, considerably in excess of the UDP target.

### **Sports Facilities**

3.8.10 UDP Policy LC6 aims to prevent the loss of sports pitches to inappropriate development, and there is a monitoring indicator attached to this. During 2005/06, no developments have occurred or planning permissions been granted that would lead to the loss of any sports pitch.

### **Other Community Facilities**

3.8.11 In summer 2005, work began on SPDs for Healthcare and Education. These SPDs expand on UDP policies 8.9 and 8.8 respectively. Their primary aim is to explain the cost of providing for primary healthcare (General Practice) and primary and secondary education to meet the needs of occupiers of new homes. The Healthcare SPD is programmed for adoption in January 2007 and the Education SPD in March 2007.

3.8.12 No contributions have yet been obtained for Healthcare, but, based on the UDP policy and Education Walsall’s formulae; the Council has entered

---

<sup>20</sup> The SPD was adopted in April 2006.

into a number of Section 106 Agreements with house builders. During 2005-06 contributions to the value of £2.23 million were received.

## **Canals**

3.8.13 There are about 46 kilometres of canals in the borough. All have “remainder” status, but it is hoped that future developments will encourage upgrading to “cruiseway” status, for example, the restoration of the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals, which is proceeding slowly.

3.8.14 During 2005-06 a new boaters’ facility, including secure moorings, was opened at Brownhills and further progress was made towards the Walsall Waterfront canal-side development, including work towards preparation of an SPD to guide the development. The SPD has been delayed by the necessity of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and is now programmed for adoption in November 2006.<sup>21</sup>


## **3.9 Minerals**

3.9.1 The UDP minerals policies (in Chapter 9 of the plan) seek to safeguard areas of mineral extraction, whilst ensuring minimal environmental impact and the reclamation and restoration of minerals working sites. The plan includes policies relating to the extraction of sand and brick clay, the only minerals actively worked at present, and also sets out specific criteria for the working of open cast or deep coal mines. The UDP does not include any local output indicators relating to minerals, so the effectiveness of these policies is being monitored through the Core Output Indicators (see Table 3.24 below).

---

<sup>21</sup> The Walsall Waterfront SPD was adopted in November 2006.

**Table 3.24 – Implementation of LDF Minerals Policy**

<b>LDF Policy</b>	<b>Monitoring Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Performance 2005/06</b>
UDP Minerals Strategic Policy Statement, UDP Policies M1, M2	LDF Core Output Indicator (5a):  Production of primary land won aggregates.	RSS Target:.*  7 year landbank of permitted sand and gravel reserves (0.5 million tonnes of sand and gravel per annum)  *Target for WM Met. area	  Monitoring suggests that Walsall's landbank is below that required to enable it to meet its share of the sub-regional apportionment.
UDP Minerals Strategic Policy Statement	LDF Core Output Indicator (5b):  Production of secondary/ recycled aggregates.	Symonds suggested "target":.*  3.88 million tonnes per annum  * Target for WM region	?  There is insufficient information to determine the extent to which Walsall is producing secondary/ recycled aggregates.

### **Baseline Information – Current Mineral Workings in Walsall and Permitted Mineral Reserves**

3.9.2 At 31 March 2006, Walsall had five active quarries extracting brick clay (Etruria marl) and sand. The borough also contains coal reserves and possibly also fire clay reserves, although there are no extant permissions for the extraction of these materials and they are not currently exploited, other than on an occasional basis where redevelopment occurs within areas where these minerals are present. Current UDP policy allows for the prior extraction of minerals in advance of the implementation of approved development schemes, and for the recovery of other types of minerals as part of current mineral extraction operations, subject to appropriate environmental safeguards.

3.9.3 The summary of mineral workings reproduced in the 2005 Annual Monitoring Report was not entirely accurate. The following table lists the active mineral workings in Walsall at March 2006, and reflects the Council's return in relation to the 2006 Annual Minerals Raised Inquiry (AMRI) Survey.

**Table 3.25: Active Quarries in Walsall; March 2006**

<b>Product</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Operator</b>
Brick Clay (Etruria Marl)	Highfields South Quarry, Off Lichfield Road, Shelfield	Cory Environmental
Brick Clay (Etruria Marl)	Sandown/ Barnett & Beddows Quarries, Stubbers Green Road, Aldridge	Wienerberger
Brick Clay (Etruria Marl)	Atlas Works, Stubbers Green Road, Aldridge	Ibstock
Aggregate (Sand)	Branton Hill Lane Quarry, Branton Hill Lane, Aldridge	Bliss Sand & Gravel
Aggregate (Sand)	Aldridge Quarry, Birch Lane, Aldridge	Cemex UK

3.9.4 Although the level of permitted aggregate (sand) reserves at December 2005 is known, this information was provided to the Council by the quarry operators for a national survey on the understanding that it would be kept confidential, and cannot be disclosed without their permission. Current levels of permitted brick clay reserves are not currently known, but are likely to be considerable in the case of Sandown/ Barnett & Beddows and Ibstock, as both sites are likely to continue working for at least 15 – 20 years.

### **Production of Primary Aggregates**

3.9.5 There is a continuing demand for aggregates for construction projects throughout the region. The current guidance on making provision for aggregates is set out in the National Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England 2001 – 2016, published in 2003. The regional apportionments set out in these guidelines have been disaggregated to a sub-regional level in the RSS.

3.9.6 The aggregates apportionments set out in Policy M2 of the RSS relate to the West Midlands Metropolitan area as a whole (i.e. the area covered by the seven Metropolitan authorities of Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton) and not to individual mineral planning authorities. The policy requires the Metropolitan area to maintain a landbank of permitted sand and gravel reserves equivalent to 7 years' worth of production. This equates to around 0.5 million tonnes of sand and gravel per annum.

3.9.7 The most recent national survey of primary aggregate reserves<sup>22</sup> was compiled from reports produced by the Regional Aggregates Working Parties (RAWP). This shows that nationally, permitted reserves of sand and gravel have fallen from 897 million tonnes in 1993 to 648 million tonnes in 2004. The

<sup>22</sup> Primary Aggregate Reserves in England, 1990 – 2004, British Geological Survey (2006)

decline is considered to be caused by the lack of new planning permissions between 1997 and 2002, and the consequent depletion of reserves through sales. There has been a corresponding decline in the level of permitted sand and gravel reserves within the West Midlands region over the same period but not as sharp: in 1993, there were estimated to be around 202 million tonnes of permitted reserves, compared to around 181 million tonnes in 2004. Although new permissions have been granted, the tonnages granted in any given year are generally lower than the sales tonnages. Sales have averaged 14.4 million tonnes a year in the last five years for which data is available (2000 – 2004).

3.9.8 The main source of data on aggregates production and consumption within the West Midlands Metropolitan area is the West Midlands RAWP Annual Reports. The latest report (2004) shows that the production of sands and gravels in the West Midlands Metropolitan area has been roughly in line with the requirement of around 0.5 million tonnes a year, and that sales are roughly in line with this. However, at 31 December 2004, there was only a 4.94 year landbank of permitted sand and gravel reserves within the Metropolitan area, which was 2 years short of the required 7 year landbank.

3.9.10 There are currently two sites in Walsall where sand is produced. Although the Council has reasonably up-to-date information about rates of production and permitted reserves through the 2005 Aggregate Minerals (AM2005) survey, this cannot be published without the permission of the operators for reasons of commercial confidentiality. Apart from Walsall, the only authority in the West Midlands Metropolitan area that has active sand and gravel workings is Solihull. The Solihull UDP, adopted in 2006, indicates that Solihull currently provides around 91% of the sand and gravel for the Metropolitan area in 2001. Provision has been made in the Solihull UDP for 4.6 million tonnes, out of the total requirement of 5.06 million tonnes, between 2001 and 2011. This leaves a shortfall of around 0.5 million tonnes of sand and gravel to be provided from primary sources in Walsall.

3.9.11 The data obtained from the AM2005 survey suggests that permitted sand reserves in Walsall are currently below the level needed to meet the borough's share of the Metropolitan area sand and gravel apportionment between now and 2011. However, the Walsall UDP identifies two Minerals Safeguarding Areas around the borough's sand quarries (UDP Policy M1 I. and II.), where further mineral working is supported in principle. In theory, there should be sufficient reserves within these areas to meet the existing requirements, but there are no current applications to extend existing quarries.

3.9.12 Monitoring shows that there are outstanding issues with regard to primary aggregate provision in Walsall, and that there is a need to review the UDP minerals policies before too much longer. The preparation of the Core Strategy will provide an opportunity to consider the extent to which Walsall can/ should continue to provide for primary aggregates and other mineral resources in the longer-term. At some point, the Council will also need to prepare a Minerals DPD, possibly jointly with the other Black Country authorities. However, at present the Council does not have the capacity to prepare such a plan.



## **Production of Secondary and Recycled Aggregates**

3.9.13 National policy guidance supports increased use of alternatives to primary aggregates. MPS1, published in November 2006, seeks to encourage the greatest possible use of alternatives to primary aggregates, in line with current targets. Secondary and recycled aggregates are expected to make a significant contribution towards mineral supplies within the West Midlands region. The current RSS assumes that 88 million tonnes out of the 359 million tonnes of aggregates that West Midlands region is expected to produce between 2001 and 2016 will be from alternative sources to primary aggregates, including secondary or recycled sources. A study by Symonds on behalf of the DTI and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) suggests that the region's recycled and secondary aggregate "target" or "allocation" 2001 – 2016 should be around 62 million tonnes, which equates to 3.88 million tonnes per annum.<sup>23</sup>

3.9.14 Unfortunately, the data currently available does not allow the production of secondary and recycled aggregates to be monitored at local authority level. The main source of published information on the recycling of aggregates is the "Survey of Arisings and Use of Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste as Aggregate in England 2003," by Capita Symons Ltd with WRc plc. This includes estimates of production down to regional level, and suggests that in 2003, the West Midlands region was producing around 4.29 tonnes of recycled aggregates from construction and demolition waste, plus around 0.65 million tonnes of recycled soil.

3.9.15 The second Symonds study<sup>24</sup> included a review of the number of mobile crushers operating within each region, and concluded that there were not as many as was originally thought. This study estimates that in 2001, there were around 68 mobile crushers in the West Midlands region, producing around 3.71 million tonnes of recycled aggregate per annum. Mobile crushers play a central role in the recycling of aggregates. The term "mobile" can be misleading – whilst some of them are highly mobile and move around a lot, others are located at fixed recycling sites and tend to stay put.

3.9.16 Mobile crushers are generally considered to be "Part B" processes and are licensed by local authorities rather than the Environment Agency. Walsall Council has issued four permits for mobile crushers, three to G & GB Morris and one to AB Skip Hire. The AB Skip Hire crusher is located at Cemetery Road, Darlaston, whilst two of the G & GB Morris crushers are in Sheffield and the third is in Birmingham. Midland Quarry Products also operate at the DSM site which is located on Bescot Road, immediately adjacent the M6. DSM currently only have one crusher on this site when required, approximately one week in six.

3.9.17 The most recent RAWP annual report (2004) does not provide any estimates of secondary or recycled aggregates production at regional or sub-regional level, but does provide a list of active operators, although it is

---

<sup>23</sup> The Impacts of Planning Controls on Recycled and Secondary Aggregates: Symonds Group Report (November 2004).

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

acknowledged that the list of operators may not complete. This indicates that in December 2004, there were two operators in Walsall involved in the production of secondary or recycled aggregates, DSM Demolition and Midland Quarry Products, both based in Bescot. However, as is stated above, this is in fact a single operation run by Midland Quarry Products, and there is also a second licensed operator, AB Skip Hire, based in Darlaston. Recent changes to the on-line Supplier Directory on the AggRegain website ([www.aggregain.org.uk](http://www.aggregain.org.uk)), an information service provided by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), have made it impossible to check the number of local suppliers of recycled aggregates from this source.

### **Production of Brick Clay**

3.9.18 The current guidance on Annual Monitoring Reports suggests that at the present time, mineral planning authorities are only expected to monitor the production and supply of aggregates. However, Minerals Planning Statement 1 (MPS1): Planning and Minerals, issued in November 2006, advises that adequate provision should also be made for brick clay, which suggests that in the future the supply of brick clay will also need to be monitored.

3.9.19 The extraction of clay at Highfields South is likely to cease within 3 to 4 years, as approval has now been given for the restoration of earlier phases by landfill, which include relinquishing part of the remaining reserves. However, the Sandown/ Barnett & Beddows and Ibstock (Atlas) Quarries have extant permissions that allow the extraction of Etruria Marl up to 2042 and 2049 respectively. Both of these sites are currently subject to 15-year working programmes and 5-yearly working plans, tied to revised conditions recently approved under the Environment Act 1995.

3.9.20 Based on information provided with previous minerals planning applications, it is estimated that the Sandown/ Barnett and Beddows Quarry has sufficient reserves to sustain extraction at current rates for at least 15 years, and the Ibstock (Atlas) Quarry is estimated to have around 20 - 25 years' worth of reserves.

## **3.10 Waste**

3.10.1 The waste management policies in Chapter 10 of Walsall's UDP (Policies WM1 – WM4) seek to work towards national, regional and local targets for waste minimisation, the reuse of materials, recycling and composting, and propose that measures should be taken to ensure the environmental impacts of waste management facilities are minimal. These policies were prepared in the context of:

- PPG10 on Planning and Waste Management, and the Government's "Waste Strategy 2000," which introduced the concepts of the "waste hierarchy," "proximity principle" and Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO), and sought to curb growth in waste production and sets targets for the recycling of municipal waste and the reduction of waste going to landfill<sup>25</sup>;



---

<sup>25</sup> National policy reflects EU policy, which has also sought a more sustainable approach to dealing with waste, notably through the Landfill Directive (Council Directive 1999/31/EC on the Landfill of Waste) agreed in 1999 and which sets ambitious targets for the reduction of


- RPG11 (April 1998), which explained the principle of the “waste hierarchy” (giving preference to waste reduction, re-use and recovery before safe disposal) and the “proximity principle,” under which waste should be handled close to the point where it is generated; and
- Walsall Council's own Integrated Waste Management Strategy, which aimed to provide “a high quality waste management service to all sections of the community which is both effective and progressively more sustainable in environmental terms.”

The effectiveness of the current policies is being monitored through the Core and local output indicators identified in Table 3.26 below.

**Table 3.26 – Implementation of LDF Waste Management Policy**

<b>LDF Policy</b>	<b>Monitoring Indicators</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Performance 2005/06</b>
UDP Policies WM1 – WM3	LDF Core Output Indicator (6a):  Capacity of new waste management facilities by type.	RSS Targets*:  Municipal Waste Recycling / Composting – additional facilities with annual throughput capacity of 781,000 tonnes required by 2021  Municipal Waste Recovery – additional facilities with annual throughput capacity of 382,000 tonnes required by 2021  *Targets for WM Met. area	  There appears to be an increase in the number of applications for new waste management infrastructure are coming forward and most are being approved, but they are still mainly metal recycling facilities and waste transfer stations.
UDP Policies WM1 – WM2	LDF Core Output Indicator (6b):  Amount of municipal waste arising, and managed by management type, and the percentage each management type represents of the waste managed.	National Targets:  Municipal Waste Recovery Targets = 40% by 2005, 45% by 2010  Household Waste Recycling/ Composting Targets =	  Walsall's recycling and composting performance has improved significantly and is now almost in line with the national

biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) that is disposed of to landfill. Other EU Directives impacting waste management include the Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste, the Waste Incineration Directive, End of Life Vehicles Directive, EU Animal By-products Regulation.

		<p>25% by 2005, 30% by 2010</p> <p>Landfill Reduction Target =</p> <p>To reduce proportion of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill to 75% of 1995 rate by 2010</p>	<p>target, but the municipal waste recovery rate has fallen since 2004/05, and there is still a heavy reliance on landfill.</p>
<p>UDP Policies WM1 – WM3</p>	<p>Local Output Indicator – Waste Management:</p> <p>Progress with initiatives for more sustainable waste management, and against national, regional and local waste management targets.</p>	<p>Local Targets:</p> <p>BVPI 2005/06 (Household Waste):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 13% to be recycled</li> <li>- 12% to be composted/ sent for anaerobic digestion</li> <li>- 6% to be recovered for heat/ energy</li> <li>- 69% to be sent to landfill</li> </ul> <p>Statutory Household Waste Recycling/ Composting Target for Walsall 2005/06 = 24%</p> <p>LATS Allocation for Walsall (amount of BMW sent to landfill) 2005/06 = 84,406 tonnes</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>The Council has met its statutory performance standard for recycling and composting of household waste and its LATS allocation for 2005/06. However, it has not quite managed to meet all of its BVPI targets for 2005/06.</p>

3.10.2 However, it must be acknowledged that since the UDP waste management policies were prepared, the policy context has changed. For example, the Council's Waste Management Strategy has recently been revised. National policy guidance towards waste has also changed, and is expected to change further.

3.10.3 In April 2005, PPG10 was replaced by Planning Policy Statement 10 (PPS10): Planning for Sustainable Waste Management, and the national

waste strategy was amended to remove the requirement for BPEO. The main objectives of PPS10 include moving towards more sustainable methods of waste management, providing a framework for communities to take more responsibility for their own waste, helping to meet the targets in the national waste strategy, and securing the recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health or the environment. The requirement to demonstrate BPEO has been removed, given that waste management policies and proposals are now subject to sustainability appraisal. PPS10 has also qualified the “proximity principle,” setting out criteria for assessing the suitability of sites and areas proposed for waste management.

3.10.4 The national waste strategy is currently under review, and a revised strategy is expected to be published in 2007. The consultation paper published in February 2006 places greater emphasis on waste reduction and minimisation, and treating waste as a resource wherever possible, breaking the link between economic growth and environmental impact of waste. It introduces a “supply cycle” model for the management of waste, whereby waste is re-used, recycled or reprocessed into a raw material, with only residual waste that cannot be managed in any other way being removed from the cycle and disposed of to landfill. It also proposes revised targets for municipal waste recovery and household waste recycling and composting up to 2020, and new targets for the diversion of commercial and industrial waste from landfill.

3.10.5 The Council is already committed to preparing a Waste Management DPD, in order to address the concerns expressed by the UDP Inquiry Inspector, and this will allow a comprehensive review of the UDP waste management policies in the context of the latest national, regional and local guidance. The DPD has been included in the Walsall LDS, although work is not due to commence until 2008. In the meantime, the preparation of the joint Core Strategy will allow the Black Country authorities – including Walsall - to review their strategic waste planning policies and to consider the long-term requirements for waste management within the area.

3.10.6 In the 2005 Annual Monitoring Report it was acknowledged that a more pro-active, plan-led approach towards waste is needed, in accordance with the guidance in PPS10. To take this forward, the Council has now appointed a new member of staff with responsibility for developing future waste planning policy, among other things. This means that Walsall now has a similar level of resources to devote to waste planning as the other Black Country authorities.

### **Planning for New Waste Management Infrastructure**

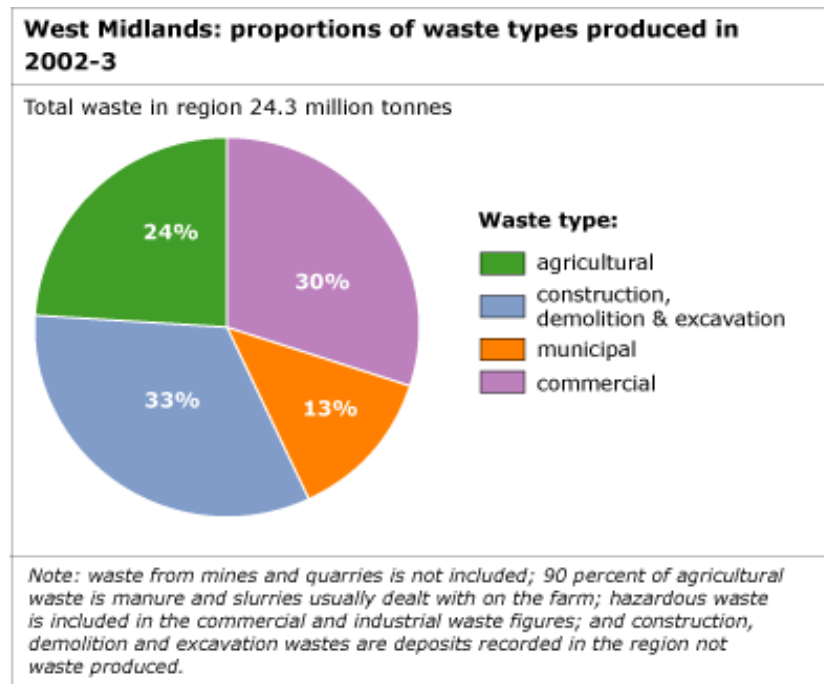
3.10.7 Waste planning authorities are expected to plan for all waste streams, even though they have little direct influence over the management of commercial and industrial (C & I) waste, construction and demolition (C & D) waste, or hazardous (special) waste. The UDP waste management policies therefore apply to all waste streams. However, at the moment, the regional requirements for waste management in the RSS relate to municipal and C & I waste only. Performance against these requirements is assessed below.

### **Waste Arisings**

3.10.8 The latest information on waste arisings and capacity is that published by the Environment Agency for the year 2002/03. This information derives from an assessment of waste management arisings and input/ throughput at licensed sites undertaken by the Environment Agency.

3.10.9 The pie chart overleaf shows the relative proportions of waste types produced in the West Midlands region in 2002/03. This shows that around 24.3 million tonnes of waste was produced in total within the region, of which around 13% was municipal waste, 30% C & I waste, 33% C & D waste and 24% agricultural waste. This is broadly in line with the proportions of different types of waste produced nationally (i.e. in England).<sup>26</sup>

**Figure 3.14: Waste Arisings in the West Midlands Region, 2002/03**



Source: Environment Agency Site Waste Management Information, 2002/03

3.10.10 For Walsall, we have detailed information on the amount of municipal waste produced because this is managed by the Council, and the tonnages of waste are regularly monitored. The amount of municipal waste produced varies from year to year, but during the last few years arisings have been just over 150,000 tonnes per annum.

3.10.11 However, the regional data shows that municipal waste accounts for only a small proportion of the total amount of waste produced. Unfortunately, for other waste streams, up-to-date, reliable data is not available. The “Future Capacity Requirements” Study (2004) by Shropshire

<sup>26</sup> Although the proportion of municipal waste arising in the West Midlands in 2002/03 was the same as the national average (13%), the proportion of C & I waste and agricultural waste was slightly higher than the national average (29% and 20% respectively) and the proportion of C & D waste was slightly lower than the national average (39%).

County Council<sup>27</sup> includes the following estimates of commercial and industrial (C & I) and construction and demolition (C & D) waste arisings in Walsall between 2001 and 2021:

- Commercial and industrial (C & I) waste - 7,157,000 tonnes
- Construction and demolition (C & D) waste – 859,300 tonnes

3.10.12 The C & I waste figure derives from 1998/99 data,<sup>28</sup> the latest year for which reliable information was available, and includes assumptions that waste will reduce by 0.5% up to 2005, by 1% between 2005 – 2010. The C & D figure derives from the regional estimates in a study by Symonds Group into the generation of construction and demolition waste, but also includes assumptions about the rate of future development in the area, as envisaged in the RSS.<sup>29</sup>

3.10.13 We have more reliable data for hazardous waste, as this is closely monitored by the Environment Agency. The latest information is from 2003, and this shows that in that year, about 54,000 tonnes of hazardous waste were produced in Walsall. However, a wider range of waste is now classified as hazardous as a result of the Hazardous Waste Regulations and other legislation that has come into effect more recently. This may affect the future rates of hazardous waste arisings, although it is too early to say whether or not this will result in a significant increase in hazardous waste arisings in Walsall.

#### Current Regional Waste Management Requirements

3.10.14 Policy WD1 of the RSS (2004) identifies the region's waste management needs up to 2021, and advises that development plans should include proposals to enable them to be met. Policy WD1 and Tables 4 and 5 of the RSS set out the waste management for the West Midlands Metropolitan area, which includes Walsall. These are as follows:

- Municipal Waste Recycling and Composting – additional facilities required by 2021 with annual throughput capacity of 781,000 tonnes;
- Municipal Waste Recovery (i.e. energy from waste or material recovery) – additional facilities required by 2021 with annual throughput capacity of 382,000 tonnes;

In addition, a regional requirement is identified for further landfill capacity of around 40 million tonnes, for the disposal of municipal waste.

3.10.15 Unfortunately, these targets relate to sub-regions rather than to individual waste planning authority areas, so there is no specific requirement for Walsall. The current RSS policy is also acknowledged as being out-of-date

---

<sup>27</sup> This is one of a series of reports commissioned by the West Midlands Regional Technical Advisory Body for Waste (RTAB) to develop the evidence base for the RSS Phase 2 Revisions.

<sup>28</sup> Environment Agency's 1998/99 Site Waste Management Assessment (SWMA).

<sup>29</sup> Survey of Arisings and Use of Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste in England in 2003 (2004).

and in need of review and this is being undertaken as part of the Phase 2 Revisions. We have therefore considered the current and future requirements for waste management in Walsall in the light of the more recent technical research that has been undertaken to inform the RSS review.

### **Existing Waste Management Capacity and Future Requirements**

3.10.16 The Future Capacity Requirements Study (2004) estimated that in 2001, Walsall's municipal waste and construction and demolition (C & D) recycling/ recovery capacity was virtually non-existent, but that there was capacity to recycle or recover around 263,000 tonnes of commercial and industrial (C & I) waste and around 123,000 tonnes of hazardous waste per annum.

3.10.17 The Future Capacity Requirements Study estimates that Walsall's current waste management capacity requirements (2005) are as follows:

- Municipal recycling – 44,000 tonnes
- Municipal recovery – 28,000 tonnes
- C & I recycling and recovery – 264,000 tonnes
- C & D recycling – 184,000 tonnes
- C & D engineering uses – 427,000 tonnes
- Hazardous recycling and recovery – 146,000 tonnes
- Non-hazardous disposal – 1,305 tonnes
- Hazardous disposal – 54,000 tonnes

3.10.18 The Environment Agency's input/ throughput data (i.e. the tonnages managed at licensed sites) is often used to estimate the capacity of commercially operated waste management facilities in the absence of more accurate information. However, this data is unlikely to provide a completely accurate picture for the following reasons:

- The planning system cannot take account of operational or commercial factors that may influence the extent to which a particular facility is being used, and whether or not it is running at its maximum capacity;
- The actual capacity of a facility may be greater than the recorded input/ throughput in any given year – for example, several sites in Walsall submitted “nil returns” in 2002/03;
- Many waste management facilities do not require a licence from the Environment Agency - the capacity of these exempt sites is not known, and therefore cannot be taken into account;
- There are discrepancies in the site waste licence data due to the way that it is recorded and categorised by the Environment Agency, for example, on one site in Walsall in 2002/03, a significant amount of municipal waste appears to have been recorded as C & I waste.



3.10.19 The Future Capacity Requirements Study (2004) used 2000/01 throughput data to estimate existing capacity. However, data for 2002/03 is now available, and a detailed analysis of this and other available data was carried out for Walsall and the other Black Country authorities in April 2006, as part of the authorities' input into the RSS Phase 2 Revisions. This showed that:

- Municipal waste management facilities in Walsall are limited to two Civic Amenity sites and one waste transfer site, and the Council currently has no recycling, composting or recovery facilities of its own;
- Walsall has a range of C & I waste management facilities – the throughput of waste in 2002/03 was nearly 350,000 tonnes per annum – but much of the capacity relates to metal recycling facilities and waste transfer stations;<sup>30</sup>
- Walsall has only limited C & D waste management facilities, and there do not appear to be any static facilities involved in the recycling of building materials;<sup>31</sup>
- Walsall has a number of specialist hazardous waste treatment facilities - the throughput of these in 2002/03 was around 80,000 tonnes per annum;<sup>32</sup>
- Walsall has existing landfill capacity, but no capacity to dispose of hazardous waste, and its main landfill site (Vigo/ Utopia) is due to close in 2007/08.<sup>33</sup>

3.10.20 The above information suggests that there are some significant gaps in the current provision of waste management facilities in Walsall, and that there is a need to plan for the development of additional infrastructure for the management of municipal waste in Walsall, particularly recycling, composting and recovery facilities. There is also a need to plan for the provision of a wider range of C & I waste management facilities and for more C & D waste management facilities.

---

<sup>30</sup> Although this is significantly higher than was suggested in the 2004 Future Capacity Requirements Study, it includes waste transfer stations, which were excluded from the estimate in the Future Capacity Requirements Study.

<sup>31</sup> See above, Minerals – Production of Recycled and Secondary Aggregates for further information about the recycling of construction and demolition materials in Walsall.

<sup>32</sup> This data derives from the Environment Agency Site Waste Management Information 2002/03. However, the Agency's "Hazardous Waste Interrogator" data suggests that this is a slight under-estimate. According to the Interrogator, in 2002/03 about 54,000 tonnes of hazardous waste were produced in Walsall, but during the same year, around 85,650 tonnes of hazardous waste were deposited at sites in Walsall for management or disposal.

<sup>33</sup> A current application for landfill at Highfields South Quarry (with an estimated capacity of 2 million cubic metres) could provide a replacement for Vigo/ Utopia if it is approved and implemented.

### **New Waste Management Proposals**

3.10.21 Capacity of new waste management facilities is a Core Output Indicator for RSS as well as LDF monitoring. The Government's Annual Monitoring Report guidance states that "new" facilities are those which have planning permission and are operable. However, it is not always possible to identify when facilities become operable, because the Council currently does not have the resources to monitor the implementation of all planning permissions. However, information can be provided on planning applications and decisions on new waste management facilities.

3.10.22 It should be noted that not all waste management facilities require planning permission. Any waste management or treatment operation falling within Use Class B2 can occupy an existing industrial unit that has a lawful B2 use, without the need for planning permission. The distinction between certain types of waste management operations and industrial processes is becoming increasingly blurred, which brings into question the extent to which waste management can continue to be separated from other types of economic activity. We are already coming across cases where operators consider certain types of waste management (e.g. materials recycling) to fall within Class B2. The nature of waste transfer stations is also changing and they now tend to recover a higher proportion of the waste that they handle, rather than sending it all for disposal to landfill. Such trends are likely to make it more difficult for local planning authorities to monitor the development of new waste management facilities in the future.

3.10.23 One method of checking the capacity of waste management facilities that are not subject to planning control would be to obtain information about new facilities that are licensed by the Environment Agency. However, at present, there is no straightforward mechanism for local planning authorities to find out the capacity of new waste management licences granted in their area in any given year. In any case, not all facilities require a licence. The capacity of exempt facilities is not known, but could be very considerable, since this includes activities such as paper recycling and the re-use/ recycling of furniture and clothing by charities. For the above reasons, the capacity of new waste management facilities coming forward through planning permissions is not necessarily a reliable indicator of the total capacity of waste management facilities coming forward, and should be regarded as a minimum.

3.20.24 For this year's Annual Monitoring Report, we have obtained retrospective data for applications submitted/ determined since 2002/03, and we can now begin to build up a picture of trends in terms of the number of applications coming through the system. Unfortunately, when checking the data for 2004/05 it was discovered that the information included in last year's Annual Monitoring Report was incomplete: the schedule reproduced in that report included one application submitted prior to April 2004, and four applications that had been submitted between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2005 were not included. The figures for 2004/05 have now been corrected.

3.20.25 Tables 3.27 and 3.28 below show the number of planning applications received / determined each year for waste management facilities since 2002/03. This shows that the number of planning applications for waste

management facilities appears to be increasing, and that more applications are approved than are refused. Reasons for refusal vary, but the most common reasons are inadequate information provided with the application and proposals that are inappropriately located in relation to the surrounding uses. Four applications were approved in 2004/05 and five applications were approved during 2005/06.

**Table 3.27: Waste Management Planning Applications Received in Walsall, 2002/03 – 2005/06**

Year	Total Number of Applications Received	Status of Applications at 31 March				
		Invalid	Withdrawn	Approved	Refused	Not Determined
2002/03	6	0	0	2	2	2
2003/04	3	0	0	3	0	0
2004/05	10	0	0	3	3	4
2005/06	8	0	0	5	1	2

**Table 3.28: Waste Management Planning Applications Determined in Walsall, 2002/03 – 2005/06**

Year	Total Number of Applications Determined	Decision			
		Invalid	Withdrawn	Approved	Refused
2002/03	4	0	0	2	2
2003/04	5	1	0	3	1
2004/05	6	0	0	4	2
2005/06	6	0	0	5	1

3.20.26 The tables below list the planning applications approved during the last two years and the annual throughput capacity of the proposed facilities (where known). It will be noted that in two of the applications approved during 2005/06, the annual throughput capacity was not specified. One of these applications was in outline only, and was for the erection of industrial units. It is not clear whether these are intended to be for waste management purposes, but as the applicant was a major metal recycling company, they have been included.

**Table 3.29: Approved Waste Management Capacity in Walsall – 2004/05**

Application Reference	Location	Type of Facility	Annual Throughput Capacity (tonnes)	Date Approved
04/0197/FL/M1	AB Skip Hire Unit No. 3 Junction Works Cemetery Road Darlaston	Waste Transfer Station	230	05/05/04
04/0662/FL/W4	Unit 3	Metal	2,500	10/06/04

	Deeleys Ind. Est. Leamore Lane Bloxwich	Recycling Facility (ELV)		
04/1326/FL/M1	Unit 2 Maybrook Road Brownhills	Waste Transfer Station	10,000	11/10/04
04/2104/FL/M1	Unit 1 Sharesacre Street Willenhall	Waste Transfer Station	25,000	09/12/04
<b>TOTAL CAPACITY APPROVED 2004/05</b>			<b>37,730</b>	

**Table 3.30: Approved Waste Management Capacity in Walsall – 2005/06**

<b>Application Reference</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type of Facility</b>	<b>Annual Throughput Capacity (tonnes)</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>
05/0347/FL/M1	Intercoat Industrial Paints Bridgeman Street Walsall	Waste Transfer Station	5,000	17/05/05
05/1168/FL/W5	Alexander Bros. Springvale Street Willenhall	Metal Recycling Facility (ELV)	5,000	08/08/05
05/1300/FL/W7	Building 3 Bloxwich Bus. Pk. Fryers Road Leamore	Waste Transfer Station	12,000	06/10/05*
05/1690/CE/W3	Church Street Moxley	Metal Recycling Facility	Not specified	22/09/05
05/1596/OL/W3	Kendrick Road/ Heath Road Darlaston	Not known (outline only)	Not specified	19/10/05
<b>TOTAL CAPACITY APPROVED 2005/06</b>			<b>22,000</b>	

\* Will not be implemented due to problems with the building.

3.20.27 This suggests that waste management capacity is coming forward, but it is still mainly in the form of waste transfer stations. However, since April 2006 there has been increasing interest in new types of waste management operation, such as materials recovery facilities and composting facilities. Further details of these proposals will be included in the next AMR.

3.20.28 In assessing the capacity for waste management it is also important to take a sub-regional view as waste is often managed at sites or facilities outside, albeit close to, the local authority area in which it arises. This is often the case where there are only a limited number of facilities available for managing waste using particular technologies or methods, as in the case

of recovery of waste for energy and disposal to landfill. The extent to which waste can be managed within the area may also depend on the relative cost of managing waste locally and existing contractual arrangements, which cannot be changed overnight. For example, even though there are four active landfill sites in Walsall, only a proportion of Walsall's municipal waste residues are actually sent to landfill within Walsall, with the remainder being sent to other sites elsewhere within the Black Country and in south Staffordshire.

### **Future Monitoring: Implications of National Waste Strategy Review**

3.20.29 The national waste strategy is currently under review, and in February 2006, a consultation paper was published by Defra. This proposes to increase the national targets for the recovery of municipal waste, the recycling and composting of household waste, and for reducing the amount of C & I waste sent to landfill. It is expected that the revised national waste strategy will be published during 2007, and at that stage, the existing targets will need to be revised accordingly.

### **Future Monitoring: Implications of RSS Review Phase 2**

3.20.30 In line with PPS10, the forthcoming revisions to the RSS are expected to include waste management apportionments specific to Walsall, or to the Black Country, if it is agreed to prepare a joint Waste Management DPD. The revised RSS policies will set out the amounts of municipal and C & I waste that require management in Walsall, and they may also include requirements for managing C & D waste and hazardous waste. The waste apportionments will be expressed as annual tonnages requiring management within five-yearly periods up to the end of the period covered by the RSS.

3.20.31 The RSS review is still at a relatively early stage, with the Spatial Options not due to be published for consultation until January 2007, and the Examination programmed to take place in 2008. Once the new RSS requirements for Walsall/ the Black Country have become clearer, LDF monitoring will take account of them.

## **Municipal Waste Management**

3.20.32 Whilst the Council's planning / regeneration function does not have the lead role in managing the authority's waste management performance, it is responsible for planning for future waste management. As such, it has an important role in safeguarding existing waste management facilities and making provision for the development of new facilities where necessary and appropriate. As far as the Council is aware, no existing waste management facilities were lost to other development during 2005/06.

3.20.33 Whereas the Core Output Indicator relates to performance against national municipal waste targets, the local output indicator that is linked to the UDP waste management policies relates also to meeting local waste management targets. Current performance against these targets is summarised below.

### **Municipal Waste - National Targets**

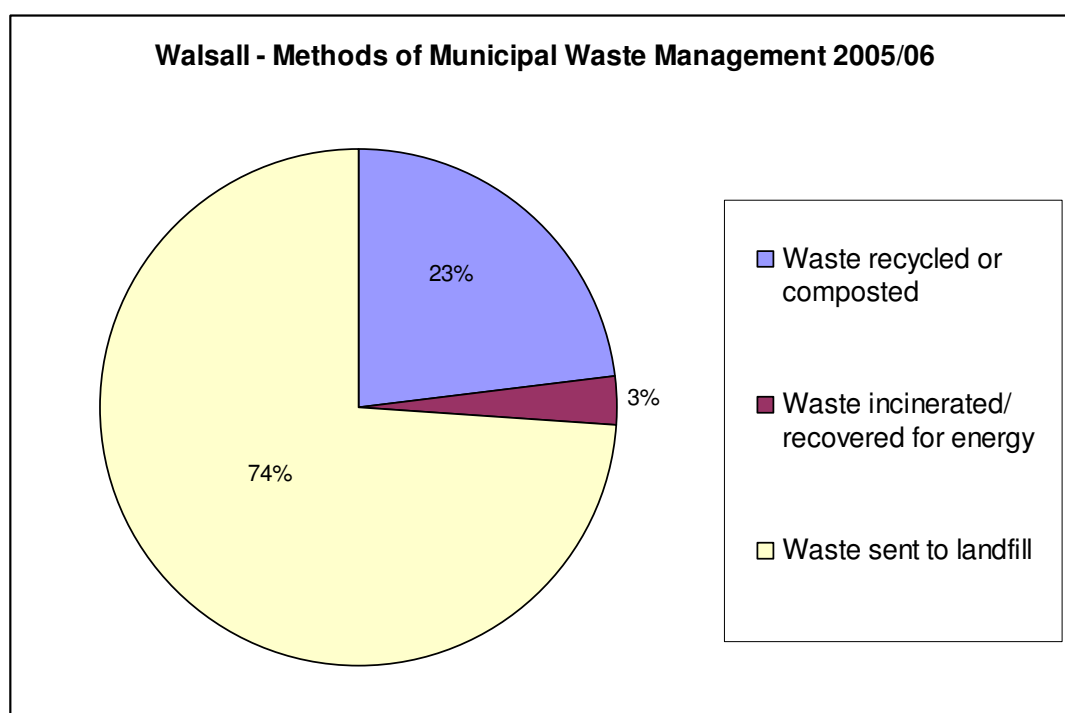
3.20.34 National targets for municipal and household waste<sup>34</sup> management are set out in the national waste strategy, "Waste Strategy 2000." These are as follows:

- To recover<sup>35</sup> value from 40% of municipal waste by 2005, from 45% of municipal waste by 2010, and from 67% of municipal waste by 2015;
- To recycle or compost at least 25% of household waste by 2005, 30% by 2010, and 33% by 2015;
- To reduce the proportion of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill to 75% of 1995 rate by 2010.

3.20.35 According to figures published by Defra,<sup>36</sup> in 2005/06, 150,349 tonnes of municipal waste was produced in Walsall. Of this:

- 34,470 tonnes (23%) was recycled or composted
- 4,457 tonnes (3%) was recovered for energy, and
- 111,423 tonnes (74%) was sent to landfill.

**Figure 3.15: Municipal Waste Management in Walsall, 2005/06**



<sup>34</sup> Municipal Waste is all of the waste that is collected by the Council in accordance with its duty as a waste disposal authority. It includes waste collected from households (household waste, which accounts for about 85% of all Municipal waste in Walsall), plus other waste collected from recycling bins and Civic Amenity sites and trade waste collected from businesses by arrangement.

<sup>35</sup> Recovery means obtaining value from waste by means of recycling, composting, material recovery (e.g. anaerobic digestion), or energy recovery through combustion.

<sup>36</sup> Defra Municipal Waste Statistics 2005/06 (<http://www.defra.gov.uk>).

3.20.36 The proportions of waste managed by different methods are perhaps better illustrated by the pie chart above. This shows that there is still considerable reliance on landfill as a method of managing municipal waste (although the proportion of municipal waste sent to landfill is reducing over time). However, to put this in perspective, in 2005/06, Walsall's municipal recycling and composting rate was the second highest of the seven authorities in the West Midlands Metropolitan area, and only Solihull did better (25%).

### **Municipal and Household Waste - Local Targets**

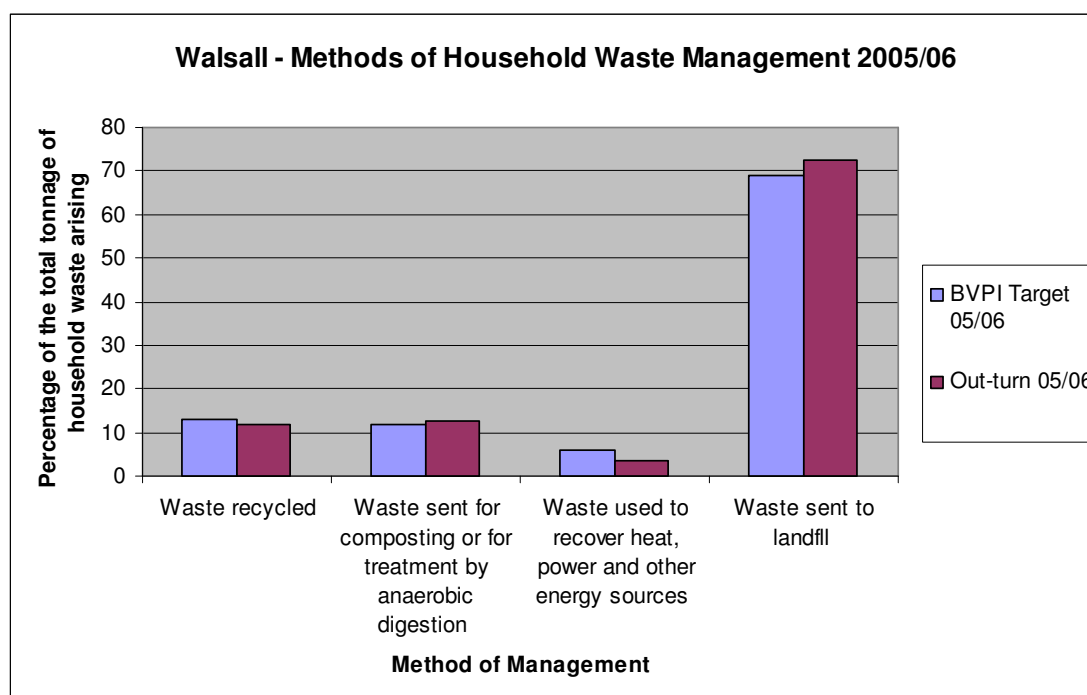
3.20.37 Walsall's current Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2004) includes targets relating to the management of municipal and household waste and the reduction of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill, in line with Walsall's agreed Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) targets, statutory performance standard for recycling and composting of municipal waste, and current Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) allocation.

### **Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI)**

3.20.38 A high proportion (about 85%) of the municipal waste managed by the Council is household waste, and the BVPI targets relate to this. According to the BVPI Performance Data for 2005/06, the Council managed a total of 128,365.68 tonnes of household waste in 2005/05, equivalent to around 508 kg per person. Of this:

- 15,058.14 tonnes (11.73%) were recycled, compared to the BVPI 82a target of 13%;
- 15,975.56 tonnes (12.45%) were sent for composting or for treatment by anaerobic digestion, compared to BVPI 82b target of 12%;
- 4,452.39 tonnes (3.47%) were used to recover heat, power and other energy sources, compared to BVPI 82c target of 6%;
- 92,879.59 tonnes (72.36%) were sent to landfill, compared to BVPI 82d target of 69%.

**Figure 3.16: Household Waste Management in Walsall, 2005/06**



Source: Walsall Performance Data 2005/06: Supplement to the Corporate Plan 2006/07

3.10.39 The table above illustrates this in graphical form. Although the Council met all of its BVPI targets in 2004/05 (see 2005 AMR), it did not quite manage to meet all of the more challenging targets set for recycling, recovery and landfill reduction in 2005/06. However, the Council has met its statutory targets, as is discussed below.

#### Statutory Performance Standard

3.10.40 To ensure that all local authorities contribute to achieving the national recycling and composting targets (see above), the Government has also set “statutory performance standards” for the recycling and composting of household waste for each local authority for 2005/06. Walsall’s current statutory performance standard is:

- To recycle or compost at least 24% of household waste by 2005/06

3.20.41 It is important to recognise that Walsall’s statutory performance target is higher than that for the adjoining Metropolitan authorities of Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton, who all have statutory performance targets of only 18%. The reason for this is that in the years before the targets were set, Walsall’s recycling and composting performance was slightly better than the other authorities. Despite having a more onerous target than the other authorities, the Council has succeeded in meeting it: the figures above show that in 2005/06, 24.1% of the household waste produced in Walsall was either recycled or composted.

#### Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) Allocation

3.10.42 In order to meet national targets for the reduction of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill (see above), the Government has also set specific targets for each waste disposal authority, under the



Landfill Trading Allowance Scheme (LATS). Each authority has an allowance or “allocation” each year, which limits the amount of biodegradable municipal waste that can be sent to landfill. The amount permitted reduces every year, in order to meet the statutory target set for 2010. The LATS allocations have been calculated from the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill in the baseline year (1995/96).

3.10.43 In the case of Walsall, the LATS allocation for 2005/06 (i.e. the amount that the Council is permitted to send to landfill) was 84,406 tonnes. The actual amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill during 2005/06 was 74,577 tonnes, which was below the amount permitted. The Council has therefore met its statutory requirement for landfill reduction in 2005/06.

## **4. Local Development Scheme Update**

### **4.1 Adoption of Local Development Documents, 2005/06**

4.1.1 Walsall's first Local Development Scheme (LDS) came into effect in March 2005. Since then it has been updated twice, and the current version was agreed with the Government Office for the West Midlands in December 2006.

4.1.2 At December 2006, the Walsall Local Development Framework (LDF) included the following documents:

- Walsall Unitary Development Plan 2005 (old style "saved" plan)
- Statement of Community Involvement
- Affordable Housing SPD
- Open Space SPD
- Walsall Waterfront SPD

4.1.3 However, the only local development document to be adopted during the monitoring year 2005/06 was the Affordable Housing SPD, which was adopted in July 2005. The following documents have been adopted since April 2006:

- Urban Open Space SPD – April 2006
- Statement of Community Involvement – June 2006
- Walsall Waterfront SPD – November 2006.

4.1.4 Section 3 of this report has only considered the extent to which the policies in the Affordable Housing SPD are being implemented, as it is too early to tell for the documents that have been adopted more recently. However, the need to monitor the implementation of these documents will be addressed in the next Annual Monitoring Report.

### **4.2 Other Local Development Documents – Summary of Progress**

4.2.1 Appendix A lists all of the local development documents that are currently in the LDS, identifies the key milestones for each document, and reports on the progress made towards achieving them.

4.2.1 Currently (December 2006) work is progressing on undertaking frontloading consultation with stakeholders on identifying issues and evidence for the Core Strategy DPD (the Joint Core Strategy for the Black Country). Informal consultation on identifying the design principles to inform the forthcoming Design Guide SPD completed in November 2006, whilst consultation on both the Draft Healthcare SPD and the Education SPD completed in September-October 2006 and December 2006 respectively. Informal consultation on identifying issues for the forthcoming Natural Environment SPD also commenced in December 2006.

## **5. Conclusions**

### **5.1 Issues Relating to Monitoring, 2005/06**

5.1.1 Walsall's first Annual Monitoring Report, published in 2005, did not include a full set of monitoring data, because the Council did not have the resources to collect information relating to all of the core and local output indicators. Although we have been able to collect information on more of the indicators for the year 2005/06, we still do not have a full set of data. The current position on what is and is not being monitored is summarised in Appendix D.

5.1.2 It will be seen from this that some of the indicators still cannot be monitored at present because reliable data is not available from any source, or if it is, it cannot be disclosed for reasons of commercial confidentiality. The Core Output Indicators on primary and secondary aggregates (5a & b) and renewable energy (9) are examples of this.

5.1.3 National indicators concerned with biodiversity (Core Output Indicator 8) are in theory relatively straightforward to monitor in quantitative terms, once the baseline is established. This has proved difficult with regard to priority species and habitats, although significant progress has been made. However, annual monitoring is unlikely to show much change. Yet more indicators (for Walsall's UDP, as well as core indicators 1 & 4) would benefit from the allocation of additional resources to improve the efficiency and accuracy of data collection.<sup>37</sup>

5.1.4 For the future, it is important to be realistic when identifying indicators for monitoring purposes, and to avoid identifying indicators for which data cannot be collected on a regular basis, or where the benefits of collecting the data are outweighed by the efforts and resources needed. Not all indicators relate to information held by local planning authorities, and in such cases, data needs to be provided by those who hold it (e.g. the Environment Agency in the case of waste site licence data). It should also be recognised that some indicators, mainly those concerned with the condition or stock of assets (such as sites with environmental designations, historic buildings or areas) will be monitored more practically by means of periodic surveys instead of on an annual basis.

5.1.5 Walsall Council will continue to seek to identify monitoring indicators that can be monitored through surveys rather than on an annual basis. It will also continue to explore how UDP / LDF monitoring can be integrated with the monitoring of other documents such as Walsall's Community Plan and the West Midlands Local Transport Plan. The council also recognises that it needs to consider how it can respond to try to meet the new monitoring requirements. Leisure development and accessibility (core indicators 3b and 4 & b) are particular examples of where further investment in monitoring and the skills and technology needed to interpret the data is needed.

5.1.6 Monitoring all of the aspects of a LDF and continuing to do this over time, to be able to establish relevant trends, has to be acknowledged to be a major and long-term commitment. The extent to which a commitment can be fulfilled will depend on the resources available. Where these are limited there will be a need

---

<sup>37</sup> It should also be recognised that local planning authorities hold all of their information in terms of gross external floorspace.

to ensure that an appropriate balance is maintained between the resources needed to collect data to inform planning policies, and the resources needed to prepare and apply the policies.

## **5.2 Monitoring 2005/06 – Implications for the LDF**

5.2.1 As this is only the second AMR under the reformed planning system, there may still be a tendency to see the results as a snapshot, rather than focusing on issues which are more apparent from longer-term analyses, such as the relatively limited interest in economic development in the Borough. However, on the basis of the monitoring results presented here the main planning policy issues would seem to be as follows:

- (i) The limited interest in office investment in the Borough and in Walsall town centre. This has been apparent for some time and Walsall Regeneration Company (WRC) and work at the Black Country and regional levels, to inform reviews of the RSS, are seeking to increase investment interest.
- (ii) The need to secure substantial investment in comparison retailing in Walsall town centre. Again, work by WRC and at the Black Country and regional levels, to inform reviews of the RSS, is seeking to address this issue.
- (iii) Whether or not the recent increase in housing development will be sustainable and what the consequences might be for employment land. The borough's housing trajectory will need to be kept under review in the light of work on the Black Country Study and to inform reviews of the RSS.
- (iv) The need to press ahead in implementing planning policy to secure the provision of affordable housing, to make up for time lost due to objections to the UDP review.
- (v) The need to review policies on energy, minerals and waste as soon as practicable, in the light of recent national policy developments. It is anticipated that this will be done in part through the joint Black Country Core Strategy, which has recently commenced.

5.2.2 The list is not exhaustive, issues may be identified in respect of all of the issues monitored, whilst it is apparent there are other issues (such as traffic congestion or a relative lack of cultural facilities) that are not the subject of monitoring. Also, none of the issues are new or surprising. Nevertheless, this AMR does draw out the scale of some of the issues and provides evidence to draw attention to them and to help provide the evidence basis for planning policies to respond.

## APPENDIX A

### Walsall Local Development Scheme (@ December 2006) Progress on Preparing Local Development Documents

TITLE	Public Participation	Submission to the Secretary of State	Pre-Examination Meeting	Commencement of Examination	Adoption	CURRENT POSITION
Designing a Better Walsall SPD	August-November 2006 (informal consultation)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Anticipated date: July 2007	The informal consultation on design principles to inform the SPD completed in November 2006. The SPD has taken longer to prepare than stated in the previous LDS. At least in part this has been because of the council's urban Design Officer leaving the authority and the decision to involve the University of Central England in its preparation.
Healthcare SPD	September-October 2006	N/A	N/A	N/A	Anticipated date: January 2007	Consultation on the draft SPD completed in October 2006. This SPD has taken longer to prepare than anticipated. At least in part this has been because of the time taken to work with partners.
Education SPD	December 2006	N/A	N/A	N/A	Anticipated date: March 2007	Consultation on the draft SPD completed in mid December 2006. This SPD has taken longer to prepare than anticipated. At least in part this has been because of the time taken to work with partners.

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Public Participation</b>	<b>Submission to the Secretary of State</b>	<b>Pre-Examination Meeting</b>	<b>Commencement of Examination</b>	<b>Adoption</b>	<b>CURRENT POSITION</b>
The Natural Environment SPD	December-2006-January 2007 (informal consultation)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Anticipated date: December 2007	Informal consultation on this SPD commenced in December 2006, following the commitment in the December 2006v LDS to produce one additional SPD to the UDP, to improve the implementation of policies and to secure resources. This will be an SPD on the Natural Environment to provide more detailed guidelines in respect of nature conservation and trees, following a commitment in the UDP to produce such guidance.
Core Strategy DPD (A Joint Core Strategy for the Black Country)	December 2006-March 2007 (frontloading consultation)	Anticipated date September 2008	Anticipated date February 2009	Anticipated date April 2009	Anticipated date: October 2009	Frontloading consultation on identifying issues and scoping out evidence commenced in December 2006. The timetable for producing this DPD changed as a result of the need to obtain formal Council approval from the 4 Black Country local authorities to produce a joint Core Strategy and the programming of 'lead in times' for Cabinet and Council approval at the different stages of its production.

## APPENDIX B – PRIORITY SPECIES

TABLE B1: PRIORITY SPECIES RECORDED IN BIRMINGHAM AND THE BLACK COUNTRY

(Those shown in bold lettering have been recorded in Walsall)

Species	Common name	No. of Walsall records and % of total.	Total no. B'ham & Black Country records	Date range	No. of 1km squares recorded in Walsall	Key sites
<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	Marsh Warbler	0	1	N/A	0	
<b><i>Alauda arvensis</i></b>	<b>Skylark</b>	<b>94 (40%)</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>1970-2002</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>Brownhills Common; Park Lime Pits Area; Pelsall North Common area; Rough Wood Wedge</b>
<b><i>Alcedo atthis</i></b>	<b>Kingfisher</b>	<b>16 (14.2%)</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>1984-2002</b>	<b>9</b>	
<i>Amara famelica</i>	a ground beetle	0	1	N/A	0	
<b><i>Anguis fragilis</i></b>	<b>Slow-worm</b>	<b>1 (3.2%)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b><i>Arvicola terrestris</i></b>	<b>Water Vole</b>	<b>113 (18.6%)</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>1975-2003</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>Wyrley and Essington Canal Complex</b>
<i>Bombus ruderratus</i>	Large Garden Bumble Bee	0	1	N/A	0	
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Bittern	0	3	N/A	0	
<b><i>Bufo bufo</i></b>	<b>Common Toad</b>	<b>34 (12.2%)</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>1974-2005</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Rough Wood Wedge; Park Lime Pits Area; Wyrley and Essington Canal Complex</b>
<b><i>Calophrys rubi</i></b>	<b>Green Hairstreak</b>	<b>2 (2.9%)</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b><i>Carduelis cannabina</i></b>	<b>Linnet</b>	<b>152 (40.2%)</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>1970-2002</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>Clayhanger Village; Land bordering Dumblederry Lane; Natsfield Farm Area; Park Lime Pits Area; Pelsall North Common area; Rough Wood Wedge</b>
<b><i>Charadrius dubius</i></b>	<b>Little Ringed Plover</b>	<b>4 (6.1%)</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1986-1995</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>The Swag and Swan Pool</b>
<b><i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i></b>	<b>Reed Bunting</b>	<b>88 (44.4%)</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>1970-2000</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>Brownhills Common (overview); Clayhanger; Natsfield Farm Area; Park Lime Pits Area; Pelsall North Common area; Rough Wood Wedge</b>
<b><i>Erynnis tages</i></b>	<b>Dingy Skipper</b>	<b>35 (36.8%)</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>1989-2000</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Anchor Meadow</b>
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine	0	30	N/A	0	
<b><i>Falco subbuteo</i></b>	<b>Hobby</b>	<b>2 (6.1%)</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1984-1993</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Park Lime Pits Area</b>
<b><i>Falco tinnunculus</i></b>	<b>Kestrel</b>	<b>83 (21.8%)</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>1970-2002</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>Park Lime Pits Area; Pelsall North Common area; Rough Wood Wedge</b>
<b><i>Gallinago gallinago</i></b>	<b>Snipe</b>	<b>41 (33.3%)</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>1975-2002</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Park Lime Pits; Pelsall North Common</b>
<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Wryneck	0	2	N/A	0	
<b><i>Lacerta vivipara</i></b>	<b>Viviparous Lizard</b>	<b>7 (16.3%)</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1987-2002</b>	<b>4</b>	
<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Red-backed Shrike	0	2	N/A	0	
<b><i>Lepus capensis</i></b>	<b>Brown Hare</b>	<b>3 (50%)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1987-2000</b>	<b>2</b>	
Species	Common name	No. of Walsall records	Total no. B'ham & Black Country	Date range	No. of 1km squares recorded in Walsall	Key sites

Walsall Council  
Annual Monitoring Report 2006

			records			
<i>Lutra lutra lutra</i>	Otter	0	5	N/A	0	
<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Common Scoter	0	7	N/A	0	
<b><i>Meles meles</i></b>	<b>Badger</b>	<b>51 (10.8%)</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>14</b>	
<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Com Bunting	0	6	N/A	0	
<b><i>Muscicapa striata</i></b>	<b>Spotted Flycatcher</b>	<b>21 (23.9%)</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1970-2002</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b><i>Myotis daubentoni</i></b>	<b>Daubenton's Bat</b>	<b>12 (27.3%)</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>3</b>	
<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	Whiskered Bat	0	6	N/A	0	
<b><i>Myotis nattereri</i></b>	<b>Natterer's Bat</b>	<b>1 (16.7%)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b><i>Mythimna turca</i></b>	<b>Double Line moth</b>	<b>1 (100%)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1982</b>	<b>1</b>	
<i>Natrix natrix</i>	Grass Snake	0	4	1988	0	
<b><i>Noctua orbona</i></b>	<b>Lunar Yellow Underwing moth</b>	<b>8 (100%)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Barr Beacon</b>
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Leisler's Bat	0	2	N/A	0	
<b><i>Nyctalus noctula</i></b>	<b>Noctule Bat</b>	<b>5 (10.6%)</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b><i>Passer montanus</i></b>	<b>Tree Sparrow</b>	<b>18 (21.4%)</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1970-1993</b>	<b>13</b>	
<b><i>Perdix perdix</i></b>	<b>Grey Partridge</b>	<b>19 (4.2%)</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1970-2002</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Wyrley and Essington Canal Complex</b>
<b><i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i></b>	<b>Black Redstart</b>	<b>2 (1.9%)</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b><i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i></b>	<b>Pipistrelle Bat</b>	<b>133 (25.6%)</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>25</b>	
<b><i>Plecotus auritus</i></b>	<b>Brown Long-eared Bat</b>	<b>9 (45%)</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b><i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i></b>	<b>Bullfinch</b>	<b>71 (18.7%)</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>1970-2002</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>Brownhills Common (overview); Park Lime Pits Area; Ryecroft Complex</b>
<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>	Argent and Sable moth	0	2	N/A	0	
<b><i>Streptopelia turtur</i></b>	<b>Turtle Dove</b>	<b>1 (10%)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Not available</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b><i>Triturus cristatus</i></b>	<b>Warty Newt</b>	<b>12 (9.1%)</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>1974-2000</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b><i>Triturus helveticus</i></b>	<b>Palmate Newt</b>	<b>2 (13.3%)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1974-1990</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b><i>Triturus vulgaris</i></b>	<b>Smooth Newt</b>	<b>21 (8.8%)</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>1975-2005</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Rough Wood Wedge</b>
<b><i>Turdus philomelos</i></b>	<b>Song Thrush</b>	<b>111 (23.2%)</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>1970-2002</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>Park Lime Pits</b>
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	0	10	2002	0	
<i>Vipera berus</i>	Adder	0	5	N/A	0	



## APPENDIX C: DESIGNATED NATURE CONSERVATION SITES

**TABLE B2: REDUCTION IN DESIGNATED WILDLIFE AREAS DUE TO DEVELOPMENT REQUIRING PLANING PERMISSION 1995 – 2005**

**Reduction in area of Sites of Special Scientific Interest due to planning permissions granted after adoption of first UDP on 23 January 1995**

Application reference	Site	Description	Date granted	Impact	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Potential reduction in area of Sites of Special Scientific Interest due to planning permissions granted but not implemented after adoption of first UDP on 23 January 1995**

Application reference	Site	Description	Date granted	Impact	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Reduction in area of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation as a result of planning permissions granted after adoption of first UDP on 23 January 1995**

Application reference	Site	Description	Date granted	Impact	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
BC58663P	Brownhills Common and the Slough	Extension to factory units.	14/09/1999	Loss of woodland/ grassland	0.04	0.01
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.01</b>

**Potential reduction in area of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation as a result of planning permissions granted but not implemented after adoption of first UDP on 23 January 1995**

Application reference	Site	Description	Date granted	Impact	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
BC58212P	Waddens Brook	Access drive to proposed housing.	20/11/2001	Loss of woodland/ grassland	0.53	0.12
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>0.53</b>	<b>0.13</b>

**Reduction in area of Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation as a result of planning permissions granted after adoption of first UDP on 23 January 1995**

Application reference	Site	Description	Date granted	Impact	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
BC51995P	Aldridge Station	Erect health centre	12-May-98	Loss of willow scrub	0.67	0.153
BC56152P	Wolverhampton Road	Leisure and retail development.	07-May-02	Loss of semi-improved grassland/marshy grassland	7.85	1.788
BC56381P	Aldridge Station	Residential Development.	28-Jan-99	Loss of willow scrub	1.04	0.237
BC62541P	Aldridge Station	New railway station development.	26-Jan-01	Loss of willow scrub	0.3	0.068
BC62883P	Shustoke Farm	Construct new access road.	01-May-01	Severance of drainage channel / partial loss of site	0.02	0.005
02/2176/FL/W	Land East of Poplar Avenue	Erect community facility.	25-Feb-03	Loss of semi-improved grassland	0.28	0.064
04/0098/FL/H1	Park Farm Road, Pheasey	Pedestrian access.	27 Feb 04	Loss of woodland	0.04	0.009
04/0111/FL/W	Wolverhampton Road	Extension to Walsall Evangelical centre.	04-Aug-04	Loss of tall ruderal/scrub	1.05	0.239
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>11.25</b>	<b>2.563</b>

**Potential reduction in area of Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation as a result of planning permissions granted but not implemented after adoption of first UDP on 23 January 1995**

Application reference	Site	Description	Date granted	Impact	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
BCW661	Wards Pool	Outline residential.	23/03/1998	Loss of entire wetland	2.88	0.66
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>2.88</b>	<b>0.66</b>

**TABLE B3: REDUCTION IN DESIGNATED WILDLIFE AREAS DUE TO DEVELOPMENT REQUIRING PLANNING PERMISSION AFTER 7 MARCH 2005**

**Reduction in area of Sites of Special Scientific Interest due to planning permissions granted after adoption of first UDP on 7 March 2005**

Application reference	Site	Description	Date granted	Impact	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nil	N/A

**Potential reduction in area of Sites of Special Scientific Interest due to planning permissions granted but not implemented after adoption of first UDP on 7 March 2005**

Application reference	Site	Description	Date granted	Impact	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nil	N/A

**Reduction in area of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation as a result of planning permissions granted after adoption of first UDP on 7 March 2005**

Application reference	Site	Description	Date granted	Impact	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nil	N/A

**Potential reduction in area of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation as a result of planning permissions granted but not implemented after adoption of first UDP on 7 March 2005**

Application reference	Site	Description	Date granted	Impact	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nil	N/A

**Reduction in area of Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation as a result of planning permissions granted after adoption of first UDP on 7 March 2005**

Application reference	Site	Description	Date granted	Impact	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nil	N/A

**Potential reduction in area of Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation as a result of planning permissions granted but not implemented after adoption of first UDP on 7 March 2005**

Application reference	Site	Description	Date granted	Impact	Area affected (ha.)	Total resource (%)
None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nil	N/A

## APPENDIX D

### Core and Local Output Indicators - Progress on Data Collection and Monitoring

The Good Practice Guidance on LDF monitoring (October 2005) lists the *Core Output Indicators* that the Government expects authorities to include in Annual Monitoring Reports. Walsall's UDP also includes a number of local output indicators relating to particular policies.

This Appendix provides an update on the situation with regard to data collection and monitoring in Walsall for each of the indicators referred to in Chapter 3. Unfortunately, although data collection has improved since 2005, it is still not possible to collect data on a regular basis for all of the core and local output indicators.

<b>Local Development Framework Core Output Indicators</b> <b>(‘Local Development Framework Core Output Indicators Update 1/2005 – ODPM, October 2005)</b>	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Current</b>
<b>BIODIVERSITY</b>	
8 Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance, including: (i) change in priority habitats and species (by type); and (ii) change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional, sub-regional or local significance.	Monitored primarily in quantitative rather than qualitative terms, because of resource and feasibility issues.
<b>RENEWABLE ENERGY</b>	
9 Renewable energy capacity installed by type.	Monitored to the extent that data and resources allow.
<b>FLOOD PROTECTION AND WATER QUALITY</b>	
7 Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality.	Monitored.
<b>BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT</b>	
1a Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type.	Monitored
1b Amount of floorspace developed for employment by type, in employment or regeneration areas.	Monitored
1c Amount of floorspace by employment type, which is on previously developed land.	Monitored
1d Employment land available by type.	Monitored

1e Losses of employment land in (i) employment/regeneration areas and (ii) local authority area.	(i) Not monitored, except re allocated sites (ii) Monitored
1f Amount of employment land lost to residential development.	Monitored
<b>LOCAL SERVICES (1)</b>	
4a Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development.	Monitored
4b Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development in town centres.	Monitored
<b>HOUSING</b>	
2a Housing trajectory showing: (i) net additional dwellings over the previous five year period or since the start of the relevant development plan document period, whichever is the longer; (ii) net additional dwellings for the current year; (iii) projected net additional dwellings up to the end of the relevant development plan document period or over a ten year period from its adoption, whichever is the longer; (iv) the annual net additional dwelling requirement; and (v) annual average number of net additional dwellings needed to meet overall housing requirements, having regard to previous year's performance	Monitored, but with housing trajectory to 2011 as there are too many unknowns in context of RSS review.
2b Percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land.	Monitored
2c Percentage of new dwellings completed at:  (i) less than 30 dwellings per hectare;  (ii) between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare; and  (iii) above 50 dwellings per hectare	Monitored
2d Affordable housing completions.	Monitored
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	
3a Amount of completed non-residential development within UCO's A, B and D complying with car-parking standards set out in the local development framework.	Monitored
3b Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of: a GP; a hospital; a primary school; a secondary school; areas of employment; and a major retail centre(s).	Not currently monitored due to

	lack of skills/ resources
<b>LOCAL SERVICES (2)</b>	
4c Amount of eligible open spaces managed to Green Flag Award standard.	Monitored
<b>MINERALS (FOR MINERALS PLANNING AUTHORITY ONLY)</b>	
5a Production of primary land won aggregates.	Monitored but unable to disclose information
5b Production of secondary/recycled aggregates.	Not monitored as data not available
<b>WASTE (FOR WASTE PLANNING AUTHORITY ONLY)</b>	
6a Capacity of new waste management facilities by type.	Monitored
6b Amount of municipal waste arising, and managed by management type, and the percentage each management type represents of the waste managed.	Monitored

<b>WALSALL UDP 2005 Monitoring Indicators</b>	
<b>ENVIRONMENT &amp; AMENITY</b>	
Protection of Green Belt - target 100%	Monitored
Tree planting - related to targets in forest plans/ strategies	Not monitored
Progress towards targets in Biodiversity Action Plan	Not currently monitored due to feasibility issues but action being taken to address this
Protection of nature conservation sites - target 100%	Monitored
Protection of buildings of historic or architectural interest - target 100% - modified to provision of strategies	Monitored insofar as feasible
<b>JOBS &amp; PROSPERITY</b>	
Land developed for employment uses - target annual average of 13 hectares	Monitored
Share of all development on previously developed sites - target 95%	Monitored
Protection of employment allocations from loss to other uses - target 90%	Covered by core indicator 1e
<b>STRENGTHENING OUR CENTRES</b>	
Proportion of all development for retailing, leisure and other town centre uses which takes place in established centres - target at least 90%	Covered by core indicator 4b
Amount of vacant floorspace in centres - target to be at or below the national average	Monitored using available data
<b>HOUSING</b>	
Reduction of vacancies - to a level of 3% by 2011	Monitored
Progress towards RPG11 dwelling requirement – residual annual average target of 422 dwellings	Covered by core indicator 2a
Proportion of all development on previously developed land - target of 95% for 2002-11	Covered by core indicator 2b
Number of dwellings provided on windfall sites – annual average target of 275 windfall completions	Not monitored
Extent of provision for affordable housing - residual annual average target of 184 dwellings	Covered by core indicator 2d

Types and sizes of housing provided - a mix appropriate to local circumstances	Not monitored
Density of new housing - target annual average density of at least 30 dwellings per hectare	Covered by core indicator 2c
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	
Use of buses - increase in line with West Midlands Local Transport Plan (WMLTP) target	Not monitored as data not available
Use of rail - increase in line with WMLTP target	Not monitored as data not available
Road traffic - keep growth in line with WMLTP target	Not monitored as data not available
Cycle use - increase in line with WMLTP target	Not monitored as data not available
Car parking provision for new housing development – in line with the standards in Policy T13	Not monitored as feasibility and resource issues
<b>LEISURE &amp; COMMUNITY NEEDS</b>	
Protection of urban open spaces - target 100%	Monitored
Provision of new urban open spaces - at least 24 hectares over the rest of the Plan period	Monitored
Protection of playing fields/ sports pitches - target 100%	Monitored
Length of Greenways constructed - target at least 10 miles over the rest of the Plan period	Monitored
<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>	
Progress towards targets set out in national guidance, regional guidance, Walsall's Integrated Waste Management Strategy and Best Value Indicators	Monitored