

Annual Monitoring Report 2010

(Monitoring Year April 2009 – March 2010)



Walsall Council

Walsall Council
Annual Monitoring Report
December 2010
(for Monitoring Year April 2009 to March 2010)

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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.

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

http://www.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/local_development_framework/ldf_annual_monitoring_report.htm

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CONTENTS PAGE

Section	Page
1. Introduction	5
2. Background	6
3. Significant Events	7 - 9
4. Contextual Indicators	
Background	10
Demographic	11
Environment	11
Economic	11 - 12
Skills and Education	12 - 13
Transport	14 - 15
Quality of Life	16 - 17
5. Significant Effects Indicators	18
6. Local Development Scheme	18 - 20
7. Implementation of Policies	
Environment and Amenity	21 - 27
Jobs and Prosperity	28 - 30
Strengthening our Centres	31 - 33
Housing	34 - 41
Transport	42 - 45
Leisure and Community	46 - 49
Minerals	50 - 54
Waste	55 - 59
8. Community Involvement	60
9. Glossary	61 - 66
10. Appendices	67 - 133

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Annual Monitoring Report has been produced in accordance with the requirements of Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Act requires every local planning authority to report on the implementation of the local development scheme, and the extent to which the policies set out in the local development documents are being achieved. This report also contains information about key indicators including population, the state of the economy and the environment that reflect the quality of life in the borough.

1.2 The targets are derived from several sources. These include Core Output Indicators which are national targets set out in “Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Framework: Core Output Indicators - Update 2/2008”¹. Some of these Core Output Indicators are also monitoring targets in Walsall’s Unitary Development Plan. Other monitoring targets that are set out in the UDP are known as Local Output Indicators.

1.3 Some of the targets in the UDP, in particular those relating to house building, have been overtaken by targets in more recent documents. These targets and the strategic policies of the UDP will be replaced from the monitoring year 2011-12 by the policies of the Black Country Core Strategy, which is expected to be adopted by March 2011.

1.4 The indicators monitored as part of this AMR demonstrate that the policies within the UDP and in the future the Core Strategy play an important role in helping to achieve the priorities set out in both Walsall’s Corporate Plan and Walsall’s Sustainable Community Strategy. This is highlighted by the table in Appendix H which sets out the UDP Monitoring Indicators and how these align with the Corporate Plan and the Sustainable Community Strategy. A good example of this is the protection of the Green Belt from inappropriate development. This policy can help deliver a number of the Council’s priorities first by improving the health of Walsall residents through the protection of recreational and sporting facilities, second by improving the environmental quality of the Borough through the protection of Countryside and open space and finally by delivering accessible and sustainable places for business through encouraging development in more sustainable easily accessible brown field sites.

1.5 Throughout this report a “Red, Amber, Green” system is used to indicate whether progress is significantly behind target (red), some progress is being made towards the target but the target is not met (amber) and progress is on-target or the target has been met (green). There is a glossary of terms at section 9 this document.

¹ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/coreoutputindicators2>

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Monitoring is an essential element of the government's approach to policy making. Within this context the Annual Monitoring Report is seen as the main mechanism for assessing the performance of the Local Development Framework and the "saved" policies of the Walsall Unitary Development Plan (UDP), providing the catalyst for any review or update.

2.2 Section 35 of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires every local authority to make an annual report to the Secretary of State (through the Government Office for the West Midlands) containing information on how the Local Development Scheme is being implemented and the progress made on the "saved" policies from UDP.

2.3 Regulation 48(8) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 also requires the council to make the Annual Monitoring Report available to local communities both in hard copy and electronically on the Council's website.

2.4 Planning Policy Statement 12 'Local Spatial Planning' (paragraph 4.47) states that a Core Strategy must have clear arrangements for monitoring and reporting results to the public and civic leaders. Therefore it identifies four key tasks that Annual Monitoring Reports should seek to achieve. These are:

- I. Report progress on the timetable and milestones for the preparation of documents set out in the local development scheme including reasons where they are not being met.
- II. Report progress on the policies and related targets in local development documents. This should also include progress against any relevant national and regional targets and highlight any unintended significant effects of the implementation of the policies on social, environmental and economic objectives. Where policies and targets are not being met or on track, or are having unintended effects, reasons should be provided along with any appropriate actions to redress the matter. Policies may also need to change to reflect changes in national or regional policy.
- III. Include progress against the core output indicators including information on net additional dwellings (required under Regulation 48(7)7) and an update of the housing trajectory to demonstrate how policies will deliver housing provision in their area.
- IV. Indicate how infrastructure providers have performed against the programmes for infrastructure set out in support of the core strategy. Annual monitoring reports should be used to re-prioritise any previous assumptions made regarding infrastructure delivery.

2.5 This is Walsall Council's sixth Annual Monitoring Report and covers the period from 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010.

3. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

Plan - Making

3.1 In terms of planning policy the main events were the publication of the Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS) in November 2009 and its submission to the Secretary of State in February 2010. Once adopted the BCCS will form a key part of the statutory spatial land use development plan for Walsall and the other three local authorities (Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Dudley). It will form the basis for decisions on planning applications, and will also be a key document in future decisions on infrastructure and the Council's capital programme. The BCCS also forms the basis for future development plan documents such as the site allocations document. It sets a vision for the development of the area over the next 15 years and will promote Walsall for investment.

3.2 The Examination in Public (EIP) took place in July 2010, after the end of the monitoring year, and the Inspectors' report was published in October 2010. The inspector found the BCCS sound and the Council intends to adopt the Plan in early 2011. The adopted BCCS will supersede some of the UDP policies and as such the statutory development plan for Walsall will consist of the BCCS and the remaining saved UDP policies, together with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the West Midlands (January 2008). This will have implications for future monitoring but will result in a more up-to-date picture of the borough being developed as the out of date indicator targets are replaced.

Developments

3.3 Only 25% of the UDP target of 13ha per annum to develop land for employment uses was achieved in this monitoring year due to the continuing recession. This also resulted in a continued increase in vacant land and in-centre vacancy rates, with Walsall Town Centre being recorded as having the 24th highest vacancy rate in Great Britain and the second highest vacancy rate in the West Midlands. The total number of claimant counts dropped slightly and unemployment in the manufacturing industry, in which Walsall specialises, also started to fall in 2010 showing signs of recovery. The percentage of small businesses showing growth in Walsall is in line with the regional and national averages, but the number of new business start ups was considerably lower than the regional and national figures indicating that more work needs to be done to increase new business registrations in the borough which in turn would create additional employment opportunities.

3.4 100% of housing development took place on brownfield land in this monitoring year exceeding the UDP target helping to achieve a sustainable future for the borough and 100% of the greenbelt was protected from inappropriate development preserving its openness and function for appropriate uses such as agriculture, forestry and outdoor sports or recreation. A Local Nature Reserve site (Merrions Wood) has gained the Green Flag Award during the 2009/10 monitoring year becoming the third Green Flag site in the borough. Although part of George Rose Park was lost to development, compensatory mitigation is proposed through improvements

to the remainder of the park and a community use agreement for public use of school sports facilities, including a new artificial grass pitch (AGP) which is therefore considered to comply with UDP Policy LC6.

3.5 A significantly higher amount of completed floorspace for all town centre uses was achieved in this monitoring year when compared with 2008/9, largely due to the completion of the Morrison's supermarket in Willenhall. The proportion of development for town centre uses that took place in centres at 90.6% was just above the UDP target of 90%. More work will need to be done to continue to meet this target in order to reduce the in-centre vacancy rates and sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of the Town, District and Local Centres.

3.6 A significant effort has been made this year to improve the accuracy of data used in the monitoring of local and national indicators, especially for housing and employment development. For employment land, take up has been shown for the most part to have been under-estimated, and in a few cases over-estimated, over the last 12 years. Housing completions similarly appear to have been under-recorded in recent years, with more than 1,000 dwelling completions having been identified this year that are likely to have taken place in previous years but which had not been recorded previously: Most of these completions will have taken place since 2006.

3.7 This means that the data for this year in respect of housing and employment development cannot be accurately compared with that for the previous year to show any change in the rate of development between the two years. However, an accurate base has now been provided that will allow for better quality monitoring in future years.

3.8 The Council's performance against national and local indicators is set out in detail within the main body of this report and a table summarising the performance is also provided in Appendix I.

Achievements

3.9 There were a number of planning and development achievements relating to climate change within the monitoring year², concerning both adaptation and mitigation to climate change. These key achievements include: setting minimum environmental sustainability standards for all new buildings on Council owned or controlled land; signposting developers to Sustainable Housing Action Plan (SHAP) guidance on low carbon housing at pre-application planning stage; the provision of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) on new developments to mitigate against increased surface water run-off; liaising with Severn Trent Water on the Council's Integrated Urban Drainage Strategy to manage existing maintenance regimes and reduce 'hot spots'; and, the introduction of mitigation measures such as flood retention tanks and oversized sewers to cope with increased flood risk as a result of the impacts of climate change.

² Annex 4 - Achievements 2008-2010 available at:
http://www.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/climatechange/cc_strategy_and_action_plan_2010-2014.htm

3.10 A number of significant developments were also completed during the monitoring year as set out below which will continue to contribute to ensuring that Walsall is well positioned to benefit from the recovery:

- I. The Walsall Town Centre Transport Package, a £17million package of highway infrastructure improvements around the northern and north-western side of Walsall Town Centre was completed in Spring 2009.
- II. A new teaching block at Joseph Leckie Community Technology College was completed in May 2009.
- III. A new children's centre was developed at Hatherton Children's Centre, completed in April 2009 and awarded a 'Built in Quality Award' in 2010 for its outstanding quality of construction.
- IV. The new Walsall College was completed in September 2009 and awarded a 'Built in Quality Award' in 2010 for its outstanding quality of construction.
- V. Two extra care developments (Housing 21 schemes) were completed in Northgate, Aldridge in September 2009 and Cresswell Crescent, Bloxwich in August 2009.

4. CONTEXTUAL INDICATORS

4.1 Please note that all data presented in this section is the latest data available at the time of writing this report. There is often a time lag between information being gathered and data being produced and as such data below will often refer to a period outside of the monitoring period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010.

CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

Walsall and Surrounding Area

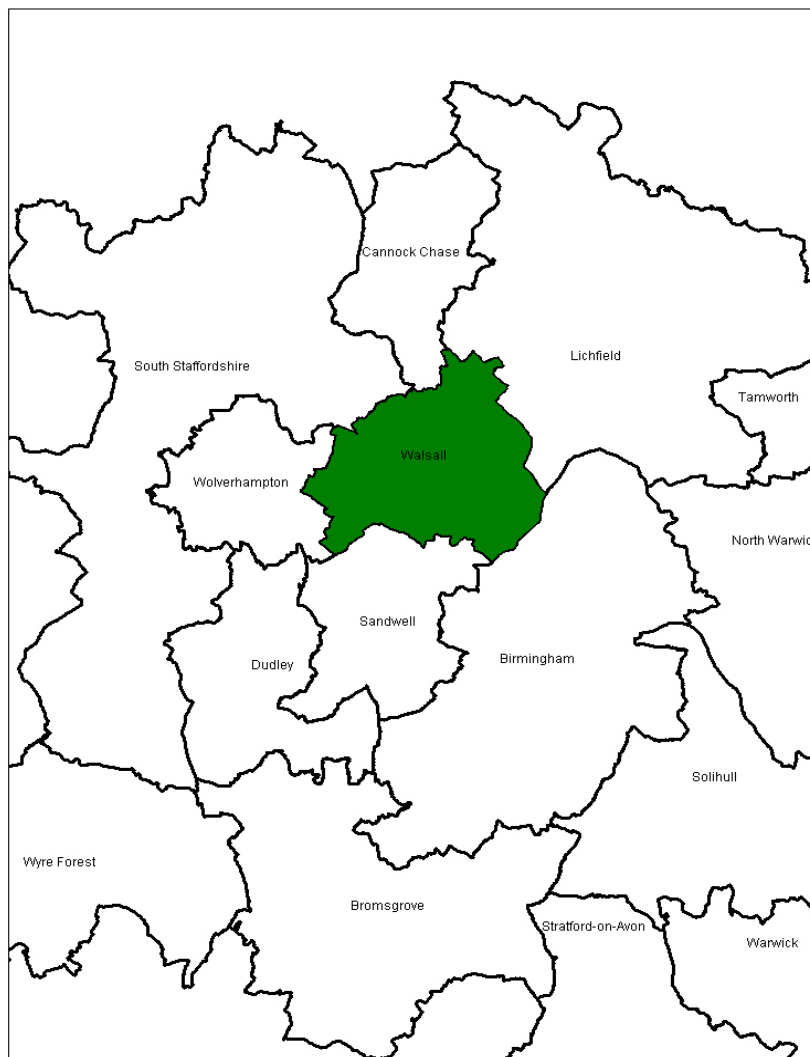


Figure 1 – Borough of Walsall and Surrounding Area.

4.2 Walsall Metropolitan Borough is in the West Midlands region and lies to the north-west of Birmingham (as shown in Figure 1 above) and is one of the four authorities that make up the Black Country (the others being Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton). The borough covers an area of some 41 square miles (104 km²).

DEMOGRAPHICS

4.3 The population in Walsall continues to increase steadily despite 2004 projections to the contrary, growing from 253,499 in the 2001³ census to the latest figures which show that the Borough has a population of 255,900⁴.

4.4 The age breakdown of the population is similar to that of England with 8% of the population being aged 75 or over and 19% of the population being 15-29 (compared to 20% for England)⁵. According to the 2001 census 13.6%⁶ of Walsall's population were from Black or Ethnic Minority Groups.

ENVIRONMENT

4.5 Walsall's Sustainable Community Strategy, identifies improving the quality of the environment as a key issue. This includes a plan to promote the protection and conservation of species, habitats and geological features, creating new habitats and preserving geological features, and managing and providing a network of wildlife areas and sites which assist the movement of wildlife whilst providing attractive places for the communities. Further data relating to biodiversity can be found in tables 4 - 6 at section 7 of this report and in Appendix B.

4.6 In July 2010 the Council produced an Air Quality Progress Report which confirmed that occasions when nitrogen dioxide exceeds of the annual air quality objective still occur, especially in the vicinity of the M6 motorway, St Paul's Bus Station in the town centre, and along certain roads including the town centre ring-road. The report does however note that the 1% reduction in nitrogen dioxide concentrations in the West Midlands as set out in the West Midlands Local Transport Plan LTP2 is on target to be achieved. The report also concludes that there have been no new local developments that result in new or newly identified road traffic that may have a relevant impact on air quality⁷.

ECONOMIC

4.7 72.7% of Walsall's working age (16-64) population were economically active in the period April 2009-March 2010. This compares with 75.6% for the West Midlands region. Of the economically inactive, 7.5% wanted a job; 19.8% did not. This compares with 5.0% and 19.3% respectively for the West Midlands region. The claimant count (payable to people who are available, capable and actively seeking work) in the Borough fell very slightly from 10,739 in April 2009 (6.8% of the working age population) to 10,673 in April 2010 (6.8% of the working age population). This compares with the regional

³ 2001 Census at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

⁴ mid- year population estimates 2009, ONS at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

⁵ mid- year population estimates 2009, ONS at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

⁶ 2001 Census at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

⁷ http://www.walsall.gov.uk/air_quality_progress_report_2010-2.pdf

figure which fell more substantially over the year from 5.1% to 5% of the working age population.

4.8 In 2008, 18.4% of those employed in Walsall were engaged in manufacturing, compared with 13.8 % for the West Midlands region as a whole. Services are slightly under-represented in Walsall accounting for 76.3% of those employed compared to 79.7% for the West Midlands region. Despite the long term decline in manufacturing employment, manufacturing has continually made up a higher proportion of the jobs in Walsall than the West Midlands region (figures from 2008 going back until at least 1995 show this). Gross weekly earnings by workplace in 2009 were £399.30 for Walsall and £456.20 for the West Midlands region and workers at Walsall workplaces have consistently earned less than the regional figures (figures from 2008 going back until at least 1998 show this)⁸.

4.9 The percentage of small businesses in Walsall, showing growth at 14.1% is in line with the regional and national averages of 14.4% and 14.2% respectively which remains unchanged from the 2008-9 position. This shows that Walsall businesses are continuing to maintain growth. The rate of new business registrations was however considerably lower than the regional and national figures which remains unchanged from the 2008-9 position showing that more work needs to be done to increase new business registrations in the borough. Further economic data can be found in Appendix A.

SKILLS AND EDUCATION

4.10 The Walsall's Sustainable Community Strategy⁹ has identified educational attainment as one of the key issues affecting the borough's long-term economic prospects, therefore skills and education indicators are of particular significance to the borough.

4.11 Generally speaking educational attainment at all levels has increased over the last year but it should be noted that Walsall lags behind the national average in the majority of skills and education indicators and has some way to go before the national rates are met.

4.12 As Table 1 below demonstrates, the percentage of pupils achieving 5 A-C* GCSEs has increased year on year¹⁰ achieving over a 50% reduction in the gap between the borough and the national average since 2006 (10.7% gap 2006 and 5.8% in 2009). The borough is however still below average in England and as such further work is needed to build on the achievements of schools educational attainment within Walsall.

⁸ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

⁹ http://www.walsallpartnership.org.uk/wp-index/wp_scs.htm

¹⁰ http://www.education.gov.uk/cgi-bin/performanceables/group_09.pl?Mode=Z&Type=LA&Begin=s&No=335&Base=c&Phase=1&F=1&L=50&Year=09

Table 1 – Education Attainment Levels

School	% of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving 5+A*-C (and equivalent) including English and maths GCSEs			
	2006	2007	2008	2009
Local Authority Average	34.9%	35.5%	40.6%	44.0%
England (all schools)	45.6%	46.3%	47.6%	49.8%

4.13 The percentage of people with degrees has dropped from the 2008-9 position (17.6% 2009/10; 18.7% 2008/9), whilst the regional and national averages have slightly increased. There also remains a big gap in the average point score at Key Stage 5 between Walsall and the national performance. In addition to this the proportion of the working age population with no qualifications has increased with from 18.7% in 2008/9 to 19.9% in 2009/10.

4.14 Over the period of 2005-9, the proportion of people with other skill levels in Walsall has always been lower than the figure for the West Midlands and England except for those with other qualifications¹¹. Skill levels in Walsall need to increase if the gap with the West Midlands and England is to be closed and to minimise the impact on the economic wellbeing of Walsall and its residents. This is supported by around 29% of Walsall businesses who were surveyed in 2010 and said they are currently affected by skills gaps and shortages in the workforce. When asked if they are likely to be affected in the future, 48% of businesses said yes. This evidences the need to increase the skills set of the boroughs population to provide the adequately trained workforce that Walsall businesses require. Further skills and education data can be found in Appendix A.

¹¹ Annual Population Survey at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

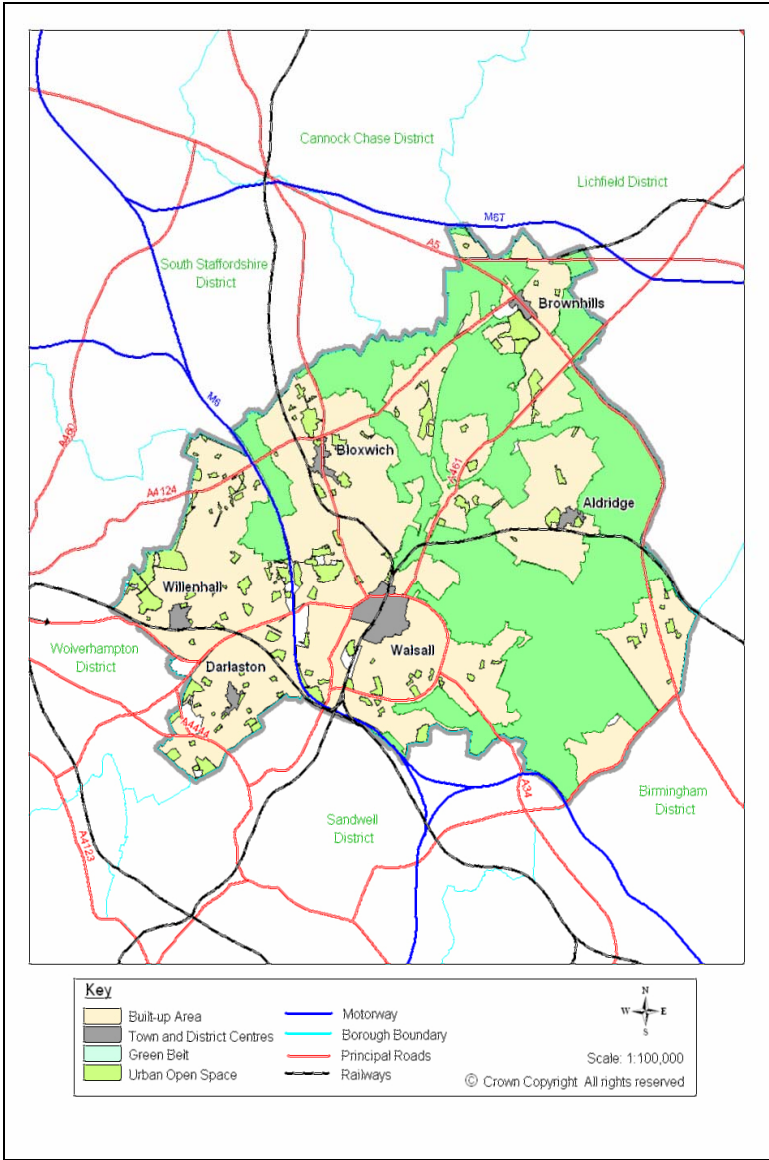


Figure 2 – Walsall Transport and Spatial Connectivity.

4.15 Walsall has a major potential advantage in being close to the hubs of both the national motorway and rail networks as shown in Figure 2 above. However, many of the local connections into these networks need to be improved so that the borough can benefit from this potentially advantageous geographical position.

4.16 Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership prepared a Local Accessibility Action Plan which was approved in 2008. This report identified the main barriers to accessibility in Walsall as:

- I. *The availability and physical accessibility of transport* – nearly one in three households does not have access to a car for reasons that include cost, age, disability and, in some instances, choice.

- II. *Cost of transport* - The cost of travelling by public transport has risen at a greater rate than by private car. Between 1990 and 2003 bus fares rose by 26% in real terms compared with a 4% increase in cost of car travel.
- III. *Services and activities located in inaccessible places* – Historically, nobody has been responsible for ensuring that people can get to key services. As a result, services have been developed with insufficient attention to accessibility. Too often, accessibility has been seen as a problem for transport planners to solve, rather than one that concerns and can be influenced by the promoters or providers of services.
- IV. *Safer streets* - Consultation has shown that crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour can be a major deterrent to travelling by public transport.

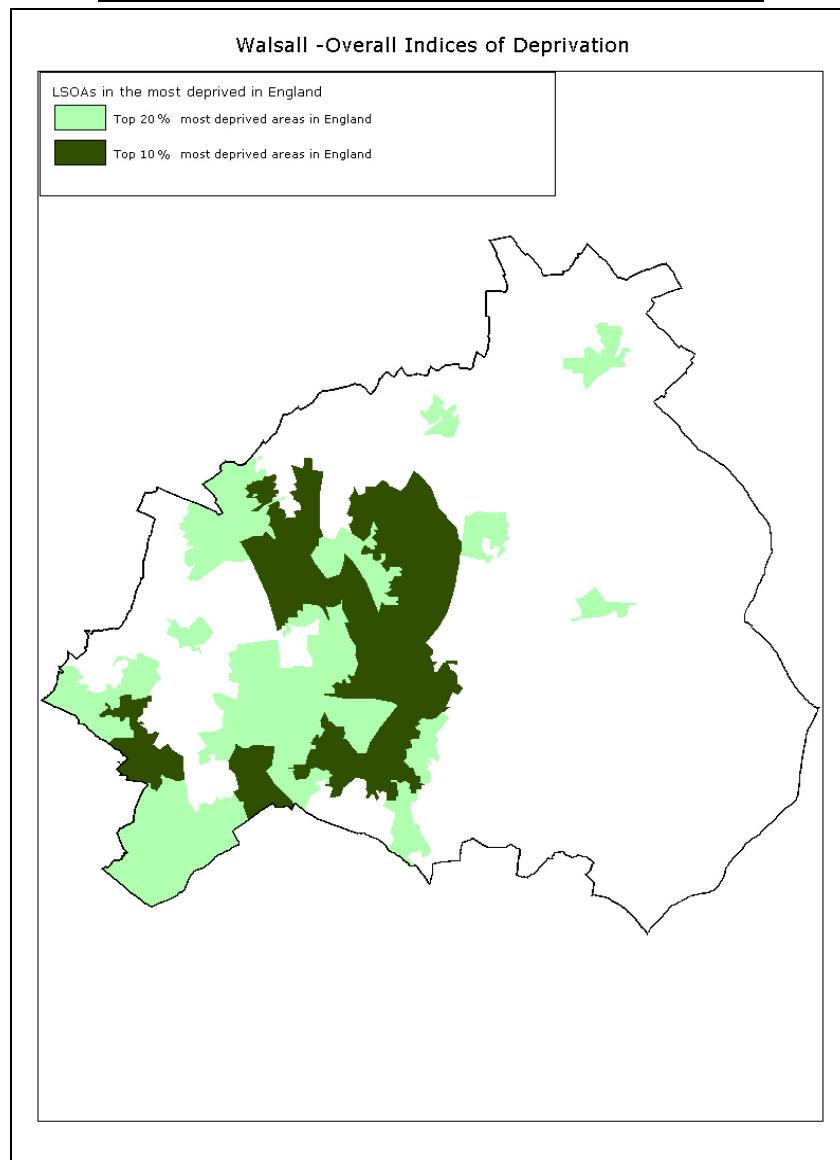
4.17 According to the census¹², 34% of the population in Walsall travel to work by car, only 7% of people use the bus to go to work whilst 6% travel to work by foot. In addition it was found that 17% of all Walsall employees travelled less than 2km to work and 80% travelled less than 20km.

4.18 In 2009, the morning peak trips by public transport into Walsall represented a 33% share of all trips (bus 31.2%, and rail 1.7%) with car representing the remaining 67% share. The share of public transport has decreased from 34.2% in 2007 due to a fall in bus trips. Bus passenger trips have decreased by 7.2% whilst rail passenger trips have increased by 5.5%. Car trips have decreased by 1.5% but still remain the dominant mode with a 67% modal share. Overall, morning peak inbound trips into Walsall have decreased by 3.2%¹³.

¹² 2001 Census at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

¹³ <http://www.centro.org.uk/corporateinformation/publications.aspx>

Figure 3 – Indices of Deprivation for Walsall



4.19 The English Indices of Deprivation 2007¹⁴ are the Government's official measure of multiple deprivation at small area level. This provides an update to the Indices of Deprivation in 2004. Walsall was ranked 45th most deprived local authority in 2007, a worse position than in 2004 when it was ranked 51st¹⁵. It should be noted that this change in rank does not necessarily mean that the borough has become more deprived in absolute terms; rather it could mean that Walsall has become more deprived relative to other areas of the country.

4.20 In addition to borough profile, 32,482 small areas known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are ranked on seven different themes including income, employment and health. Areas ranked between 1 and 3,248 are in

¹⁴ Department for Communities and Local Government
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/neighbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/>

¹⁵ 1 being the most deprived and 354 being the least deprived.

the 10% most deprived areas in England, areas between 1 and 6496 are in the 20% most deprived areas in England.

4.21 In terms of overall deprivation 20% of Walsall's LSOAs are in the 10% most deprived areas in the country and 42% are in the 20% most deprived. Similarly in the Income theme 21% of Walsall's LSOAs are in the 10% most deprived areas in England whilst 46% are in the 20% most deprived areas in the Country. The highest levels of deprivation are recorded in the Education, Skills and Training theme where 36% of areas in the borough are in the 10% most deprived areas in England and 55% of the areas in Walsall are in the 20% most deprived areas in the country.

4.22 The Place Survey 2008/2009¹⁶ is the new biennial statutory survey which all lower and upper tier local authorities in England are required to carry out. The findings from the Place Survey are important because they help the Council and its local partners on the local strategic partnership (including the police, fire and health services, and the voluntary and community sector) understand how they are performing in relation to each of the new citizen perspective indicators prioritised by the government, and how residents' views have changed over time in relation to key local public service and quality of life issues.

4.23 The Place Survey asked residents about their satisfaction with the local area – i.e. the area within a 15 – 20 minutes walk from their home. In Walsall older residents are more satisfied with the local area than younger residents. There is a large gap in satisfaction of 17 percentage points between the youngest and oldest age groups. In terms of tenure, people who own their own homes are the most satisfied residents (73%). The least satisfied are those who live in social housing (63%).

4.24 A survey of Walsall residents (Feeling The Difference Survey) showed that perceived levels of crime in the borough up to April 2009 has shown little movement, but feelings of safety have increased. The total number of recorded crimes has also reduced from 20,874 in 2008/9 to 19,136¹⁷. Further data on crime can be found at Appendix A.

¹⁶ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1326148.xls>

¹⁷ Obtained from Walsall Borough Intelligence Analyst, West Midlands Police.

5. SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS INDICATORS

5.1 Significant effects indicators are a method of monitoring the effects of plans and policies on the social, environmental or economic objectives by which sustainability is defined. The Council is required to measure significant effects raised in a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in order to satisfy the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'. An SEA was carried out as part of the evidence base for the Black Country Core Strategy.

5.2 Once the Black Country Core Strategy is adopted by all four authorities in 2011 the significant effects indicators will be monitored across the Black Country and included in subsequent years AMR's.

6. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME UPDATE

6.1 This section of the AMR looks at the progress the Council has made in producing the documents that make up the Local Development Framework during the period April 1st 2009 to March 31st 2010. Progress is measured against the milestones set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS). The LDS serves as a project plan establishing the programming, status and inter-connections between the various documents being prepared. In doing so, it also provides the local community, organisations and stakeholders with essential information on the Council's planning policies, both now and as intended to be prepared in the future.

6.2 Walsall updated its LDS in February 2009 and this version was approved by the Government Office for the West Midlands in April 2009¹⁸. The key revisions made to the LDS at that time are detailed below:

- I. Amendments to the timetable for producing the Black Country Core Strategy Development Plan Document (BCCS). The timetable was delayed due to a number of reasons, including uncertainty over the Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2, the need to commission further technical studies and the desire to be able to incorporate emerging best practice and experience from other Core Strategy Examinations into the BCCS.
- II. The inclusion of Development Management Policies, proposed previously as a separate Development Plan Document (DPD), into the site allocations DPD.
- III. Amendments to the timetable for the Central Willenhall Area Action Plan (AAP).

¹⁸

http://www.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/local_development_framework/ldf_local_development_scheme.htm

- IV. No further proposals for the preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs), which (according to the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) Regulations 2008) no longer have to be included in the LDS in any event.

6.3 Table 2 below details the DPDs proposed to be developed in this monitoring year and their progress up to the end of March 2010 against the timetable in the February 2009 LDS.

Table 2 – LDS Progress

Document	LDS Milestone	Target	Actual	Achievement	Comments
Black country Core Strategy	Submission to the Secretary of State for examination	February 2010	February 2010	G	Adoption on target for early 2011.
Central Willenhall: AAP	Start	January 2008	-	G	Revised date Consultation February 2009.
	Publication	February 2010	-	R	As a result of work on the BCCS, AAP was reviewed and work suspended in 2009.

6.4 At the end of March 2010 the BCCS had been published as planned and was on target towards adoption. Subsequently the BCCS has been through the examination process and has been found 'sound'. The Black Country authorities are working towards adopting the plan early in 2011¹⁹. This is an important achievement in setting a regeneration framework for the Black Country as a whole.

6.5 On the other hand, work on the Willenhall AAP was suspended in 2009 so that resources could be concentrated on the Core Strategy and the key points of the Core Strategy could be taken into account.

¹⁹ <http://blackcountrycorestrategy.dudley.gov.uk/> and http://www.walsall.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/local_development_framework/ldf_core_strategy.htm

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE ACTIONS

6.6 Since the end of March 2010 the evolution of the planning system has continued, notably with the publication of Regulations to introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy, which may lead to the review of some of the council's SPDs once the BCCS has been adopted. The recession has continued to bite whilst the election of a new Government is bringing changes to the roles and resources of local authorities and changes to the planning system are proposed, notably through the Localism Bill published in December 2010. The Council will have to take all of these factors into account and they are likely to result in future changes to the LDS.

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES

7.1 This section of the report sets out the policies that are required to be monitored, how the policies are being implemented, and whether we are meeting the monitoring targets through the use of RAG rating whereby R = Red (significantly behind target), A = Amber (Some progress towards target, but target not met) and G = Green (On-target or target met).

ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY

7.2 Policy Aim: Sustainable development and environment improvement are two of the key aims underlying the UDP. The Council will conserve and enhance the Borough's natural and man-made environment assets whilst seeking to eliminate, ameliorate or control any features or activities that have an adverse impact on the environment (UDP Paragraph 3.1).

Table 3 - Monitoring target for the Greenbelt

Greenbelt²⁰	
Local Output Indicator- Green Belt: Protection of Green Belt from inappropriate development.	
G	
LDF Policy	UDP Policy ENV2
Target	100% protection of Green Belt from inappropriate development.
Achievements	1. 100% achieved when allowance for very special circumstances are taken into account.
Actions or Comments	<p>1. No planning permissions were granted for development in the green belt which was contrary to UDP Policy ENV2.</p> <p>2. In a small number of cases development has occurred that is, or would normally be, considered inappropriate in the green belt (see appendix B). However in all cases these applications are in compliance with the Development Plan as they are either justified by the demonstration of very special circumstances, which outweigh the harm by way of inappropriateness to the green belt, or are designated as Major Developed Sites in the Green Belt and thus accord with UDP Policy ENV4.</p>

²⁰ Please note that further data relating to greenbelt can be found in Appendix B.

Table 4 - Monitoring target for Biodiversity (change in areas of Biodiversity importance)

Biodiversity ²¹	
New Core Output Indicator E2- Change in areas of biodiversity importance.	
A	
LDF Policy	UDP Policy ENV19-24
Target	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (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. 2. Areas (ha / % of resource) lost to development requiring planning permission since 1 April 2007.
Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At present it is not possible to establish the extent to which the LBAP targets are being met. 2. Special Areas of Conservation are designated by Natural England in response to European legislation. The borough currently has one such site which is Cannock Extension Canal candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC). There were no losses to this site between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010. 3. Sites of Special Scientific Interest are designated by Natural England. The borough has seven Sites of Special Scientific Interest covering 69.2 ha, including the Cannock Extension Canal which is also a SAC. There were no losses or potential losses between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010. There were no additional sites notified within the reporting period. 4. The borough has eleven Local Nature Reserves covering some 262 ha. These sites are usually also designated as SSSIs or SINC's or occasionally SLINC's. No new sites have been declared since 1 April 2010 and there were no losses or potential losses between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010. 5. Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation are local sites designated by the local authorities in collaboration with Natural England and the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country. The borough currently has 38 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation covering some 503 ha. This

²¹ Please note that further data relating to biodiversity can be found in the appendix C.

	<p>represents a total of 20.4% of the total Birmingham and Black Country SINC resource. Walsall's total land area is 17% of the Birmingham and Black Country. This position has not changed since the previous report. Between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010 there were no planning permissions resulting in the potential loss of any SINC. However, one planning permission resulting in the loss of part of the Ward's Pool SINC was granted on 23/10/08 but not reported in the previous AMR. Details are given in Table 1 of Appendix C. The council is not aware of any extant permissions which were implemented in the reporting period. This equates to 0.6 ha or approximately 0.16% of the total Site of Importance for Nature Conservation resource.</p> <p>6. Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation are local sites identified by the local authority in conjunction with the Wildlife Trust. The borough has 70 Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation covering some 456 ha. This represents a total of 20.5% of the total Birmingham and Black Country SLINC resource. Walsall's total land area is 17% of the Birmingham and Black Country. Between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010 one planning permission was granted which would result in the potential loss of Green Lane Cutting SLINC. Details are set out in Table 1 of Appendix C. The council is not aware of any extant permissions which were implemented in the reporting period. This equates to 2.4 ha or approximately 0.5% of the total Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation resource.</p>
Actions or Comments	<p>1. Since the reporting period the Birmingham and Black Country Biodiversity Action Plan has been revised, greatly simplifying the actions and targets required.</p>

Table 5 - Monitoring target for Biodiversity (Biodiversity Action Plan)

Biodiversity	
Local Output Indicator- Progress in relation to targets in the Biodiversity Action Plan for Birmingham and the Black Country.	
LDF Policy	UDP Policy ENV19-24
Target	Appendix C provides further detailed information on this indicator
Achievements	<p>1. At present it is not possible to establish the extent to which the LBAP targets are being met.</p>
Actions or	<p>1. Since the reporting period the Birmingham and Black</p>

Comments	Country Biodiversity Action Plan has been revised, greatly simplifying the actions and targets required.
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Table 6 - Monitoring target for Biodiversity (Tree Planting)

Biodiversity		
Local Output Indicator- Tree Planting		A
LDF Policy	UDP Policy ENV15-19	
Target	Progress in relation to targets in forest plans / strategies.	
Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 70 large size street trees were planted in this monitoring year against a target of 1000 set out in the Urban Forestry Strategy. This number is low due the spending freeze having affected the purchase of new trees. However, many more trees were planted as part of the landscaping for major developments and those carried out by private developers. Such planting is not monitored. 2. 2,500 trees were planted in Reedswood Park as the first phase of establishing the Borough's first Community Woodland, a 5ha planting project delivered through the England Woodland Grant Scheme and planted using Tree Wardens at no cost to the authority. 3. A further 10 large trees were planted on Park Hall Pool Open Space as part of National Tree Week, grant aided by the Tree Council and planted by Tree Wardens. 4. 10 Large trees planted in Kingshill Park funded by the Friends group and planted by them in conjunction with Streetpride. 5. A Tree Management Programme was introduced in this monitoring year which has since achieved runner up status in a national award scheme in September 2010. A Tree Board is intended to be set up to enable members of the community to assist in tree planting projects and will be reflected in the AMR for 2010 - 2011. 	
Actions or Comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alternative funding streams are being considered to aim to deliver the tree planting target within the Urban Forestry Strategy. 	

Table 7 - Monitoring target for Historic Environment (Protection of buildings)

Historic Environment		
Local Output Indicator: Historic Environment: Protection of buildings of historic or architectural interest.		G
LDF Policy	UDP Policy ENV27-29	
Target	100% protection of buildings of historic or architectural interest.	
Achievements	1. No statutory listed buildings have been added to the statutory list 2009 –2010. No historic buildings have been lost.	
Actions or Comments	1. The Council will continue to protect buildings of historic or architectural interest.	

Table 8 - Monitoring target for Historic Environment (Conservation Area Management)

Historic Environment		
Local Output Indicator: Conservation Area Management: Preparation of character appraisals and management strategies.		G
LDF Policy	UDP Policy ENV29	
Target	5 to be prepared by April 2009	
Achievements	1. There have been no new Conservation Area Character Appraisals or Management Plans completed in 2009-10.	
Actions or Comments	1. This target was achieved and reported in the 2008/9 AMR.	

Table 9 - Monitoring target for Renewable Energy

Renewable Energy		
LDF Core Output Indicator E3: (previously LDF Core Output Indicator 9) Renewable Energy capacity installed by type.		R
LDF Policy	UDP Policy ENV39	
Target	Regional Energy Strategy Target: 5% of electricity to be from renewable sources by 2010	
Achievements	1. No renewable energy schemes were installed or granted planning permission during the monitoring year. However, the criteria for this indicator do not require small scale capacity schemes to be recorded where they do not require planning permission.	

Actions or Comments	1. The Black Country Core Strategy is to be adopted by the Council in early 2011. New monitoring arrangements for the Core Strategy will be put into place during 2010/11. This will include a new Local Output Indicator for Core Strategy <i>Policy ENV7: Renewable Energy</i> to measure the proportion of eligible developments delivering measures to off-set residual energy demand.
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Table 10 - Monitoring target for Water Resources, Water Quality and Flood Risk.

Water Resources, Water Quality, Flood Risk.		
LDF Core Output Indicator E1: (previously LDF Core Output Indicator 7) Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on either flood risk or water quality.		G
LDF Policy	UDP Policy ENV40	
Target	None.	
Achievements	1. There were no planning applications approved by the Council that were contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on water quality or flood risk grounds during this monitoring period. Further details can be found in Appendix B.	
Actions or Comments	1. Continue to apply the policy and to take account of Environment Agency advice.	

ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY PERFORMANCE AND EVENTS SUMMARY

7.3 Green Belt - Local planning policies within the UDP Environment section are still proving effective in their control of development in the green belt. Where planning permission was granted for development in a green belt location, the majority of developments were considered to be 'appropriate development' as defined by Planning Policy Guidance Note 2 and UDP Policy ENV2. In the only instances where development would be regarded as 'inappropriate' but permission was granted, justification was provided either through the submission of very special circumstances or because the proposal sites were designated for redevelopment under UDP Policy ENV4.

7.4 Biodiversity - No losses to SACs, SSSIs, LNRs or SINC occurred in 2009/10. However, one planning permission was granted which could result in the potential loss of Green Lane Cutting SLINC. Another planning permission was granted in monitoring year 2008/9 resulting in the loss of part of the Ward's Pool SINC but was not reported in the previous AMR. UDP Policies ENV19-24 have largely been effective but the potential loss of Green Lane Cutting SLINC is unlikely to be effectively mitigated in the medium term.

7.5 Whilst it has not been possible to identify whether the Biodiversity Action Plan targets were met for monitoring year 2009/10, the Birmingham and Black Country Biodiversity Action Plan has been revised, greatly simplifying the actions and targets required and it is aimed to report on progress in the 2010/11 AMR.

7.6 The tree planting target within the Urban Forestry Strategy was not reached in this monitoring year due to funding cuts and alternative funding streams are being considered to aim to deliver the tree planting target which will be reported in the 2010/11 AMR. The introduction of a Tree Management Programme in this monitoring year has since achieved runner up status in a national award scheme and progress on an intended Tree Board to enable members of the community to assist in tree planting projects will also be reflected in the 2010/2011 AMR.

7.7 Renewable Energy - It has not been possible to identify whether the UDP target for renewable energy schemes has been met due to difficulties in obtaining the necessary data where planning permission is not required. However, the BCCS when adopted early in 2011 will introduce a new Local Output Indicator to measure the proportion of eligible developments delivering measures to off-set residual energy demand which will be reflected in the 2010/2011 AMR.

7.8 Water - No planning permissions were granted contrary to Environment Agency advice in 2009/10, and planning conditions were imposed on planning permissions where suggested by the Environment Agency. This shows a commitment to, and effective application of, UDP Policy ENV40 in determining planning applications. Further information on the environment and amenity is available in Appendix B.

JOBS AND PROSPERITY

7.9 Policy Aim (UDP paragraph 4.7): 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.

Table 11 – Detailed Breakdown of Achievement

Amount of floorspace developed for employment land use (sq metres) – 2009/10 monitoring year					
Core Output Indicator	B1a	B8	B1b, B1c, B2 or B8 combined	Sui generis	Total
BD1 – Gross floorspace sq m	---	---	13,105	14,000	14,505
BD2 – Gross floorspace on previously developed land	---(%)	----	100%	100%	100%

Table 12 - Implementation of Economic Policy (Land developed for employment uses)

Economy	
Local Output Indicator: Land developed for employment uses.	
LDF Policy	UDP Policy JP1
Target	13 ha per annum (UDP Target)
Achievements	1. 3.29ha of land developed for employment uses.
Actions or Comments	1. Poor result due to continuing recession and lack of large site availability.

Table 13 - Implementation of Economic Policy (Proportion of Brownfield development)

Economy	
Local Output Indicator: The proportion of development that takes place on Brownfield Sites	
LDF Policy	UDP Policy JP1
Target	95% of all land developed (UDP Target)
Achievements	1. 100% of development took place on Brownfield Sites.
Actions or Comments	1. The Council will continue to encourage development to take place on Brownfield Sites.

Table 14 - Implementation of Economic Policy (Employment Land Supply)

Economy	
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.	
G	
LDF Policy	UDP Policy JP1
Target	95% of the total area (taking into account flexibility of Policy JP4.1 and JP4.2)
Achievements	1. 91% of the total area. Sites transferred out of B1b/c/B2/B8 employment use since 2005 are Bescot Crescent (hotel) Hollyhedge Lane (residential) and Green Lane/Cable Drive (office/B1); this takes account flexibility of Policy JP4.1 and JP 4.2. No JP1 sites transferred in 2009-10.
Actions or Comments	1. The Council will continue to protect New Employment Sites against loss to other, inappropriate uses.

JOBS AND PROSPERITY PERFORMANCE AND EVENTS SUMMARY

7.10 The economy started to recover from the 2008-09 recession. The manufacturing industry, in which Walsall specialises, shared in this recovery, and unemployment started to fall in 2010 as companies re-hired workers to deal with rising orders (as the competitive stimulus caused by the decline in value of sterling took effect).

7.11 The Core Strategy Inspectors' report (published in October 2010) considered that the employment policies were sound, and accepted the Councils' view that there should be slight changes to the definition of 'readily available' employment land, to include land that is not currently marketed but where the owner or developer is known to be a willing seller, or intends to develop in the near future. More details about the situation in the Borough regarding readily available land are set out at paragraph 7.17 below. At the request of the Council, the Inspectors also agreed on a slight change to the wording of the Publication Document to delete reference to housing south of Pelsall Road, Brownhills, so that the whole area is now considered suitable to remain as industrial in the long term.

7.12 In Walsall itself, the Council fought a planning appeal against the refusal of an application to change industrial land to housing at Northgate, Aldridge, part of a UDP Core Employment Area with the decision forthcoming in May 2009. A similar appeal, this time in relation to non-core employment land at Lindon Rd, Brownhills, was held from December 2009 to April 2010. However, in this case the Inspector decided in favour of the appellant in May 2010 (after the end of the monitoring year). After taking legal advice, the Council decided to appeal the decision in the High Court. At the time of writing, the date for the hearing is not known.

7.13 In June 2009, the Council also commissioned Roger Tym & Partners to provide an **Employment Land Review**, to help the Council manage the employment land supply, in the context of the Joint Core Strategy, and

provide a major input into the preparation of the Land Allocation Document. The ELR was published after the end of the monitoring period in November 2010. Its main findings can be dealt with in next year's AMR. The main purpose of the ELR was to classify Walsall's employment land into 8 categories:

- I. Retain as existing High Quality employment land;
- II. Retain as potential High Quality employment land;
- III. Retain as local quality employment land;
- IV. Consider for release in the medium to long term to other uses(subject to safeguards);
- V. Release to other uses now;
- VI. Planning permission for housing since 2005;
- VII. Housing under construction;
- VIII. Housing completed since 2005.

7.14 The Council also carried out a major overhaul of its data on employment land take up since 1998 (when comprehensive electronic records and periodic aerial photographs were instituted) and its collection of vacant sites, in view of the fact that its previous data collection system was found to be lacking and out-of-date by the Inspector in the Lindon Road planning appeal. This AMR benefits from the new series of data established by that overhaul.

7.15 The total employment land figure for 31st March 2010 is derived from Walsall's Employment Land Review (ELR). Paragraphs 4.7 & 4.8 of the ELR show the total summing to 879ha. However, this figure applied in November 2010 when the ELR was published, and included a further 8ha that came into the supply after the current monitoring year ended on 31st March 2010. The ELR does take account of the fact that the former Wincanton site was lost to employment in 2009/10. So the correct figure for total employment land in Walsall in April 2009 is 873.8ha, falling to 871.1 in April 2010. The details of land lost to housing and other uses is set out in tables 1 and 6 of Appendix C.

7.16 There has been a continued increase in **vacant land** as shown in Table 2 of Appendix C which reflects the severe recession of 2008-09 and the low take up rates in 2009/10.

7.17 The definition of **readily available land** is that endorsed by the Inspectors in their report on the Core Strategy of October 2010. To be readily available, land must be free of major physical and infrastructure constraints; on the market; or, if not being marketed, have a willing seller or an owner who intends to develop the site in the near future. When the Core Strategy is adopted Walsall will need to aim to have 46ha of readily available land at any one time. The figures in Table 3 of Appendix C shows that identified readily available land is currently far below 46ha, though the total did improve somewhat between April 2009 and 2010 (due mainly to a site in North Walsall, Newfield Close, being classed as readily available in view of the apparent intention of the new owner to develop). However, it should be noted that part of the large Former Wagon site is currently being developed; as are two others.

STRENGTHENING OUR CENTRES

Policy Aim: 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 (UDP paragraph 5.12).

7.18 The effectiveness of the application of the UDP Centres policies is measured through overlapping local (UDP) and Core Output Indicators, as set out in the tables below. The amount of development in any one year will often be relatively limited and can be skewed by individual schemes, whilst vacancies might appear as a result of areas being cleared for new development or completed developments awaiting lettings. It will be important to be able to plot the trends in development and investment over several years. All figures are gross internal area (GIA) unless specified.

Table 15 – Strengthening our Centres (Amount of A1, A2, B1a and D2 development)

LDF Policy	UDP Policy S1-S7				
Target	No specific target.				
Achievements	A1	A2	B1(a) ²²	D2	Total
Gross (m ²)	7,526	233	150	686	8,595
Net Additional (m ²)	7,037	-10	150	686	7,863
Actions or Comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A significant amount of A1 floorspace was completed in the borough during the monitoring year. However, the new Morrison's supermarket (7,246m² GIA / 3,530m² net tradable area) in Willenhall accounted for the vast majority of this floorspace and a handful of small extensions accounted for the rest. The trend for small A1 units to be converted into other town centres uses (particularly A2 and A3 uses) continued with a loss of 489m² GIA. The 'Net tradable area' figures for A1 floorspace (as defined in The Unit for Retail Planning Information Ltd Information Brief 85/7) across the borough are as follows: Gross 3,790m² and Net Additional: 3,418m². 2. There was just one B1(a) development in the borough resulting from the conversion of two flats in Willenhall District Centre, almost half of the amount that was completed last year. The total floorspace of the two completed leisure developments in the borough was higher than the total in the previous monitoring year. 3. As Table 1 in Appendix E shows, the amount of completed floorspace recorded for all of the town 				

²² Excludes ancillary or temporary uses.

	centre uses was significantly higher than last year.
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Table 16 – Strengthening our Centres (Amount of A1, A2, B1a and D2 within established Centres)

LDF Policy	UDP Policy S1-S5				
Target	No specific target.				
Achievements	A1	A2	B1a	D2	Total
<i>Gross (m²)</i>	7,431	233	150	0	7,814
<i>Net Additional (m²)</i>	7,225	-10	150	0	7,365
Actions or Comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The largest A1 completion included in the table above was the Morrison's supermarket in an edge-of-centre location but within the overall boundary of Willenhall District Centre. Next year's AMR will include another large retail completion in an edge-of-centre location following the opening of a new Tesco supermarket within Walsall Town Centre having relocated from a smaller unit in the Old Square Shopping Centre in the primary shopping area of the town centre. 2. The new A2 floorspace was created by the conversion of retail units to bookmakers in Walsall Town Centre and Lazy Hill local centre. The conversion of a bank in Bloxwich District Centre to a restaurant and hot-food takeaway resulted in a loss of A2 floorspace overall. 				

Table 17 – Strengthening our Centres (Proportion of development in established Centres)

Local Output Indicator - Proportion of development for retailing, leisure and other town centre uses that takes place in established centres.						G
LDF Policy	UDP Policy S1-S5					
Target	At least 90% of all development for retailing, leisure and other town centre uses to take place in established centres (UDP target).					
Achievements	A1	A2	B1(a)	D2	Other	Combined
<i>In centre development</i>	98.7%	100%	100%	0%	86.5%	90.6%
Actions or Comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proportion of A1, A2 and B1(a) development that took place in the borough's centres far exceeded the UDP target of 90%. However, the combined figure for all town centre uses was just above the target. This was the result of a new gymnastics centre and an extension to a golf course clubhouse - both developments were in out-of-centre locations. 2. In terms of 'Other' town centre uses (e.g. A3, A4, A5 and sui generis uses attracting a significant number of 					

	trips), 512m ² of floorspace was completed in the borough and 443m ² within centres. The proportion of development that took place in centres fell just below the UDP target as a result of an out-of-centre hot-food takeaway serving a local need.
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Table 18 – Strengthening our Centres (Shopping Centres)

Local Output Indicator- Shopping Centres: Amount of vacant floor space in centres.		R
LDF Policy	UDP Policy S1-S7	
Target	Vacancies to be at or below the national average (UDP Target).	
Achievements	<p>1. The Council was unable to monitor vacancy rates in all of the centres during 2009-10. However, the Local Data Company's 'Mid-Year Shop Vacancy Report 2010' (published September 2010) indicates that between the end of 2009 and the end of June 2010, the average vacancy rate for Great Britain rose from just over 12% to 13%. During the same period the vacancy rate in Walsall Town Centre increased from 3.83% to 18.6%. Walsall Town Centre had the second highest vacancy rate in the West Midlands (after Wolverhampton City Centre) and the 24th highest vacancy rate among large town centres in Great Britain.</p>	
Actions or Comments	<p>1. Consider monitoring the vacancy rates in the borough's centres in conjunction with work on the Land Allocations DPD and liaise with other teams within the Council to monitor vacancies on a regular basis, particularly in the town and district centres.</p>	

STRENGTHENING OUR CENTRES PERFORMANCE AND EVENTS SUMMARY

7.19 The amount of completed floorspace recorded for all of the town centre uses was significantly higher than 2008/9 and the trend for small A1 units to be converted into other town centres uses (particularly A2 and A3 uses) continued. There was also a small net loss of A2 floorspace within the town centre, but an overall net gain in town centre uses within the town centre.

7.20 The proportion of development that took place in centres was just above the UDP target of 90% with A1, A2 and B1(a) uses that took place in centres all performing well above the 90% UDP.

7.21 In terms of in-centre vacancy rates, Walsall Town Centre is recorded as having the 24th highest vacancy rate in Great Britain and the second highest vacancy rate in the West Midlands. Further information on centres is available in Appendix E.

HOUSING

7.22 UDP Policy Aim (UDP paragraph 6.7): To promote the provision of the right quantity and type of housing, in the most appropriate locations, whilst minimising any adverse impact on the environment.

7.23 HOUSING CORE OUTPUT INDICATORS

Table 19 - Housing Land Supply

COI H1 (also an indicator for UDP Policy H1)		G
Target	See comments below. The RSS 1 target of 500 dwelling completions per year assumes 50 demolitions per year, so the net target is 450 new dwellings per year. This equates to a requirement for a 5 year supply of 2,250 net additional dwellings (2,500 gross).	
Achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning permissions and allocations in the UDP as at 1 April 2010 provided sites for 5,850 dwellings. 2. The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment revealed that other potential housing sites had capacity for a further 8,951 dwellings. 	
Actions or Comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The SHLAA used a base date of 1 April 2009. A small number of the sites in the SHLAA were granted planning permission during 2009-2010 so there is a slight overlap between these two figures. In view of the fact that the supply is so far in excess of the 5 year requirement however, this overlap is not significant. It is intended to update the SHLAA during 2010-11 to rectify this. 	

Table 20 - Dwelling Completions

COI H2 (also UDP Policy 6.3, but this is no longer relevant – see commentary above)	RAG see below
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COI H2 is divided into three parts as follows:

H2(a) Net additional dwellings over the previous five year period (2004-2009)		RAG N/A
Target	See comments below. The transition between the UDP and RSS targets means that there is no meaningful 5-year target for this period	
Achievement	1. 1127	
Actions or Comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The low figure for net completions is the result of a large number of demolitions of Walsall Housing Group properties during the period, as well as apparent under-recording of completions. 	

H2(b) Net additional dwellings for the current year (2009-10)		G
Target	450 net (based on RSS 1)	
Achievement	1. 1695	
Actions or Comments	1. See explanation below of the audit of housing completions undertaken during the year.	

H2(c) Projected net additional dwellings up to 2026		RAG N/A
Target	a) Net additional dwellings 2010-2026	9776
	b) Hectares 2011-2016	72ha
	c) Target dwelling numbers 2011-16	2535
Achievement	Not applicable	
Actions or Comments	1. The projected additional dwellings in COI H2(c) and (d) above use the figures from the BCCS. This will allow comparisons to be made in future years. H2(c)a) comprises the BCCS net target for 2006-26 minus completions in April 2006 to September 2010. H2(c)b) and c) comprise a notional trajectory that was prepared for the examination in public of the BCCS. The use of this trajectory was supported by the inspectors' report.	

H2(d) Managed delivery target		RAG N/A
Target	507 dwellings per annum to 2016	
	460 dwellings per annum thereafter	
Achievement	Not applicable	
Actions or Comments	See below	

Table 21 - Dwellings on Previously Developed Land

COI H3: Percentage of New and Converted Dwellings on Previously Developed Land (also UDP Policy H1)		G
Target	Planning Policy Statement 3 sets a target of 60%. UDP policy H1 sets a target of 95%.	
Achievement	1. 100% of completions recorded during the year were on previously developed land.	
Actions or Comments	1. The definition of previously developed land was revised in June 2010 to exclude former garden land. This change occurred after the end of the monitoring year but means that the figure for this indicator in future years will not be strictly comparable with previous years.	

Table 22 - Pitches for Gypsies and Travellers

COI H4: Additional Pitches for Gypsies and Travellers (there is no “saved” UDP policy for this indicator)		A
Target	There was no adopted development plan target for this indicator during the monitoring year.	
Achievement	1. No additional pitches were provided during the year.	
Actions or Comments	<p>1. The Black Country Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment identified a requirement for 39 residential pitches and 35 travelling showpeople plots to be provided in Walsall over the period 2008-18, together with 10-12 transit pitches in the Black Country as a whole. These figures fed into the RSS 3 revision and the BCCS. These figures will form a target for future years when the latter is adopted.</p> <p>2. The Council commissioned a Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Survey during the year to identify potential new sites. The results of this survey are expected to be published by the end of 2010.</p>	

Table 23 - Affordable Housing

COI H5: Gross Affordable Housing Completions (UDP Policy H4)		A
Target	UDP Policy H4 seeks 3,600 additional affordable homes over the period 1991-2011. 2,425 homes had been provided by 2009, leaving a total of 1,175 homes to be provided in 2009-11.	
Achievement	1. 321 affordable dwellings were provided during the monitoring year.	
Actions or Comments	<p>1. It appears very unlikely that the UDP target will be achieved by 2011. However, this is largely the result of the low level of provision over the years 2002-8 when only 393 affordable homes in total were completed. The achievement for the year of 321 dwellings (which compares with 374 in 2008-9) exceeds the residual annual target of 184 dwellings which the UDP identifies for the period 2002-11.</p> <p>2. The reduction in public funding as a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2010 will affect the numbers of affordable dwellings provided in future years. Falls in land values and abnormal site costs have also led to pressure to reduce the requirement for affordable homes to be provided through planning obligations.</p>	

Table 24 - Building for Life Assessments

COI H6: Building for Life Assessments (there is no directly relevant UDP policy, although parts of GP1, GP2, GP6 and ENV32 contain some elements)		R
Target	The number and proportion of total new build completions on housing sites reaching very good, good, average and poor ratings against the Building for Life criteria.	
Achievement	1. The Council does not currently record this data.	
Actions or Comments	1. There is a need for staff training to allow new build completions to be assessed in future.	

7.24 HOUSING LOCAL OUTPUT INDICATORS

These comprise those indicators in the housing chapter of the UDP that are not also Core Output Indicators and referred to above.

Table 25 - Vacancy Rates in Existing Housing Stock

UDP Policy H1		A
Target	Reduce vacancies to 3% by 2011	
Achievement	1. As at April 2010, the vacancy rate of 3.8% was unchanged from April 2009.	
Actions or Comments	<p>1. The vacancy rate is calculated by dividing the total number of dwellings reported in the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) by the number of vacant dwellings reported on the Council Tax Base (CTB). However, the former has taken account of the completions audit referred to above. As such, the total number of dwellings recorded in the HSSA may not be exactly comparable with the CTB.</p> <p>2. Measures are in hand to reconcile the two databases.</p> <p>3. The calculated vacancy rate this year may not therefore be strictly comparable with that reported in previous years, which was 4.6% in April 2007, 4.1% in April 2008 and 3.8% in April 2009.</p>	

Table 26 - Housing Windfall Sites

UDP Policy H1		G
Target	Annual average of 275 dwellings per annum to be on windfall sites	
Achievement	1. 1,693 out of the 1,734 gross completions were on windfall sites	
Actions or Comments	1. It is to be expected that the proportion of housing development that takes place on windfall sites would increase as the development plan becomes more out of date. However, of the sites allocated in the UDP	

	<p>(proposal H2), the majority still remain to be developed.</p> <p>2. Proposal H2 allocates sites for 613 dwellings. Of these, sites shown as having an estimated capacity of 154 dwellings have been completed (the actual number of dwellings granted planning permission and built does not always equal the estimated capacity in the UDP), whilst sites with an estimated capacity of 150 dwellings were under construction during the monitoring year.</p> <p>3. Sites allocated in the UDP only account for a small proportion of the total number of sites needed to meet the housing requirements in the RSS and emerging BCCS. It will be important to begin work on Site Allocation Documents to ensure that sufficient sites are identified to meet future needs.</p>
--	--

Table 27 - Density of New Development

UDP Policy H9		G
Target	Overall average density of new residential development during the year to be at least 30 dwellings per hectare.	
Achievement	1. The average net density of development on sites that were completed during the year was 40 dwellings per hectare.	
Actions or Comments	<p>1. This figure only takes account of sites that were fully completed during the year, which accounts for 1,035 out of the 1,734 gross completions.</p> <p>2. The average density of sites that were granted planning permission during the year was 46 dwellings per hectare.</p>	

Table 28 - Mix of Dwelling Types

UDP Policy H9								A
Target	To achieve a mix of types and sizes appropriate to local circumstances at the time the dwellings are constructed.							
Achievement	1. The mix of dwelling types completed was as follows:							
	Flats				Houses and Bungalows			
	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4+ Bed	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4+ Bed
	235	738	42	0	6	102	325	286
Actions or Comments	1. The completions audit means that these figures may not reflect the actual mix of dwellings completed during							

	the year.
	2. It is intended to update the housing needs assessment in 2010-11 to provide more information about need and demand in relation to tenure and type.

HOUSING PERFORMANCE AND EVENTS SUMMARY

Completions Audit.

7.25 The Council has records of annual housing completions over many years. A comprehensive audit of these records was undertaken in April 2010. This involved comparing records held by the Council of the number of completions recorded on each site with planning permission with the actual situation on each site. The audit revealed that there appears to have been a significant under-recording of completions, probably over several years.

7.26 Building Control data recorded a total of 613 completions during the year. However, the audit identified a total of 1695 net additional dwellings compared with the situation as recorded at April 2009. This latter figure is considerably in excess of the average of 500-600 completions recorded per year over the last 15 to 20 years, and is far more than would be expected in view of the economic downturn that continued during the year. It implies that the under-recording has omitted at least 1000 completions.

7.27 Of the 1695 completions, 719 were houses or bungalows whilst the remainder were flats. The Walsall Housing Needs and Demand Study update carried out in 2007 identified a surplus of flats and a shortfall of houses in the borough. The high number of flats identified as completed during the year continued this imbalance.

7.28 Nearly all the completions noted during the audit were on sites that have been granted planning permission since 2006. It can therefore be assumed that the actual completions took place between 2006 and 2010. April 2006 was the start date for the Phase 2 Revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy, which provided the most up to date housing target during the monitoring year. It is also the start date for the emerging Black Country Core Strategy.

7.29 Although the correct number of completions during the monitoring year itself cannot be stated with any certainty, the audited data therefore provides an accurate basis for monitoring the Core Strategy in future years. It will be important to put measures in place to ensure that the accuracy of the housing completions database is maintained in future.

7.30 To avoid the need to adjust figures for previous years, for the purpose of this AMR as well as regional and national returns the completions discovered during the audit have been assumed to have all taken place during the monitoring year. This approach has been agreed with the Department of Communities and Local Government.

7.31 The total of at least 613 completions during the year is healthy compared to long-term trends and in view of the continuing economic downturn. However, a large proportion of the completions that were known to have occurred during the year were provided either through public funding or on public sector land. These included 112 “Extra Care” apartments for the elderly and over 200 dwellings on former local authority housing sites.

7.32 During the first six months of 2010-11, 248 completions have been recorded. A substantial number of these dwellings as well as those that remain under construction in 2010-11 have been supported by an element of public funding, for example Walsall Waterfront. The reduction in public funding as a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2010 will affect the numbers of such dwellings in future years.

Other Events During Year.

7.33 The year was a period of transition for housing targets. It was noted in last year’s AMR, for 2008-9, that the target in RPG11 of 10,100 dwellings to be completed over the period 1991-2011, which formed the basis of the housing supply requirement in the UDP, was reached during 2008-9 so was no longer appropriate to use as a measure.

7.34 New housing targets were set by the Phase 1 Revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS1), which was issued in January 2008. These proposed an annual gross rate for Walsall of 500 dwellings. RSS1 was the only part of the statutory development plan to be in effect during the monitoring year that contained a relevant housing target.

7.35 Also during the year, the examination in public of the Phase 2 Revision of the RSS (RSS 2) took place between April to June 2009. However, RSS 2 only set housing targets at a Black Country wide level rather than at the level of individual local authorities. A net total of 61,200 dwellings for the period 2006-2026 were proposed. This total was increased to 63,000 dwellings in the Report of the Panel, which was published in September 2009.

7.36 The Regional Spatial Strategy was revoked by the Secretary of State in July 2010, but this revocation took place in July 2010 after the end of the monitoring year. This revocation was subsequently declared by the High Court to be unlawful which means that RSS1 has been reinstated and will remain part of the development plan at least until the end of the monitoring year 2010-11. However, the RSS targets will be replaced in future years by those in the Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS). The BCCS targets are based on those in the RSS 2 Panel Report except that they are broken down to local authority level.

7.37 The Examination in Public of the BCCS took place in July 2010 and the Inspectors’ Report that confirms the BCCS is sound was received in October 2010. These events took place after the end of the monitoring year. However, with the likely abolition of the RSS the BCCS will be the only source of future housing targets that is carried forward. The BCCS targets have therefore been used below in order to assist with future monitoring.

7.38 During the monitoring year, the Council completed its first Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). This confirmed that there is a supply of sites in the borough for over 14,000 dwellings, including existing commitments. This supply is well in excess of the 5-year supply that would be required to meet RSS1, and it also exceeds that required to meet other potential targets including RSS 2 (if broken down to local authority level) and the BCCS.

TRANSPORT

7.39 Aim: To promote the provision of a wide range of sport, recreation, leisure, entertainment, arts, education, health and other community facilities in locations that are easily accessible by a choice and means of transport (UDP paragraph 8.10).

Table 29 – Transport (New Residential Development)

Transport											
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.											
G											
LDF Policy	UDP Policy T12										
Target	Increase the Total Population within 30 minutes inter-peak travel time of a main NHS Hospital by accessible public transport from 2005 baseline of 580,000 by 50% by 2011.										
Achievements	<p>1. Baseline has changed as explained in appendices but trend is still for increased accessibility:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th><th>Total Population</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2005 Baseline</td><td>252,571</td></tr> <tr> <td>2006</td><td>402,540</td></tr> <tr> <td>2007</td><td>428,941</td></tr> <tr> <td>2008</td><td>450,731</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Total Population	2005 Baseline	252,571	2006	402,540	2007	428,941	2008	450,731
Year	Total Population										
2005 Baseline	252,571										
2006	402,540										
2007	428,941										
2008	450,731										
Actions or Comments	1. Continue to encourage the growth of total population to aim to meet the target by 2011.										

Table 30 – Transport (Increase Number of Bus Journeys)

Transport	
Local Output Indicator: Increase number of bus journeys in line with LTP target.	
A	
LDF Policy	UDP Policy T2
Target	LTP target is to increase bus use within West Mids Met Area from the 2003/04 base of 325 million trips per year to 355 million by 2010/11.
Achievements	<p>1. LTP Target interim milestone for 2008/9 324m. Passenger trips by bus in 2008-09 were 326.7m. In 2009/10 this figure dropped to 319.9m which is below the target figure. These figures are for the whole conurbation. (Source: Centro ASR 2008-09). In Walsall, biennial cordon surveys showed an 8.7% decrease in bus trips into Walsall Town Centre during the morning peak between 2005 and 2007. Cordon bus trips fell by a further 7.2% in 2009.</p> <p>2. Walsall completed the Town Centre Transport Package Major Scheme and also North Walsall Bus network review in conjunction with Centro and operators</p>
Actions or	1. To progress this further need to continue good work

Comments	<p>across metropolitan area through Bus Showcase, Bus Partnership Routes, Bus Network Reviews and the wider actions from the Audit Commission Report into West Midlands Bus Use.</p> <p>2. Complete additional Walsall Bus Network Reviews in conjunction with Centro.</p>
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Table 31 – Transport (Car Park Spaces)

Transport	
Local Output Indicator - Car parking provision for new housing development in line with standards in T13	G
LDF Policy	UDP Policy T13
Target	Car park spaces to meet the standards within UDP Policy T13.
Achievements	1. In line with target.
Actions or Comments	1. Keep all new housing developments in line with parking targets.

Table 32 – Transport (Traffic Growth)

Transport	
Local Output Indicator: Keep traffic growth in line with LTP target.	G
LDF Policy	UDP Policy T4, T5
Target	LTP target is for no more than a 7% increase in road traffic mileage between 2004 and 2010.
Achievements	<p>1. The current Local Transport Plan (LTP) for the West Midlands Metropolitan Area proposes a target of no more than a 7% increase in traffic mileage between 2004 and 2010. The methodology for monitoring this indicator has changed in 2006 from an annual 25-point survey process to a more statistically robust biennial 1500-point survey process. Unfortunately, this change has been so fundamental that comparisons between two different data sets have not been possible. Therefore, there is only one year of historic data set to compare to current performance. This will be resolved as the Met Area carries on with the 1500-point approach in future years. In 2006 the result was 102.3 and this had dropped to 101.1 by 2008, this is well ahead of target trajectory. Data for 2010 should be available by the next AMR.</p> <p>A Base figure has been set at 2004 of 100.</p> <p>2006 = 102.3</p> <p>2008 = 101.1 (well ahead of target trajectory)</p> <p>(Source: CEPOG Support Team)</p>

	<p>2. Walsall Town Centre Transport Package is a £17million package of highway infrastructure improvements around the northern and north-western side of Walsall Town Centre. Approval for funding was received in April 2006. Works commenced in July 2006 and were completed in Spring 2009. With the completion of the project peak-time journeys have been cut by 96 seconds on average in the morning on the Wolverhampton Road to Pleck Road stretch and 52 seconds in the evening. Town Hill network improvements were built by the private sector at a cost of £2m to serve Phase 1 of St Matthew's Quarter in Walsall Town Centre. The improvements also serve the 51 Showcase Bus Route between Walsall Town Centre and Birmingham City Centre.</p> <p>3. Highway Improvements: First phase of the Route 301 scheme between Walsall and Bloxwich was completed in November 2010 including Bloxwich High Street, second phase to start in early 2011. Additional design work and consultation has continued to progress on the Route 404 between Walsall and West Bromwich. Implementation of Route 529 is expected to be completed in early 2011. Following the 51 Route receiving Red Route treatment during 2008, both the 529 and 301 schemes were incorporated into the Red Route initiative in 2010, along with the first phase of the Broadway Red Route scheme.</p>
Actions or Comments	<p>1. Continue with 1500 point surveys.</p> <p>2. Deliver improvements on congestion corridors included in LTP PSA target.</p> <p>3. Continue to implement Decriminalised Parking Enforcement and look to gain powers for moving vehicle enforcement.</p> <p>4. Implement Red Routes & other management improvements.</p>

Table 33 – Transport (Bicycle Trips)

Transport	
Local Output Indicator: Increase proportion of trips made by bike in line with LTP target	G
LDF Policy	UDP Policy T9
Target	LTP Target is 1% increase in cycling index between 2003/04 and 2010/11.
Achievements	1. Although levels of cycling appear to have fallen, they are still well above the target trajectory:

	<p>2. T9 2008/9 performance = 135.92 and target milestone = 95.</p> <p>3. T9 2009/10 performance = 123.44 and target milestone = 97.</p> <p>Source: Core Support Team; Figures are for whole conurbation.</p>
Actions or Comments	<p>1. Continue to implement good quality facilities for cyclists as part of the authority's capital works programmes and through developers via planning conditions.</p>

TRANSPORT PERFORMANCE AND EVENTS SUMMARY

7.40 Although there have been no large rail infrastructure improvements in Walsall in 2009/10, the borough's Rail Services and Facilities Improvement Plan has stimulated a number of transport studies within 2009/10.

7.41 The Walsall Town Centre Transport Package was completed in Spring 2009 providing highway infrastructure improvements around the northern and north-western side of Walsall Town Centre which has resulted in peak-time journeys being cut by an average of 96 seconds in the morning on the Wolverhampton Road to Pleck Road stretch and 52 seconds in the evening.

7.42 The number of bus journeys in 2009/10 has decreased in the West Midlands Metropolitan area and morning peak bus trips into Walsall Town Centre have consistently decreased since 2005. The recession is likely to have played a major part in the decline in bus trips and the decline is likely to result in the current 2010/11 LTP target not being achieved. The Red Route initiative incorporated bus routes 529 and 301 in 2010, along with the first phase of the Broadway Red Route scheme. Further transport data is available in Appendix D.

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY NEEDS

7.43 Policy Aim: To promote the provision of a wide range of sport, recreation, leisure, entertainment, arts, education, health and other community facilities in locations that are easily accessible by a choice and means of transport (UDP paragraph 8.10).

Table 34 – Leisure and Community (Green Flag Award)

Leisure and Community	
Local Indicator (formerly Core Output Indicator 4c): Amount of eligible open space managed to Green Flag Award standard	
A	
LDF Policy	
Target	Retention of existing Green Flag sites and award of new sites as per Green Space Strategy.
Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retention of Palfrey Park and Willenhall Memorial Park as existing Green Flag sites 2. Award of Green Flag 'status' to Merrions Wood Local Nature Reserve.
Actions or Comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whilst the Council has retained its existing Green Flag sites and added another in the form of Merrions Wood, there has overall been a lack of progress in meeting the schedule for Green Flag designations as set out in the Green Space Strategy. 2. However this does not reflect on the performance of UDP Policy LC1 as the management of parks and open space, and therefore the ability to achieve Green Flag Award designations, is beyond planning jurisdiction. 3. The government removed the Core Output Indicator in 2008 but encouraged LPAs to continue to monitor this indicator where they had signed up to the green flag scheme or had adopted a green flag local policy²³. Whilst it has been included as a Local Indicator in this years AMR, the Council will review whether to continue to include it in future AMRs.

Table 35 – Leisure and Community (Protection of Urban Open Space)

Leisure and Community	
UDP Monitoring Indicator: Protection of urban open spaces from inappropriate development.	
G	
LDF Policy	
Target	100% protection (UDP Target)
Achievements	1. 100% protection achieved

²³ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/coreoutputindicators2.pdf>

Actions or Comments	<p>1. Only three applications were received proposing a loss of urban open space during the monitoring year. Of these three, one was refused planning permission due to it resulting in the loss of an area of open space with no redeeming mitigation offered.</p> <p>2. The other two applications also resulted in the loss of an area of urban open space, however in both cases there was compliance with Policy LC1, particularly parts (a) and (b). In the one instance compensatory provision (see LC1 (b)) was proposed and deemed acceptable as part of the application, while in the other the proposal did not prejudice any of the functions included in LC1 (a).</p>

Table 36 – Leisure and Community (Provision of New Urban Open Space)

Leisure and Community	
UDP Monitoring Indicator: Provision of new urban open spaces.	
	G
LDF Policy	UDP Policy LC2
Target	At least 24 hectares of new urban open space 1991-2011
Achievements	1. No new urban open space has been provided within this monitoring year however 43.62 ha has been provided since 1991 which is considerably higher than the original target.
Actions or Comments	

Table 37 – Leisure and Community (Length of Greenways)

Leisure and Community	
UDP Monitoring Indicator: Length of greenways constructed.	
	G
LDF Policy	UDP Policy LC5
Target	At least another 10 miles (16 km) 2002 - 2011 (UDP Target)
Achievements	1. None in 2009/10 but 48 km previously which is considerably higher than the original target.
Actions or Comments	

Table 38 – Leisure and Community (Protection of Playing Fields and Sports Pitches)

Leisure and Community	
UDP Monitoring Indicator: Protection of playing fields / sports pitches	
G	
LDF Policy	UDP Policy LC6
Target	100% protection (UDP Target)
Achievements	1. 100% protection achieved
Actions or Comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The target of 100% protection of playing fields has again been achieved, although this takes into consideration the 'caveats' (parts I and II) in UDP Policy LC6. 2. One application (09/1130/OL) for the Grace Academy in Darlaston has been approved which annexes part of George Rose Park including existing playing pitches. However, the application proposes compensatory mitigation through improvements to the remainder of the park and a community use agreement for public use of school sports facilities, including a new artificial grass pitch (AGP). It is thus considered to comply with UDP Policy LC6.

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY NEEDS PERFORMANCE AND EVENTS SUMMARY

7.44 Palfrey Park (6.5ha) and Willenhall Memorial Park (20ha) are managed to Green Flag Award standard and have retained this status from 2007 and 2008 respectively. Merrions Wood Local Nature Reserve site (12ha) has gained the Green Flag Award during the 2009/10 monitoring year to become the third Green Flag site in the borough.

7.45 Indicators concerned with the protection of 'leisure' land-use, such as the protection of urban open space (UDP Policy LC1) and the protection of playing pitches (Policy LC6), have been successful during this monitoring year, both reaching their 100% targets. A PPG17 compliant open space, sports and recreational survey of the existing provision and assessment of future provision needs is currently in progress.

7.46 However this should be viewed in the context of how policies are worded. There has been a small number of permissions granted where a loss of this land-use is suffered but mitigation is proposed, which ensures compliance with planning policy.

7.47 Other indicators promoting the expansion of leisure land-uses have had mixed successes. For example, the Council now has a commendable three

Green Flag Award sites in the borough, but this is still someway behind the intentions set out in the 2006-2011 Green Space Strategy.

7.48 Indicators covering the provision of additional urban open space and the extension of the greenway network are now out-dated. While the targets for these indicators have been achieved over the UDP 'plan period', there has been no additional provision in the last monitoring year. The Black Country Core Strategy will be adopted by the Council in early 2011. New monitoring arrangements for the Core Strategy will be put into place during 2010/11. This will include a new Local Output Indicator for Core Strategy *Policy ENV6: Open Space, Sport and Recreation* to measure the proportion of accessible open space.

MINERALS

7.49 Policy Aim: To enable the Borough to meet its obligations to maintain supplies of minerals for industry within the region and to prevent the unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources which may be required to be worked in the future, to secure the satisfactory restoration of mineral workings for a suitable use and to safeguard the amenity of adjoining land uses, particularly residential and other sensitive areas (UDP paragraph 9.12).

Table 39 – Minerals (Production of Primary Land Won Aggregates)

Minerals	
LDF Core Output Indicator (formerly 5a): Production of primary land won aggregates by mineral planning authority.	
R	
LDF Policy	UDP (Minerals) - Strategic Policy Statement 9.9, Policies M2 and M3
Target	<p>Annual production targets for sand and gravel and crushed rock are set at a national, regional and sub-regional level. These are in the form of national and regional guidelines and sub-regional “apportionments.” Walsall is part of the West Midlands County sub-region, which has an apportionment for sand and gravel only. The RSS apportionments were reviewed during 2009/10. The revised sand and gravel apportionment for the West Midlands County, recommended by the Aggregates Working Party is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.550 million tonnes per annum <p>(Report to West Midlands Regional Assembly - Regional Planning and Environment Executive, 23/02/10, Option 1c).</p>
Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In 2008 sand and gravel production in the West Midlands County was around 500,000 tonnes, slightly lower than the revised apportionment rate. In 2008 permitted reserves of sand and gravel in the West Midlands County increased to 5.21 million tonnes due to a new permission in Solihull. At 31 December 2008, the West Midlands County had a sand and gravel landbank of 10.29 years, compared to the 7 year landbank requirement set out in national policy guidance.
Actions or Comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Black Country Core Strategy – to be adopted by the Council in early 2011, and will replace most of the UDP minerals policies. New monitoring arrangements for the Core Strategy will be put into place during 2010/11. The Core Strategy will include an indicative target for primary sand and gravel production in Walsall, and identifies areas of search containing resources which can contribute towards

	<p>the West Midlands County apportionment.</p> <p>2. Aldridge Quarry – sand and gravel extraction at Aldridge Quarry ceased during 2009/10. Restoration has not yet commenced. The Core Strategy identifies an area of search around the quarry which has the potential to provide further resources. However, no mineral applications have so far been received for working in this area.</p> <p>3. Branton Hill Quarry Extension Proposal – the outstanding mineral application, which would provide around 1.2 million tonnes of sand and gravel, is still being progressed. The application is expected to be determined during 2010/11 once the arrangements to bring forward the new access road have been finalised.</p>
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Table 40 – Minerals (Production of Secondary/Recycled Aggregates)

Minerals	
LDF Core Output Indicator M2 (formerly 5b): Production of secondary/recycled aggregates by mineral planning authority	
A	
LDF Policy	UDP (Minerals) - Strategic Policy Statement 9.4
Target	<p>There are currently no local or sub-regional targets for production of secondary/ recycled aggregates. However, the current national and regional aggregates guidelines²⁴ assume that 100 million tonnes of alternatives (secondary/ recycled aggregates) will be produced in the West Midlands region between 2005 and 2020. The regional guideline for secondary/ recycled aggregates production equates to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.25 million tonnes per annum (27% of total regional aggregate production)
Achievements	<p>1. The 2005 Capita Symonds survey has been supplemented by a recent national study on construction, demolition and excavation waste, and recent information on production at “urban quarry” sites in the Black Country.</p> <p>2. A review of the available data in 2010 suggests that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. In 2005, around 125,000 tonnes of recycled aggregate were produced in Walsall (about 70% of total local aggregates production); II. In 2005, around 980,000 tonnes of secondary

²⁴ National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England 2005 – 2020 (June 2009), CLG

	<p>and recycled aggregate were produced in the Black Country (about 95% of total aggregates production);</p> <p>III. At 31 March 2010, there were nine “urban quarry” facilities operating in the Black Country, which were estimated to be producing around 0.8 million tonnes of secondary and recycled aggregate</p> <p>IV. Significant amounts of construction and demolition wastes are produced in Walsall and the wider Black Country, and quantities are expected to increase if anticipated levels of development and growth are realised, so there may be scope to increase production of re-used and recycled aggregates between now and 2026.</p>
Actions or Comments	<p>1. Improvements to Data Collection and Monitoring – we need to establish a new system to collect data on secondary and recycled aggregates production in Walsall and the wider Black Country. This will be addressed during 2010/11. It will include annual survey of fixed secondary and recycled aggregates processing sites and collation of data from Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs) submitted with planning applications, linked to the local validation checklist.</p>

Table 41 – Minerals (Supply of Brick Clay)

Minerals	
Proposed New Local Indicator: Supply of clay to brick manufacturing plants	
LDF Policy	UDP (Minerals) Strategic Policy Statement 9.4
Target	There are no local targets for supply of clay to brickworks. However, there is a national policy requirement for mineral planning authorities to identify a 25-year supply of brick clay to each operational or proposed brick manufacturing plant (see MPS1, Annex 2).
Achievements	<p>1. At April 2010 there were three operational brick manufacturing plants in Walsall, none of which had an identified 25 year supply of locally occurring clays (Etruria Marl and Fireclay).</p> <p>2. There has been no increase in supply of brick clays to works in Walsall through new permissions granted during 2009/10. However, an application was submitted to allow working at Sandown Quarry within</p>

	a small area not covered by the current mineral permission.
Actions or Comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Black Country Core Strategy – to be adopted by the Council in early 2011, and will replace most of the UDP minerals policies. New monitoring arrangements for the Core Strategy will be put into place during 2010/11. The Core Strategy identifies areas of search for Etruria Marl and Fireclay in Walsall, which have the potential to contribute towards long-term supplies of clays to brickworks and a local supplier of pot clay blends. 2. Sandown Quarry Application – an application was submitted during 2008/09 for working the “causeway” - a former mineral railway line within the quarry, which is not covered by the original permission. This was approved in July 2010 and will help maintain supplies of Etruria Marl to Sandown Works to around 2014/15.

MINERALS PERFORMANCE AND EVENTS SUMMARY

The main recent developments in mineral planning are set out below and further details can be found in Appendix F.

7.50 In 2008, production of sand and gravel in the West Midlands County was just below the level of the existing RSS apportionment – but quarries in Walsall contributed around only 10% of this.

7.51 At 31 December 2008, the West Midlands County sand and gravel landbank was 5.210 million tonnes, equivalent to 10.29 years of production at existing RSS apportionment rates – but less than 5% of the permitted reserves that make up the landbank are in Walsall.

7.52 Deficiencies in sand and gravel reserves in Walsall have been addressed through the Black Country Core Strategy, which has identified areas of search containing resources which can contribute towards future supplies.

7.53 Production of sand and gravel at Aldridge Quarry ceased during 2009/10, leaving Branton Hill as the only active sand and gravel quarry in Walsall.

7.54 It is estimated that fixed processing and recycling plants in the Black Country are currently producing around 0.8 million tonnes of secondary and recycled aggregate per annum.

7.55 In 2008, licensed waste facilities in Walsall handled significant amounts of waste suitable for re-use or recycling for aggregates, suggesting there may be scope to increase production of secondary and recycled aggregates.

7.56 Two of Walsall's three brickworks have supplies of Etruria Marl significantly below the 25 years required by national policy guidance, and none of the works have any identified local supplies of Fireclay.

7.57 Deficiencies in the supply of Etruria Marl and Fireclay have been addressed as far as possible by the Core Strategy, which identifies areas of search containing resources which have the potential to contribute towards future supplies. Continued working of Etruria Marl at Highfields South Quarry into 2009/10 has helped maintain supplies to these works in the short-term.

7.58 There is a current proposal for working at "the causeway" site which will increase the permitted reserves available within Sandown Quarry (current application at 31 March 2010).

WASTE

7.59 Aims: An integrated and co-ordinated approach towards waste management, having regard to relevant national and regional guidance and the Council's own Municipal Waste Management Strategy, and seeking to manage waste as close as possible to its source, and to move the management of waste as far as possible up the "waste hierarchy" (UDP Strategic Policy Statement 10.1, 10.2, 10.3 and 10.15).

Table 42 – Waste (Capacity of New Waste Management Facilities)

Waste	
LDF Core Output Indicator WM1: Capacity of new waste management facilities by waste planning authority (by type)	
G	
LDF Policy	UDP (Waste Management): Policies WM1 - WM3
Targets	<p>There are no specific targets in the UDP (2005) or in the current municipal waste management strategy (2004) for provision of new waste management facilities.</p> <p>Requirements for new waste management infrastructure for the Black Country as a whole and for Walsall to 2026 have been identified in the Black Country Core Strategy, which is expected to be adopted by the Council early in 2011.</p>
Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total capacity of new waste management planning permissions granted in Walsall during 2009/10: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Recovery – 75,000 TPA II. Transfer (hazardous) - 3,625 TPA 2. The following new waste management facilities were developed in Walsall during 2009/10: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. New storage and processing unit at G&P Batteries in Darlaston (rebuilding of premises damaged by fire in 2008, no net increase in capacity); II. New asbestos waste transfer facility (Watling Waste Services) at Gatehouse Trading Estate in Brownhills – 3,625 TPA; III. New waste transfer facility at Empire Treatment Works (Veolia) in Aldridge (relocation of existing facility, no net increase in capacity). 3. New waste management facilities are defined as those which have gained planning permission and have been operable within the reporting year.

Actions or Comments	1. Black Country Core Strategy – to be adopted by the Council in early 2011. New monitoring arrangements for the Core Strategy will be put into place during 2010/11. Strategic waste infrastructure in the pipeline is identified in Policy WM3 and in the Delivery and Implementation Plan (DIP). Indicative requirements for Walsall will be taken forward and implemented through the DIP, development management process and other LDF plans.
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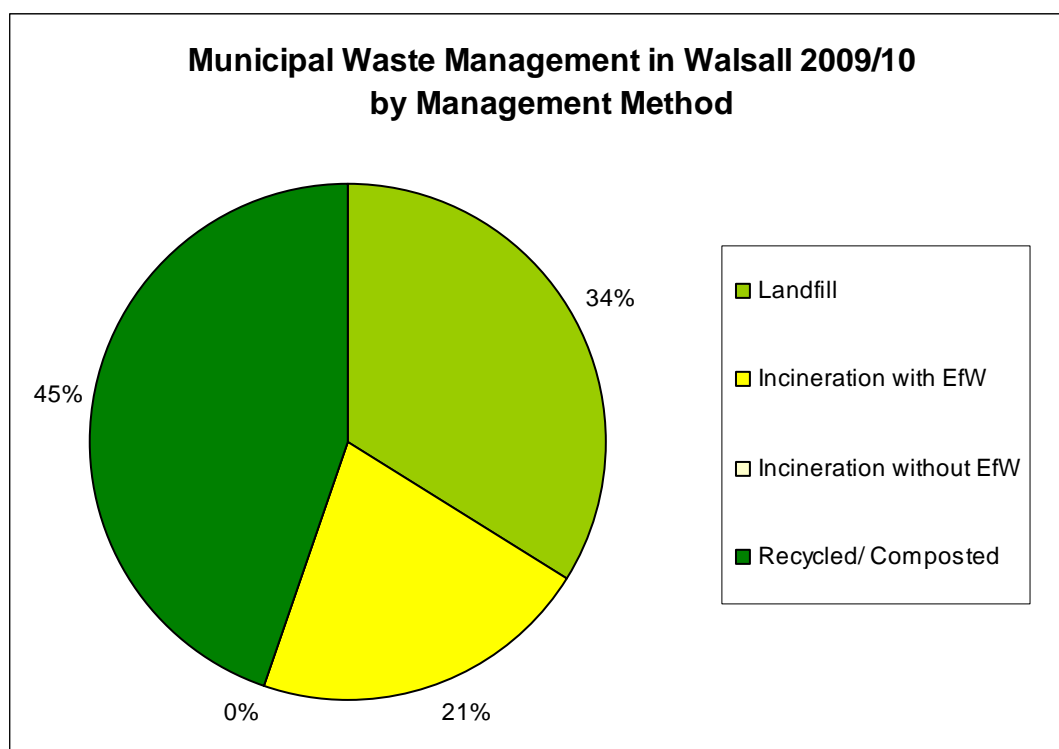
7.60 Applications for new waste management developments are continuing to come forward, and eight new applications for waste management development came forward in 2009/10. Seven applications were approved during 2009/10, only three of which involved a net increase in waste management capacity. Appendix G provides further details of new waste management capacity approved and implemented during 2009/10.

Table 43 – Waste (Municipal Waste)

Waste		
LDF Core Output Indicator WM2: Amount of municipal waste arising, and managed by management type by waste planning authority		G
LDF Policy	UDP (Waste Management): Strategic Policy Statement 10.1, Policies WM1 and WM4	
Target	There are no local targets set for municipal waste management in the UDP. The Waste Strategy for England 2007 sets the following national targets for municipal waste recovery : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 53% by 2010 • 67% by 2015 • 75% by 2020 	
Achievements	1. Figure 4 below illustrates how Walsall's municipal waste was managed in 2009/10; 2. Walsall's municipal waste recycling and composting performance is continuing to improve – in 2009/10 the Borough achieved a rate of nearly 45%; 3. Walsall has also continued to reduce reliance on landfill as a means of managing its municipal waste, sending less than 35% to landfill in 2009/10.	
Actions or Comments	1. Relocation of North Walsall Depot – a new Council depot is to be developed in Brownhills. The Council's waste management fleet and offices are expected to relocate to the new site early in 2011. 2. W2R Energy Recovery Project, Four Ashes, South Staffordshire – there has been further	

	<p>progress on bringing forward this project. By 2012/13 this facility will be managing up to 60,000 tonnes of the Borough's residual municipal waste per annum, addressing a significant gap in current provision, and enabling the Council to divert more of its municipal waste away from landfill.</p> <p>3. Municipal Waste Management Strategy Review – a review of the 2004 strategy is underway and a draft is expected to be published for consultation during 2011.</p>
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Figure 4 – Waste (Municipal Waste)



Source: Defra Municipal Waste Statistics 2009/10, November 2010

7.61 Re-use, recycling and composting rates have continued to rise in Walsall. In 2009/10 a rate of nearly 45% was achieved. Whilst this is a significant achievement, it falls short of the rates achieved by the best performing authorities who are now recycling and composting more than 60% of their municipal waste.

7.62 The proportion of municipal waste sent to landfill has also continued to fall. The tonnages of municipal waste landfilled have fallen dramatically since annual monitoring began, from 97,902 tonnes in 2004/05 (75.1% of total arisings) to 42,306 tonnes in 2009/10 (less than 35% of total arisings).

7.63 Further improvements to Walsall's municipal waste infrastructure are planned. These include the relocation of the Council's waste management depot (to be completed early 2011), and the W2R energy recovery facility in

South Staffordshire (to be implemented in 2012/13), which will be managing up to 60,000 tonnes per annum of Walsall's residual municipal waste.

7.64 A review of the Council's municipal waste management strategy is also underway. This will identify future requirements for municipal waste collection and management, over and above what is already planned for.

Table 44 – Waste (Sustainable Waste Management)

Waste	
Local Output Indicator: Progress with initiatives for more sustainable waste management, and against national, regional and local waste management targets.	<div data-bbox="1254 506 1366 618" style="background-color: #008000; color: white; text-align: center; width: 50px; float: right;">G</div>
LDF Policy	UDP (Waste Management): Strategic Policy Statement 10.4 and 10.6
Target	<p>The main targets for waste are for the amounts of biodegradable Municipal waste (BMW) sent to landfill under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS), and targets relating to the National Indicators (NIs) and Local Area Agreements (LAAs) to 2011.</p> <p>The 2009/10 waste targets for Walsall were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LATS allowance – maximum 56,218 tonnes of BMW sent to landfill; • NI191: maximum 739.00kg household waste per head of population (also LAA target); • NI192: minimum 40.00% household waste re-used, recycled, composted; and • NI193: 45.00% maximum municipal waste sent to landfill.
Achievements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2009/10 the Council met its LATS target as predicted, sending 38,277 tonnes of BMW to landfill. 2. LAA and NI targets for 2009/10 have all been exceeded. Walsall generated 540.66 kg of household waste per head of population, re-used, recycled and composted 47.33% of its household waste, and sent 33.87% of its municipal waste to landfill. 3. In 2009/10, Walsall achieved the highest rate for re-use, recycling and composting of household waste of any Metropolitan authority in England.

Actions or Comments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Future of NI and LAA targets – recent announcements by the Secretary of State suggest these will not exist after April 2001. However, they may be replaced by other locally set targets. 2. National Waste Strategy Review – launched June 2010; likely to set new national targets for waste management in line with the revised Waste Framework Directive (WFD) which will need to be addressed at a local level.
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WASTE PERFORMANCE AND EVENTS SUMMARY

The main achievements during 2009/10 are set out below and further information is available in Appendix G.

7.65 Permission was granted for 75,000 TPA of new waste recovery/ recycling capacity and 3,625 TPA of new hazardous waste transfer capacity;

7.66 Redevelopment/ improvement schemes were completed at two existing waste management sites (Empire Treatment Works and G&P Batteries) and 3,625 TPA of new hazardous waste transfer capacity was implemented;

7.67 Walsall exceeded its 2009/10 LATS target, and is now landfilling less than 35% of its municipal waste;

7.68 Walsall exceeded all of its NI and LAA targets and achieved a household waste re-use, recycling and composting rate of 47.33% - higher than any other Metropolitan council.

8. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

8.1 The key area of community involvement during this monitoring year was the statutory consultation on the publication document for the Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS). The BCCS was published in November 2009 and the consultation period ran from 30th November to 15th January. The Publication of the BCCS was widely advertised including a notice in the local press, launch event, website updates and a letter informing all interested parties of the consultation process. Consultees were invited to respond by a variety of means including an online form, by e-mail or by post. A total of 118 responses were received covering a wide range of issues and from a variety of interested parties. The BCCS Inspectors Report was published in October 2010, and having found the strategy sound the Inspectors' concluded of the consultation process that it was "comprehensive". Indeed they state that the strategy "benefits from considerable public support".

8.2 Table 45 below sets out the average number of neighbours who were consulted as part of 'valid' planning applications within the associated monitoring year which evidences a significant increase in 2007/8 and has continued to rise year on year to an all-time high in this reporting monitoring year. This evidences Walsall Council's commitment to engaging wider public participation in the planning process. The number of neighbours consulted in a monitoring year will depend on the number and type of planning applications submitted within the associated monitoring year. Averages have therefore been calculated to provide a reasonable method of analysis.

Table 45 – Planning Participation

Monitoring Year	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
No. of neighbours consulted.	41,544	37,655	29,549	50,293	45,472	43,054
No. of 'valid' Planning Applications.	2,455	2,104	1,972	2,181	1,407	1,192
Average No. of neighbours consulted per application.	16.9	17.9	15.0	23.06	32.3	36.1

8.3 Whilst the new requirements of the Localism Bill do not have any bearing on the monitoring year covered within this AMR, it is important to mention that it is recognised that LPAs will be required to facilitate and enable local communities to develop Neighbourhood Plans and future AMR's will seek to monitor this.

9. GLOSSARY

Accessibility. The ability of all people to move around an area and to reach key facilities, opportunities and places of interest or need.

Affordable Housing. Housing designed to meet the needs of households whose incomes are not sufficient to allow them to otherwise purchase decent and appropriate housing for their needs. Affordable housing comprises both social housing and intermediate housing such as shared ownership.

Aggregates. Minerals used for construction purposes, of which there are two types: sand and gravel and hard rock. Aggregates can be “primary land won” (virgin materials quarried from the ground) “primary marine dredged” (virgin materials extracted from beneath the sea), “secondary” (produced as a by-product of other mineral working or industrial processing), or “recycled” (Produced from recycled waste). The main types of aggregate occurring in Walsall are primary land won sand and gravel and processed secondary and recycled aggregate.

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). Area where levels of pollutants exceed the national air quality objectives. Local authorities must prepare an action plans showing how it is intended to improve air quality in such an area.

Annual Monitoring Report. A report produced annually by the council that assesses the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which the policies in Local Development Documents are being achieved.

Apportionments. Annual production targets for the supply of aggregate minerals, usually expressed as tonnes per annum. Apportionments are currently set in regional spatial strategies for each mineral planning authority or sub-region with aggregate mineral resources.

Biodiversity. The variety of life on earth or in a specified region or area.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAPs). A process and document which identifies priorities and targets to protect and enhance important habitats and species.

Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS). Sets out the long-term spatial vision for the local planning authority’s area and the strategic policies and proposals to deliver that vision. In Walsall it is being produced jointly with the other 3 Black Country authorities and is known as the Black Country Core Strategy.

Brick Clays. Clays used by brickworks to manufacture bricks, tiles and other ceramic products. There are two main types of brick clay occurring in Walsall: Etruria Marl and fireclay.

Brownfield Land. Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure and its curtilage (the area of land attached to it).

Capacity (Waste Management). The amount of waste that a waste management facility can handle, usually expressed as tonnes per annum for waste treatment, recovery or transfer facilities. The capacity of landfill sites

can be expressed in terms of total “void space” (volume) in cubic metres, or maximum cubic metres or tonnes permitted to be filled per annum.

Composting. The biological treatment of green garden waste or horticultural and forestry waste, to produce compost. There are two main methods of commercial composting: open windrow composting (which requires a large open site) and in-vessel composting (an enclosed process carried out in a building). The end product is a compost or similar material which can be used on land for agricultural or horticultural purposes. There are no commercial composting facilities currently operating in Walsall.

Core Output Indicator (COI). Indicators which Communities and Local Government require to be in an Annual Monitoring Report.

Density. The term density is used to describe the existing or proposed number of dwellings per hectare.

Department for Communities and Local Government. The central government department with responsibility for planning and local government.

Development Plan Document (DPD). One of a number of statutory documents that are part of the development plan for an area and which are subject to independent testing.

Green Belt. Areas of open land designated to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open.

Hazardous Waste. Types of waste which have the potential to be harmful to the environment or to human health. The properties of waste which render it hazardous are defined in the European Waste Framework Directive. Hazardous waste includes a wide range of wastes which are potentially explosive, flammable, irritant, toxic or corrosive, or have other potentially harmful properties. Hazardous waste facilities are regulated by the Environment Agency, and all facilities handling such wastes must have an appropriate permit or licence.

Household Waste. All waste collected by the Council in its capacity as waste collection authority. Household waste comprises waste from the weekly/ fortnightly collections from households in Walsall Borough (i.e. general waste (grey bin), recyclable waste (green bin), and green garden waste (brown bin)), waste collected through street cleaning, and waste deposited at the Council's two household waste recycling centres (Civic Amenity Sites) at Fryers Road (Bloxwich) and Merchants Way (Aldridge).

Landbank. The total available supply of permitted reserves of minerals (usually aggregates), expressed in terms of the number of years' supply. The landbank is worked out by dividing the total amount of permitted reserves by the annual apportionment. This gives the number of years' supply available, assuming that the annual production target is met.

Landfill. A method of disposing of waste or pre-treated waste residues without attempting further re-use, recycling or recovery. Most landfill sites are former quarries where the waste is used to fill the void and help restore the site to a beneficial end-use (restoration by infilling is normally a condition of the mineral permission).

Local Development Document (LDD). A document that forms part of the Local Development Framework. Can either be a Development Plan Document or a Supplementary Planning Document.

Local Development Framework (LDF). A folder of Local Development Documents which will provide the framework for delivering the planning strategy for the borough. It will replace the Walsall Unitary Development Plan. "Saved" policies in the UDP form part of the LDF until they are deleted.

Local Development Scheme (LDS). A document containing information about the production of the development plan documents and supplementary planning documents contained in the Local Development Framework, including the timescales for them and arrangements for production.

Municipal Waste. All of the waste collected by Walsall Council, which the Council is responsible for managing in its capacity as waste disposal authority. Municipal waste includes household waste (see definition above), as well as other waste collected by the Council from traders and other small businesses in Walsall Borough, waste collected by the Council from fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles, and any other wastes collected by the Council, which it is responsible for managing.

Office for National Statistics (ONS). The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the executive office of the UK Statistics Authority, a non-ministerial department which reports directly to Parliament. ONS is the UK Government's single largest statistical producer.

Permitted Reserves. The estimated tonnage of viable mineral remaining in areas covered by a valid planning permission for mineral extraction.

Recovery (of Waste). Any operation whose primary objective is to make waste serve a useful purpose by replacing other materials, which would otherwise have been used, including the preparation of waste to serve such a function (as defined in the European Waste Framework Directive). There are various types of operations for treating waste which fall under the recovery definition. It can include the primary use of waste as a fuel or to generate energy, the reclamation of oils and solvents, the recycling and reclamation of organic materials such as composting and the recycling/ reclamation of metals, metal compounds and other inorganic materials. There are a number of waste recovery facilities operating in Walsall, including the Empire Treatment Works (Aldridge) which treats a wide range of liquid hazardous wastes, and European Metal Recycling (Darlaston) which recovers metals from scrap, including redundant vehicles and electrical appliances.

Recycling. Any waste recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances, for the original or other purposes (as defined in the European Waste Framework Directive). It includes the reprocessing of organic material (e.g. composting) but not energy recovery, the production of fuels from waste, or the production of materials used for back-filling operations. The most significant recycling facilities currently operating in Walsall are the Greenstar Recycling Facility (Aldridge) which segregates and recovers raw materials from dry waste paper, card, plastics, glass and cans, and G&P Batteries (Darlaston) which recycles batteries.

Regeneration Zones (RZs). Areas in the West Midlands of concentrated need, but with substantial opportunity for the development of land and property that will regenerate communities and create a diverse and dynamic business base.

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The regional plan, in this case for the West Midlands Region, which has statutory status and will form the basis for local authorities to prepare development plan and other documents.

Renewable Energy. Energy derived from sources that are regenerative and cannot be depleted, e.g. wind, water and solar energy. They do not produce as many greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

Re-Use. Any operation by which products or components that are not wastes are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived, with little or no treatment involved (as defined in the European Waste Framework Directive).

Significant Effects Indicators. An indicator that measures the significant effects of the plan.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). SSSIs are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. They include some of the most spectacular and beautiful habitats; wetlands teeming with wading birds, winding chalk rivers, flower-rich meadows, windswept shingle beaches and remote upland peat bogs.

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). SACs are areas which have been given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive. They provide increased protection to a variety of wild animals, plants and habitats and are a vital part of global efforts to conserve the world's biodiversity.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). A document which sets out how stakeholders and communities will be involved in the process of producing Local Development Documents and planning applications.

Strategic Centres. Important shopping and service centres defined in the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands. They are especially important for comparison shopping but often have some convenience

shopping and are proposed to be the focus for retail and office growth and to provide major leisure and cultural facilities.

Strategic Health Authority (SHA). Strategic organisations set up by the Government in 2002 to manage the NHS on their behalf. They are responsible for developing plans for improving health services in their local area.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). Documents that elaborate on policies within development plan documents. These documents are included within Local Development Frameworks, but do not have development plan status.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). A process to assess the environmental, social and economic effects of the policies and proposals contained in development plan documents and supplementary planning documents.

Sustainable Resource Management. A move away from landfill to more sustainable waste management practices to extract more value from waste materials by recycling, composting and recovering energy.

Unitary Development Plans (UDPs). Development plans prepared for the metropolitan authorities before the introduction of the current Local Development Framework system. As with other development plans, they have been intended to guide how land should be used within a local authority area. The existing UDP will gradually be replaced as different parts of the LDF system are brought forward.

Waste Hierarchy. A system for ranking options for waste management, in terms of their impact on the environment. At the top of the hierarchy (the most effective environmental solution and therefore the most preferable option) is waste reduction, followed by re-use, then recycling and composting, then energy recovery, and at the bottom, disposal of waste to landfill. The concept of the waste hierarchy comes from the European Waste Framework Directive, and is also reflected in the national waste strategy (Waste Strategy for England 2007) and in national planning policy guidance on waste (PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management).

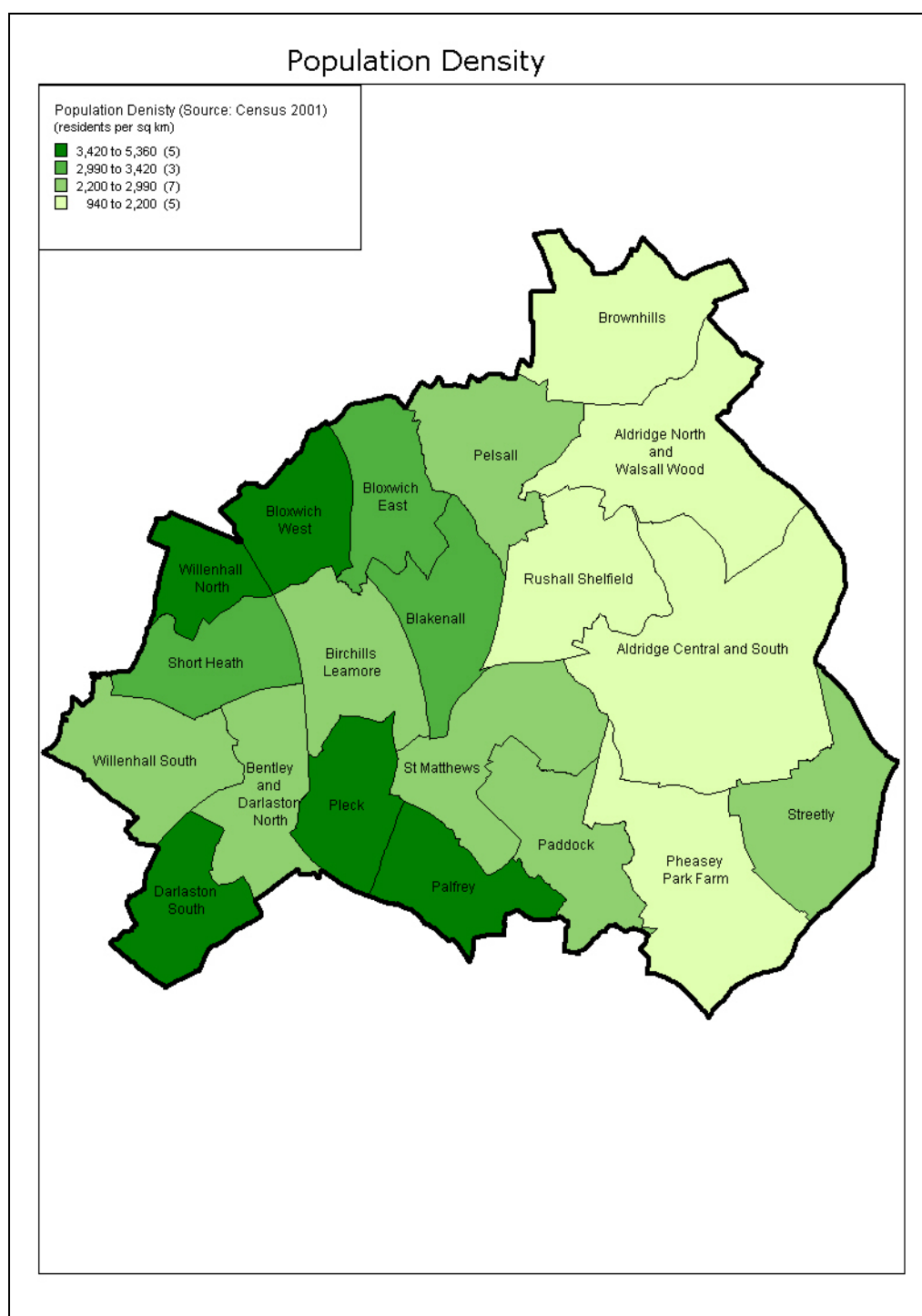
Waste Transfer/ Waste Transfer Facility. Facilities for sorting, segregation and temporary storage of waste pending onward transportation to another facility for re-use, recycling, recovery or disposal. The Council has a waste transfer facility at Fryers Road in Bloxwich, adjacent to the household waste recycling centre (Civic Amenity Site). This is used for sorting and segregating municipal waste pending onward transfer to the facilities where it is managed. There are a number of other commercial waste transfer facilities operating in Walsall, which collect waste from domestic or commercial customers. Some transfer facilities specialise in handling particular types of waste, such as hazardous materials. They may also recover potentially useable and saleable materials such as metals.

West Midlands Regional Assembly. This is made up of politicians from all local authorities across the region plus representatives from other public bodies and the business and voluntary sectors. It is responsible for developing and co-ordinating a strategic vision for the region, in terms of the environment, the economy, housing and transport as well as spatial planning. For spatial planning the Regional Assembly is the 'Regional Planning Body', responsible for the Regional Spatial Strategy.

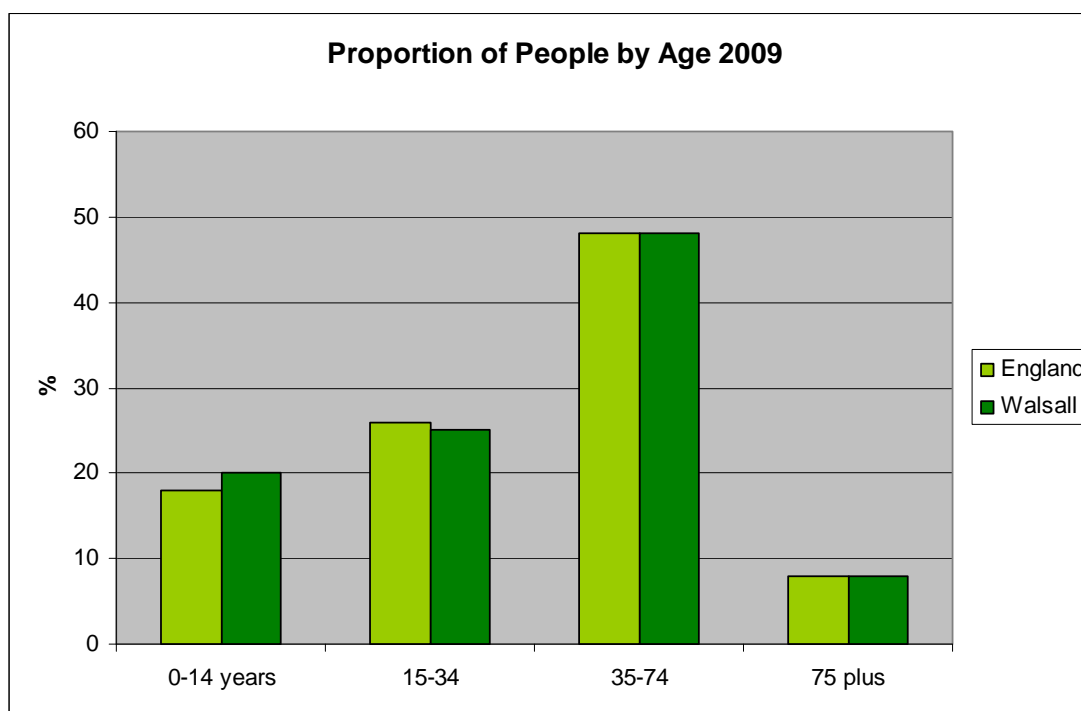
Worklessness. Worklessness is the detachment from the formal labour market in particular areas of particular groups. Workless individuals include individuals who are unemployed and claiming unemployment benefits, individuals who are economically inactive and eligible for inactive benefits (who may or may not be claiming them), and individuals who are working exclusively in the informal economy (*who may or may not be also be claiming benefits*)” (Wigan Council: Worklessness Case Studies).

APPENDIX A - CONTEXTUAL INDICATORS

As of August 2010 the working age changed to 16-64 for both men and women whereas previous analysis would have been based on 16-64 for men and 16-59 for women. This means that associated analysis may not be wholly comparable with previous AMRs.



Source: Census 2001



Source: Mid-Year Population Estimates, ONS

Contextual Indicators	Performance 2009/10
Population	255,900 (2009 mid-year population estimates)
Net in/out migration	+ 800 (2008-2009 mid year population estimates)
Projections / forecasts of population growth	2010: 251,200 2015: 205,500 (2004 population projections)
Demographic Structure of communities	BME 14% - Mixed 1.4% Asian 10.4% Black 1.4% Chinese 0.4% (2001 census)

ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

Contextual Indicators	Performance 2009/10
Percentage of area classified as urban open space / green space	20.3% (Source: Walsall MBC).

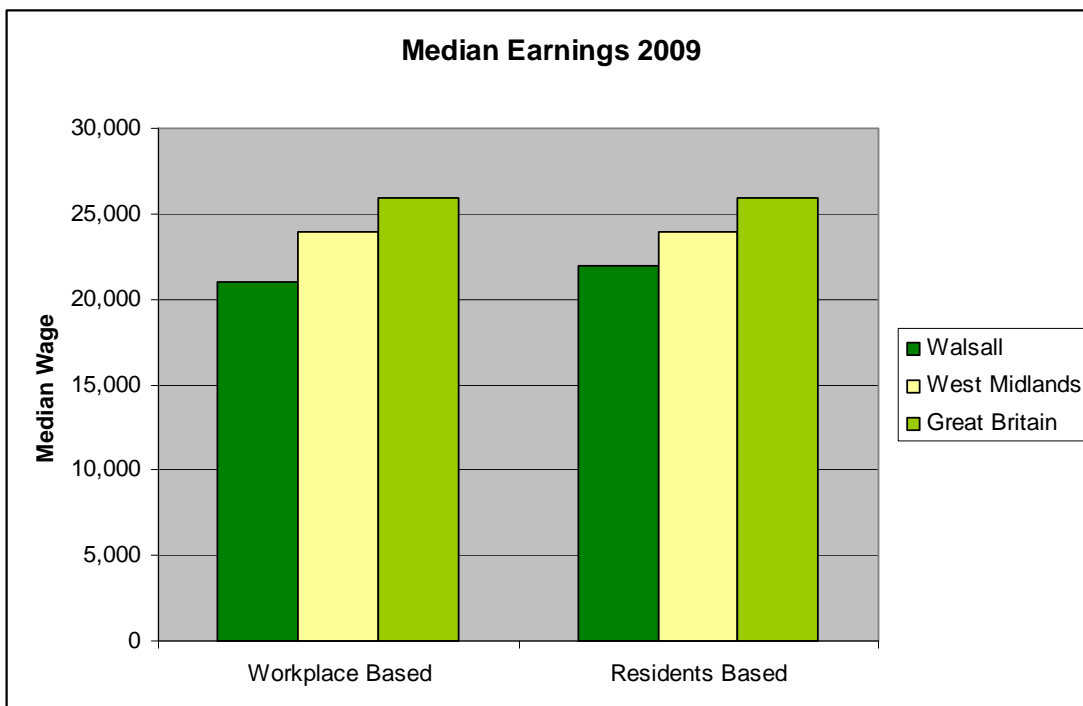
Amount of Derelict Land	209ha ²⁵ (Source: Walsall MBC).
Air quality / percentage of area covered by AQMA	100% for NO ₂ Specific area declared within Chuckery for PM ₁₀ Particles.
Number of sites on the Contaminated Land register	None (Source: Walsall MBC)

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Contextual Indicators	Performance 2009/10
Percentage of people who are economically inactive	27.3% (WM - 24.4% Eng – 23.4%) (Annual Population Survey, 2009).
Unemployment	6.9% (WM – 5.1% UK – 4%) (Claimant Count, March 2010).
Gross Value Added per head (£)	£15,824 (Walsall and Wolverhampton), £17,335 (West Midlands), £21,049 (England). £21,103 (United Kingdom). (National Statistics 2008).
New business registration rate (the proportion of business registrations per 10,000 resident population aged 16 and above).	37.9 - Walsall 47.6 - West Midlands 57.2 - England (National Indicator 171 Figure 2008).
Count of Active Enterprises	7,520 (National Statistics, 2010).
Percentage of small businesses in an area showing employment growth	14.1% - Walsall 14.4% - West Midlands 14.2% - England (National Indicator 172 Figure 2008).
Median earnings (£)	£21,000

²⁵ This has not been updated for this monitoring year due to historic inaccuracies in this data which is likely to be addressed in monitoring year 2010/11.

for full time employees working in Walsall	(WM – £23,961 UK – £25,909) (ASHE, 2009).
Median earnings (£) for full time employees living in Walsall	£21,971 (WM – £23,948 UK – £25,931) (ASHE, 2009).



Median Earnings workplace based

The median earnings for Walsall have dropped from £21,123 in 2008 to £21,000 in 2009 equating to a 0.6% reduction. WM – £23,849 in 2008 to £23,961 in 2009 (0.5% increase). UK – £25,277 in 2008 to £25,909 in 2009 (2.5% increase).

Median Earnings resident based

The median earnings for Walsall have dropped from £22,535 in 2008 to £21,971 in 2009 equating to a 2.5% reduction which is contrasted by an equal 2.5% increase for the UK - £25,299 in 2008 increased to £25,931 in 2009. There has also been a slight increase for the West Midlands - £23,820 in 2008 increased to £23,948 in 2009 (0.5%).

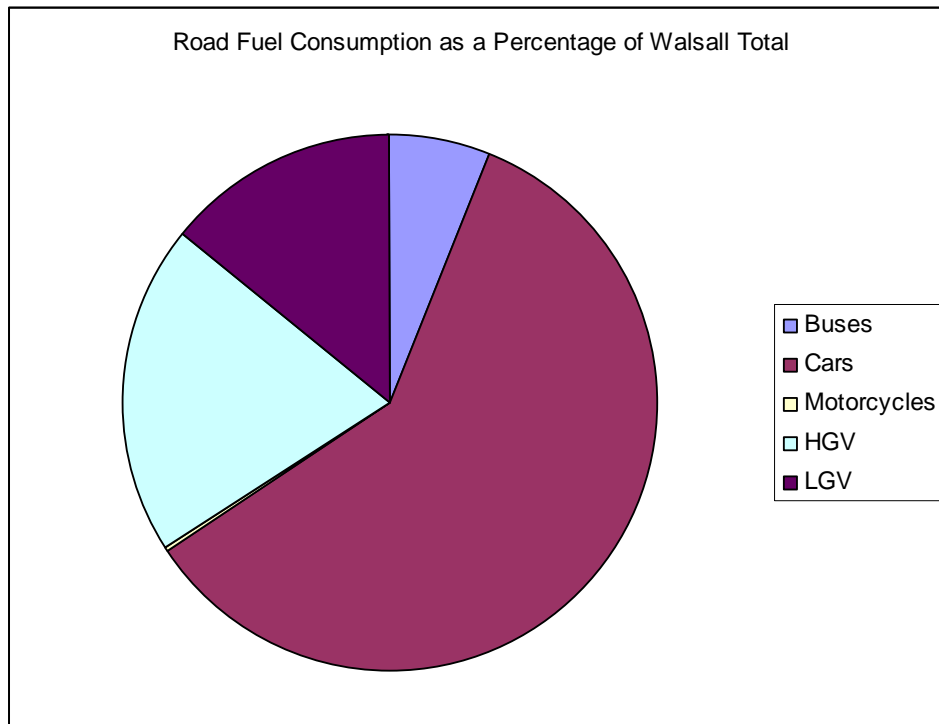
SKILLS AND EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS

Contextual Indicators	Performance 2009/10
Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C GCSE grades including English and Maths.	44.0% (England – 49.8%) ²⁶ .
% of the working age population qualified to NVQ level 4+.	17.6% (West Midlands – 24.8% (England – 29.6%) (Annual Population Survey, 2009).
% of the working age population with no qualifications.	19.9% (West Midlands – 16.2% England – 12.1%) (Annual Population Survey, 2009).
Local Authority average point score per student for School and College Key Stage 5.	638.6 (England – 739.3) ²⁷ .
Local Authority average point score per examination entry for School and College Key Stage 5.	198.2 (England – 211.7).
% of companies affected by Technical / Skilled skills gaps and shortages now.	29% (Source: Walsall Business Survey 2010).
% of companies who will be affected by Technical / Skilled skills gaps and shortages in the future.	48% (Source: Walsall Business Survey 2010).

²⁶ http://www.education.gov.uk/cgi-bin/performanceables/group_09.pl?Mode=Z&Type=LA&Begin=s&No=335&Base=c&Phase=1&F=1&L=50&Year=09

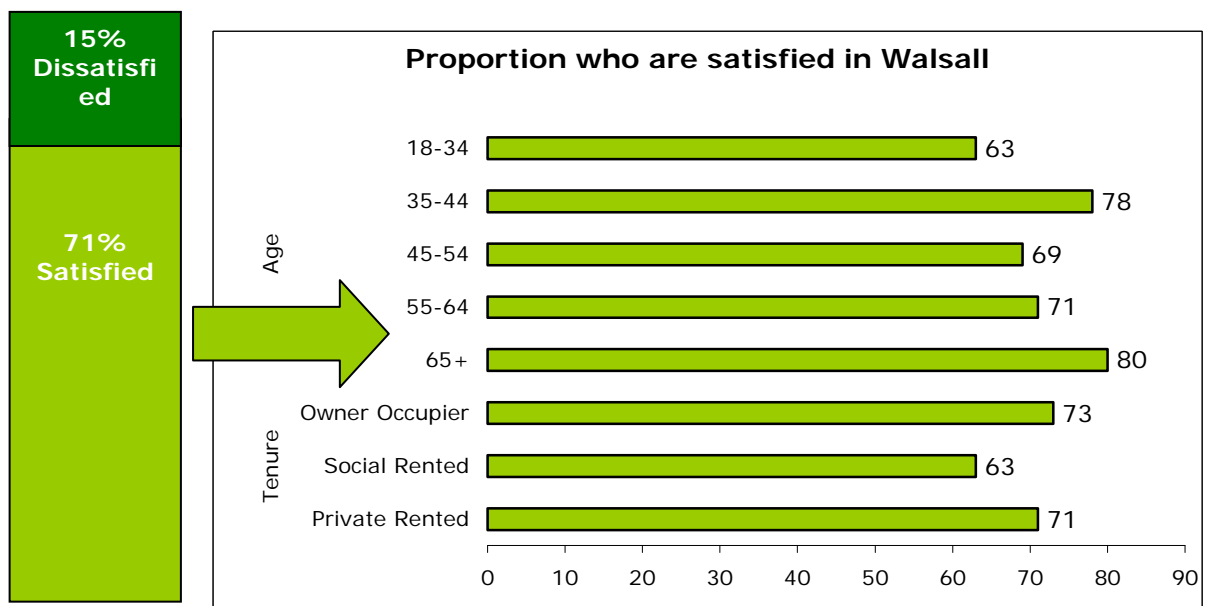
²⁷ http://www.education.gov.uk/cgi-bin/performanceables/group_09.pl?Mode=Z&Type=LA&Begin=b&No=335&Base=c&Phase=2&F=1&L=50&Year=09

TRANSPORT INDICATORS



Contextual Indicators	Performance 2009 ²⁸
Average duration / distance of journeys to work.	% who work at home – 7.5 % travel <2km – 20.8 % travel 2km to <10km – 47.3

QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS



²⁸ No data available for 2009/10.

Contextual Indicators	Performance 2009				
Patterns of deprivation / proportion of population suffering from multiple deprivation	5.6% of Walsall residents live in the 5% most deprived areas (Dept. for Communities & Local Govt, 2007)				
Proportion of People who are satisfied with Walsall	71% Satisfied 15% Dissatisfied (Place Survey 2008/2009)				
Structure of housing stock	Owner occupied - 64.7% Rented – 35.3% (2001 census)				
House prices	September 2009 ³⁰ : Walsall Metropolitan District - £111,011 West Midlands Region - £134,650 England and Wales - £166,769				
Levels of crime and people’s perceptions of crime ²⁹		2008/09 Baseline	2009/10 Actual	Jul’09 - Jun’10	Change vs. 2008/09
	Total Recorded Crime	20,874	19,136	18,949	-9.2%
Life expectancy and mortality rates		Walsall	West Midlands Region	England	
	Males ³¹	76.3	77.5	78.3	
	Females ³²	81.9	81.9	82.3	

²⁹ Obtained from Walsall Borough Intelligence Analyst, West Midlands Police.

³⁰ <http://www.landreg.gov.uk/assets/library/documents/HPIReportSeptsmorwtab.pdf>

³¹ <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

³² <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

APPENDIX B - ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY

GREENBELT

Table 1 - 'Inappropriate' Development in the Green Belt.

Application Reference	Location	Type of Development
08/0059/FL	Land at Cartbridge Lane South, Walsall	Proposed demolition of existing buildings and erection of 96 dwellings with associated development, landscaping and infrastructure. This type of development would normally be considered as inappropriate development in the green belt, however the site is included within UDP Policy ENV4 (Major Developed Sites in the Green Belt) and is thus acceptable development in this location.
09/0067/FL	Land to the east of Goscote Lane, Pelsall, Walsall	Change of use of land to form a showmen's permanent family yard – considered inappropriate development in the green belt, but very special circumstances were demonstrated in the planning application to allow the granting of planning permission.
09/0753/RM	St Margaret's Hospital, Queslett Road, Walsall, B43 7EZ	Reserved matters for 141 residential dwellings and associated works (phase 3 of an ongoing development). The principle and location of development has been determined in planning applications granted in previous monitoring years and therefore this application is granted planning permission in accordance with UDP Policies ENV2 (Control of Development in the Green Belt), ENV4 (Major Developed Sites in the Green Belt) and ENV8 (Great Barr Hall and Estate and St Margaret's Hospital).

WATER

Table 1 - Summary of Environment Agency Objections and outcomes.

Planning Application Reference	Location	Environment Agency Objection	Local Authority Decision	Contrary to EA Advice?
09/0255/FL	TENACRES INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, STATION ROAD, RUSHALL, WALSALL.	Unsatisfactory FRA/FCA submitted (Surface Water)	Grant Subject to Conditions. Pre-commencement condition(s) imposed requiring flood related information.	No
09/0605/FL	J10, M6, TEMPUS WAY, WALSALL	Unsatisfactory FRA/FCA submitted (Surface Water)	Grant Subject to Conditions. Pre-commencement conditions imposed requiring flood related information.	No
09/0645/FL	LAND AT THE JUNCTION OF HIGH STREET AND OGLEY ROAD, BROWNHILLS, WS8 6DW	Unsatisfactory FRA/FCA submitted (Surface Water)	Grant Subject to Conditions. Pre-commencement conditions imposed requiring flood related information.	No
09/0092/OL	Land to the South of Reedswood Way, Walsall, WS2 8XA.	Unsatisfactory FRA/FCA Submitted	Withdrawn	N/A
09/0753/RM	ST MARGARETS HOSPITAL, QUE SLETT ROAD, WALSALL, B43 7EZ	Unsatisfactory FRA/FCA Submitted	Grant Subject to Conditions. EA objection withdrawn based on submission of a revised drainage scheme.	No
09/0781/FL	Albion Road and Elm Street School Sites, Willenhall.	Unsatisfactory FRA/FCA submitted (Surface Water)	Grant Subject to Conditions. Pre-commencement conditions	No

			imposed requiring flood related information.	
09/0880/FL	LAND AT BENTLEY ROAD NORTH, WALSALL.	PPS25/TAN15 Request for FRA/FCA	Grant Subject to Conditions. Pre-commencement conditions imposed requiring flood related information.	No
09/0961/FL	DARLASTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL, HERBERTS PARK ROAD, DARLASTON, WALSALL, WS10 8QJ.	PPS25/TAN15 Request for FRA/FCA	Withdrawn.	N/A
09/1064/RM	SERVIS GROUP LTD, DARLASTON ROAD, WALSALL.	Unsatisfactory FRA/FCA submitted (Surface Water)	Grant Subject to Conditions. EA objection withdrawn based on submission of revised details.	No
BC64995P	Bliss Sand & Gravel Pit, Branton Hill Lane, Walsall, WS9 0NR.	PPS25/TAN15 Request for FRA/FCA	No decision.	N/A
09/1458/FL	Sainsbury's, Reedswood Retail Park, Reedswood Way, Walsall, WS2 8XA.	Unsatisfactory FRA/FCA submitted (Surface Water)	Withdrawn.	N/A
09/1281/FL	ABU-BAKR MOSQUE, 154-160 WEDNESBURY ROAD, WALSALL, WS1 4JJ.	Unsatisfactory FRA/FCA submitted (Surface Water)	Withdrawn.	N/A
09/1342/FL	Ex-railway cutting between Mill Street and Reedswood	Unsatisfactory FRA/FCA submitted (Surface Water)	Grant Subject to Conditions. Pre-commencement	No

	Way, Walsall.		nt conditions imposed requiring flood related information.	
09/1695/FL	FORMER BLOXWICH ENGINEERING LTD, BELL LANE, WALSALL.	Unsatisfactory FRA/FCA submitted (Surface Water)	Grant Subject to Conditions. EA objection withdrawn based on submission of revised details.	No

INTRODUCTION

The core indicators for biodiversity are as follows:

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.**

The guidance defines 'change' as something to be considered in terms of 'impact of completed development, management programmes and planning agreements'.

A further core indicator was subsequently introduced:

Change in areas of biodiversity importance.

This indicator is intended to show losses and additions to habitat of importance to biodiversity. This is to be measured through changes to the areas of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINCs).

Since the first Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 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 over the last 5 years to establish baseline data relating to priority habitats and species. This report relies heavily on data provided by EcoRecord and the Wildlife Trust.

QUANTITATIVE CHANGE IN THE AREAS OF DESIGNATED SITES AS A RESULT OF DEVELOPMENT REQUIRING PLANNING PERMISSION.

Monitoring the extent of quantitative change in the area of designated sites where change is due to development requiring planning permission gives a good indication of the effectiveness of the Council's planning policies and the way in which they are used. This indicator was used for the first time in the 2005-6 AMR when base line data was provided showing designated wildlife sites affected by planning permissions following adoption of the first UDP in 1995 and the adoption of the UDP review in 2005. The result of this analysis showed that losses to the wildlife resource due to development needing planning permission had 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.

The following indicator has been adopted.

- Areas (ha/ % of resource) lost to development requiring planning permission since 1 April 2007. This data has been collected for SSSIs, SINCs and SLINCs.

The Council's UDP policies make provision for loss to SINCs and SLINCs in defined circumstances if full mitigation of an equivalent value to the features lost is provided. Where planning permission has been granted resulting in the loss of all or part of a local site, this AMR indicator reports on whether mitigation has been secured in compliance with the relevant UDP policies. A summary of the monitoring of planning permissions granted within the reporting period is shown in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: REDUCTION OF DESIGNATED WILDLIFE AREAS DUE TO PLANNING PERMISSIONS GRANTED BETWEEN 1 APRIL 2009 AND 31 MARCH 2010

Reduction in area of Special Areas of Conservation due to planning permissions implemented.

Details	Total resource (%)
None	None

Potential reduction in area of Special Areas of Conservation due to planning permissions granted but not implemented.

Details	Proportion of total resource (%)
None	None

Reduction in area of Sites of Special Scientific Interest due to permissions implemented.

Details	Proportion of total resource (%)
None	None

Potential reduction in area of Sites of Special Scientific Interest due to planning permissions granted but not implemented.

Details	Proportion of total resource (%)
None	None

Reduction in area of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation due to planning permissions implemented.

Details	Proportion of total resource (%)
None	None

Potential reduction in area of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation due to planning permissions granted but not implemented.

Details (ha.)	Proportion of total resource (%)
Ward's Pool, Darlaston (planning application 08/0394/FL) loss of approximately 0.8 ha to housing development granted 23/10/08. Core interest retained. (Not reported in previous AMR)	0.16%

Reduction in area of Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation due to planning permissions implemented.

Details	Proportion of total resource (%)
---------	----------------------------------

None	None
Potential reduction in area of Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation due to planning permissions granted but not implemented.	
Details	Proportion of total resource (%)
Green Lane Railway Cutting (planning application 09/1342/FL) loss of approximately 2.4 ha to infilling granted 20/1/10. Core interest will be destroyed. Proposed mitigation is not likely to be effective for at least the medium term.	0.5%

Each of the categories of designated wildlife site is reviewed in turn.

Special Areas of Conservation

Special Areas of Conservation are designated by Natural England in response to European legislation. The borough currently has one such site.

- **Cannock Extension Canal** candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC). There were no losses to this site between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Sites of Special Scientific Interest are designated by Natural England. The borough has seven Sites of Special Scientific Interest covering 69.2 ha, including the Cannock Extension Canal which is also a SAC.

There were no losses or potential losses between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010. There were no additional sites notified within the reporting period.

Local Nature Reserves

The borough has eleven Local Nature Reserves covering some 262 ha. These sites are usually also designated as SSSIs or SINC's or occasionally SLINC's.

No new sites have been declared since 1 April 2010.

There were no losses or potential losses between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation are local sites designated by the local authorities in collaboration with Natural England and the Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country. The borough currently has 38 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation covering some 503 ha. This represents a total of 20.4% of the total Birmingham and Black Country SINC resource. Walsall's total land area is 17% of the Birmingham and Black Country.

In the current reporting period there are 38 SINC's covering some 503 ha. This has not changed since the previous report.

Between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010 there were no planning permissions resulting in the potential loss of any SINC. However, one planning permission resulting in the loss of part of the Ward's Pool SINC was granted on 23/10/08 but not reported in the previous AMR. Details are given in Table 1. The council is not aware of any extant permissions which were implemented in the reporting period.

Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation are local sites identified by the local authority in conjunction with the Wildlife Trust. The borough has 70 Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation covering some 456 ha. This represents a total of 20.5% of the total Birmingham and Black Country SLINC resource. Walsall's total land area is 17% of the Birmingham and Black Country.

Between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2010 one planning permission was granted which would result in the potential loss of Green Lane Cutting SLINC. Details are set out in Table 1. The council is not aware of any extant permissions that were implemented in the reporting period.

QUALITATIVE CHANGE TO DESIGNATED SITES

Special Areas for Conservation and Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Natural England 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. Two Walsall sites have been monitored since the previous AMR report.

Walsall's SSSIs are in an unchanged condition. In the previous report 80.34% of the sites assessed were favourable or recovering. This is unchanged. The situation within the West Midlands County is that 94.6% of site units are in a favourable/recovering condition. The condition of Walsall's SSSIs is now much closer to that of the SSSIs in the wider county. This Walsall statistic needs some interpretation. The two Council-owned Sites of Special Scientific Interest are in favourable condition but the privately owned ones range from unfavourable: declining to favourable. The unfavourable sites are mismanaged by over-grazing, simple neglect or suffer from polluting run-off. The council has little control over these activities, certainly not through the planning system.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation

Monitoring qualitative change to the SINCs and SLINCs is the responsibility of the local authority and the Local Sites Partnership which designates the sites. It is impractical to carry out qualitative change annually without a considerable increase in capacity. Condition monitoring, even using indicator species or sample areas, is resource intensive.

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. The following indicators were adopted in the 2006 AMR:

- Areas of designated wildlife site (ha/ % of resource) where habitat surveys (or geological surveys for earth science sites) were undertaken within last 5 years.
- Areas of designated wildlife site (ha/ % of resource) where habitat surveys (or geological surveys for earth science sites) were undertaken between 5 and 10 years ago.

The analysis shows that 38.9% of Local Sites were surveyed in the last 5 years and 42.6% in the last 10 years. The figures for the previous reporting period were 36.1% and 46.2% respectively. More detailed data is provided below.

TABLE 2: SURVEY EFFORT ON LOCAL SITES BETWEEN 1 APRIL 2009 AND 31 MARCH 2010				
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation				
	No of sites surveyed in last 5 years.	Area of sites surveyed in last 5 years. (ha)	Percentage of total site number.	Percentage of total site area.
Current reporting period.	24	225.7	63.2	47.8
2008-9 reporting period.	21	221.9	52.5	44.0
2007-8 reporting period.	11	68.7	28.9	13.7
2006-7 reporting period.	7	37.92	21.9	9.3
	No of sites surveyed in last 5-10 years.	Area of sites surveyed in last 5-10 years. (ha)	Percentage of total site number.	Percentage of total site area.
Current reporting period.	8	26.2	21.1	5.2
2008-9 reporting period.	9	39.3	23.7	7.8
2007-8 reporting period.	9	39.3	23.7	7.8
2006-7 reporting period.	0	0	0	0

Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation				
	No of sites surveyed in last 5 years.	Area of sites surveyed in last 5 years. (ha)	Percentage of total site number.	Percentage of total site area.
Current reporting period.	18	117.7	25.7	25.8
2008-9 reporting period.	17	115.9	24.3	25.4
2007-8 reporting period.	17	115.9	24.3	25.4

2006-7 reporting period.	50	307.4	65.8	70
	No of sites surveyed in last 5-10 years.	Area of sites surveyed in last 5-10 years. (ha)	Percentage of total site number.	Percentage of total site area.
Current reporting period.	38	186.72	54.3	40.9
2008-9 reporting period.	41	172.5	58.6	37.8
2007-8 reporting period.	41	172.5	58.6	37.8
2006-7 reporting period.	4	18.17	5.3	4.1

Combined totals (SINCs and SLINCs)				
	No of sites surveyed in last 5 years.	Area of sites surveyed in last 5 years. (ha)	Percentage of total site number.	Percentage of total site area.
Current reporting period.	42	358.9	38.9	37.3
2008-9 reporting period.	39	341.6	36.1	35.6
2007-8 reporting period.	28	184.6	25.6	19.2
2006-7 reporting period.	57	345.32	52.8	42.97
	No of sites surveyed in last 5-10 years.	Area of sites surveyed in last 5-10 years. (ha)	Percentage of total site number.	Percentage of total site area.
Current reporting period.	46	212.92	42.6	22.2
2008-9 reporting period.	50	211.8	46.2	22.08
2007-8 reporting period.	50	211.8	46.2	22.08
2006-7 reporting period.	4	18.17	3.7	2.15

These results need some interpretation. After a concentrated effort to survey the SINC sites which had not been surveyed within the last 10 years 2-3 years ago, the reporting year has seen little survey work. Consequently the figures are much the same as for the previous reporting year.

Surveying is resource-intensive and cannot be carried out in-house because of a lack of capacity. Surveying tends to be carried out when resources become available and is therefore not evenly spread over the years. Survey work recently completed will increase the figures in the 2010-11 reporting period.

CHANGE TO PRIORITY SPECIES AND HABITATS

In a previous AMR it was stated that future monitoring reports would assess one or more priority species or habitat to enable future assessment on the impact that the planning system on such habitats and features.

Species Indicators

No species were assessed during the study period.

Habitat Indicators: wetland habitats including: Lowland Fens, Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh and Reedbeds.

Wetland habitats: local indicator 1: Extent of Lowland Fens, Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh and Reedbeds

Work on a review of the priority wetland habitats in Birmingham and the Black Country was carried out by EcoRecord, the ecological database for the Black Country and Birmingham within the reporting period.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan gives definitions of the priority habitats.

Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh is defined as ‘periodically inundated pasture, or meadow with ditches which maintain the water levels, containing brackish or fresh water. The ditches are especially rich in plants and invertebrates. Almost all areas are grazed and some are cut for hay or silage’.

Lowland Fens are peatlands which receive water and nutrients from the soil, rock or ground water as well as from rainfall’. Where water is acidic, fens are normally associated with the uplands or lowland heath and contain short vegetation a bog mosses. Where water is more alkaline a more diverse flora occurs.

Reedbeds are wetlands dominated by common reed where the water table is above ground level for most of the year.

The review identified all ponds below 2 ha in extent from OS Mastermap information but excluded garden ponds. Information held on the EcoRecord database was used to assess whether the ponds met the criteria for qualification as priority ponds in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

The results are set out in Table 3 below.

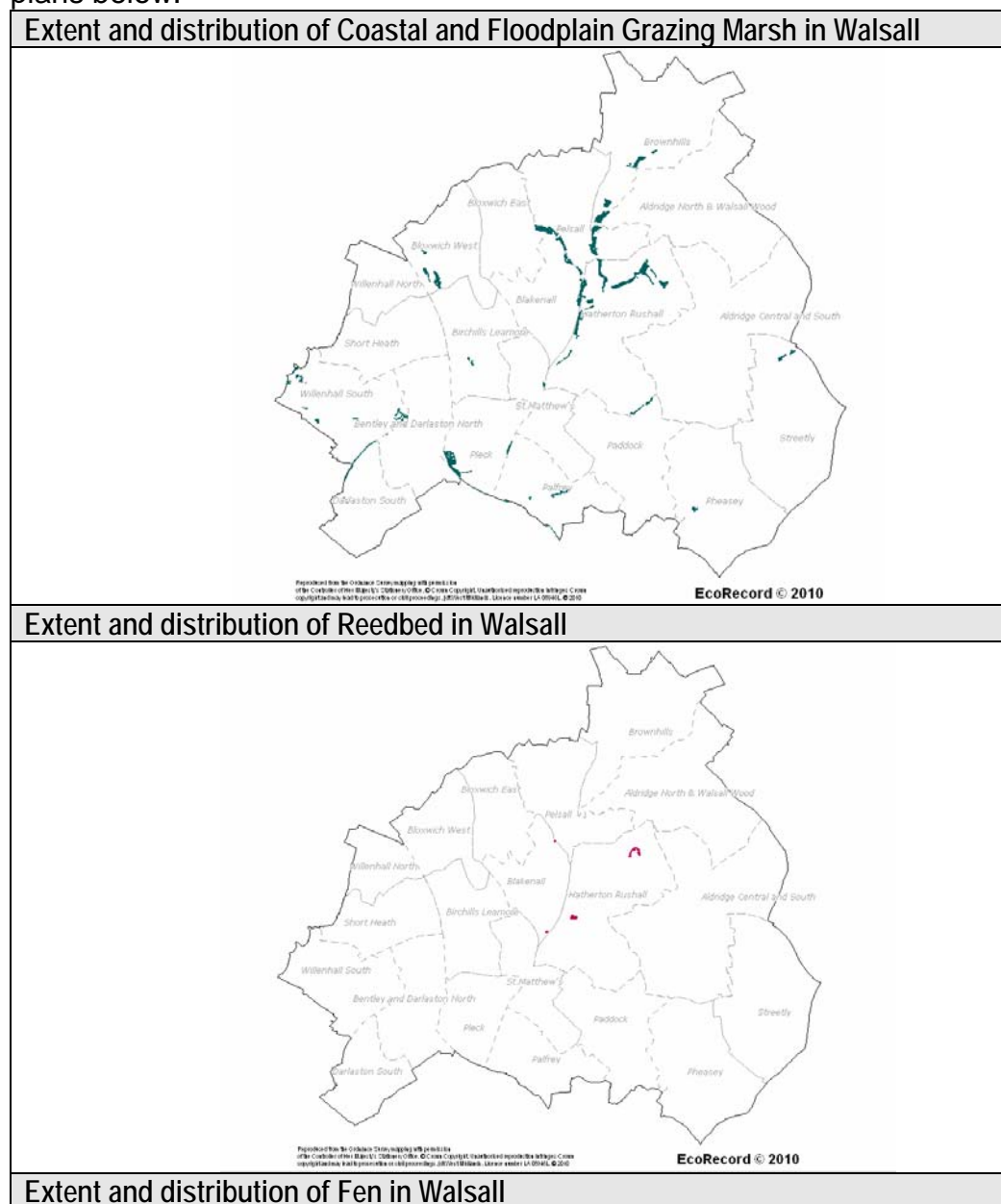
TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF CURRENT KNOWLEDGE: PRIORITY WETLANDS					
BAP Priority Habitat	Birmingham	Dudley	Sandwell	Walsall	Wolverhampton
Fen (Area ha/ % of total)	11.3 (52.1%)	2.1 (9.7%)	0.9 (4.1%)	7.4 (34%)	0 (0%)
Reedbed (Area ha/ % of total)	1.2 (32.8%)	0.3 (8.2%)	0.6 (16.4%)	1.5 (41%)	0.06 (1.6%)
Floodplain and Grazing Marsh (Area ha/ % of total)	192.0 (47.9%)	32.3 (8.1%)	83.0 (20.7%)	65.6 (16.4%)	27.6 (6.9%)

Some interesting results emerge. Walsall borough contains a relatively high proportion of both fen and reed bed priority habitats in the sub-region.

This work was essentially a desktop based exercise and the limitations below must be understood:

- The total area of these habitats might be overestimated to some extent.
- Survey work/ ground truthing will be crucial to identify the actual extent and monitor the condition of the pond resource.

The locations of these habitats within Walsall Borough are shown on the plans below.



- Agree a methodology for assessing condition of sites at a sub-regional level. A local sites partnership has been set up which will facilitate this action.
- 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.

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.

APPENDIX C – JOBS AND PROSPERITY

Table 1 - Employment Land 2009-10

Total Employment Land in Walsall 1st April 2009	873.8ha
Land lost from employment 2009-10	2.73ha (mostly to residential)
Land added from other sources	none
Total Employment land in Walsall 31st March 2010	871.1ha

Table 2 - Vacant Employment land

Total vacant employment land in Walsall, March 31 st 2009	104.92ha
Total vacant employment land in Walsall, March 31 st 2010	107.58ha

Table 3 - Readily Available Vacant Land at 1st April 2009 & 2010:

Site	Area		
FMR Wagon, Pelsall Rd, Brownhills	4.76	2009	2010*
N of Maybrook Rd, Brownhills	2.33	2009	2010
N of Newfield Close, Walsall **	2.31		2010
Central Point (subject to DOC), Willenhall Rd, Darlaston **	2.29	2009	2010
Tempus 10 South, Junction 10, Walsall	2.1	2009	2010
Tempus 10 North, Junction 10, Walsall	1.95	2009	2010
FMR Garrington's, Willenhall Rd, Darlaston	1.91		2010*
Westgate One, Middlemore Lane, Aldridge	1.8	2009	2010
Walsall Enterprise Park N, NE & NW, Regal Drive, Pleck, Walsall	1.59	2009	2010
Aldridge Park, Aldridge Rd, Aldridge	1.51	2009	2010
Walsall Enterprise Park Plots 1,2,4, Regal Drive, Pleck, Walsall	1.5	2009	
Sadler Rd/Lichfield Rd, Brownhills	0.7		2010*
Aspray, Moose Lane, Willenhall	0.6	2009	
Adj Acerinox, Heath Rd, Darlaston	0.54	2009	
Adj Blakemore's, Darlaston Rd, Darlaston	0.41	2009	2010
FMR Mason's Woodyard, Longacres, Willenhall	0.41		2010*
Adj Ikea, Steelman's Rd, Darlaston**	0.21		2010
Woods Bank Units 9 & 10, Woden Rd W, Darlaston	0.12	2009	2010
Total Readily Available		21.5	24.4
*now being developed as at Nov 2010			
**borderline case			

Table 4 - Employment Land 15 Year Historic Take-Up

Year	Amount (ha)
1995-96	5.70 <i>source: UDP p71</i>
1996-97	8.25 <i>(source: UDP p71)</i>
1997-98	18.09 <i>(source: UDP p71)</i>

1998-99	21.63 (start of new series)
1999-00	24.92
2000-01	22.71
2001-02	10.75
2002-03	5.68
2003-04	5.69
2004-05	8.81
2005-06	9.71
2006-07	7.19
2007-08	6.87
2008-09	4.94
2009-10	3.29
Average 95-09	10.9
Average 00-09	8.6

Table 5 - Progress 09-10

Planning ref	Site	Description	ha	Progress
04/0305	Aspray, Noose Lane, Willenhall,	Extension for storage/parking	0.6	completed
06/1170	Walsall Enterprise Park Plots 1,2,4, Regal Drive, Walsall,	B1/B2/B8	1.5	completed
08/0727	Adj Acerinox, Heath Rd, Darlaston,	B2	0.54	completed
08/1839	Valen House, Westgate, Aldridge,	B2 extension	0.18	completed
09/0030	Empire Works, Stubbers Green Rd, Aldridge	Waste transfer station	0.14	completed
09/0621	JPD Holdings, Bescot Cres, Walsall	New B2 unit	0.13	completed
09/0800	G&P Batteries, Willenhall Rd, Darlaston	Redevelopment B2	0.2	completed
07/2282	Network Rail, Adj Corporation St West, Walsall	Training facility	1.0	started
09/1772	FMR Garrington's, Willenhall Rd Darlaston	Office/depot/training	1.91	started
06/1026	Aspect 2000, Bentley Mill Way	B1/B2/B8	2.92	pp 06/04/06
06/1617	Adj Gasholders site, Darlaston Rd, Darlaston	Storage	2.81	pp 13/12/06
08/1603	Adj Blakemore's, Darlaston Rd, Darlaston	Lorry Park	0.41	pp 09/11/09
08/1815	Fryers Rd, Bloxwich	B1/B2	0.55	pp 07/01/09
09/1823	Interserve, Brickyard Rd, Aldridge	Materials Recycling facility	0.9	pp 08/03/10

10/0367	FMR Wagon (east)	Relocation of Council depot	3.06	pp 08/03/10
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Table 6 - Land lost to other uses 09-10.

Planning ref	Site/premises	Description	Amount lost
09/0331	Day St Walsall	Employment-retail, (pp03/04/09)	67sqm
09/0215	Leve Lane Willenhall	Employment -Housing (pp 04/06/09)	4000sqm
09/0738	Beech Tree Rd, Walsall Wood	Lorry Park-Car Park (17/08/09)	0.3ha
09/0878	Marlow St Walsall	Employment -Gym (11/09/09)	778sqm
09/0442	Century Works, Midland Rd	Employment - Banqueting/conference (09/10/09)	87sqm
09/1152	FMR Triplex Lloyd, Station Rd, Darlaston	Employment -car wash(10/11/09)	24sqm
08/1818	FMR Wincanton, Whitworth Cl, Darlaston	Employment –housing (3/12/09)	1.93ha
09/1698	FMR Bloxwich Engineering, Bell Lane Bloxwich	Employment -housing (10/03/10, based on previous permission for housing in 2007)	n/a
Total			2.73ha

From the figures above it is clear that, due to deficiencies in the Council's data collection procedures, take up has been for the most part under-estimated, and in a few cases over-estimated, over the last 12 years. The figures themselves show a boom in the years 1998-2001, due in large part to the effect of the completion of the Black Country Route/Keyway in the late 1990s. This unlocked several large sites that were remediated and taken up quickly in the context of a rise in land values attributed to the BCR effect. There is indeed some evidence that the effect spread more widely into the Willenhall /Darlaston area. The completion of the Black Country New Road in 1999, and the M6 Toll in 1999 did not however have such a marked effect in areas adjacent to them; this was probably because of the lack of readily available sites. Since then, take-up rates have remained generally at a low, though fluctuating, level. The worst single year for take up in the series was 2009-10. Investment has been fairly steady in Walsall and Aldridge (even though Aldridge is relatively distant from the motorway network), and much lower in Bloxwich and Brownhills, again in all likelihood due to a relative lack of readily available sites in these areas.

Table 5 sets out the details of completions, extant planning applications and sites under construction between April 2009 and March 2010, and table 6 the land falling out of employment use. Virtually all of the latter was for housing. This included a Core Employment Site, the former Wincanton at Whitworth

Close, Darlaston, allowed against recommendation. The rest (around 0.1ha in total) were for a variety of small scale uses.

Table 7 - Implementation of LDF Economic Policy: Revised Core Output Indicators

CORE OUTPUT INDICATOR	ACHIEVEMENT
BD1: Total Amount of Additional Employment Floor Space	1104m2 (net)
BD2: Total Amount of Employment Floor Space On Previously Developed Land	1104m2 (net)
BD3: Employment Land Available by Type	871.1ha

APPENDIX D - TRANSPORT

The policies in Chapter 7 of Walsall's UDP seek to improve accessibility for everyone by promoting public transport, walking and cycling whilst continuing to cater for journeys that need to be made by private car; and, by locating facilities in the right places, make journeys shorter and easier. They also seek 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.

The West Midlands Local Transport Plan (LTP) for 2006/07 – 2010/11 supports the policies in the UDP by setting out specific transport schemes which will enable the integration of transport and land use planning as fully as possible. Because transport movements cross administrative boundaries, collecting some data purely within local authority areas is not meaningful. Therefore, some indicators are currently being monitored for the West Midlands Metropolitan Area as a whole and data is not disaggregated down to individual authority level.

Transport Infrastructure

The Highway Network: UDP Policy T4. Walsall Town Centre Transport Package is a £17million package of highway infrastructure improvements around the northern and north-western side of Walsall Town Centre. Approval for funding was received in April 2006. Works commenced in July 2006 and were completed in Spring 2009. With the completion of the project peak-time journeys have been cut by 96 seconds on average in the morning on the Wolverhampton Road to Pleck Road stretch and 52 seconds in the evening. Town Hill network improvements were built by the private sector at a cost of £2m to serve Phase 1 of St Matthew's Quarter in Walsall Town Centre. The improvements also serve the 51 Showcase Bus Route between Walsall Town Centre and Birmingham City Centre.

Highway Improvements: UDP Policy T5. First phase of the Route 301 scheme between Walsall and Bloxwich was completed in November 2010 including Bloxwich High Street, second phase to start in early 2011. Additional design work and consultation has continued to progress on the Route 404 between Walsall and West Bromwich. Implementation of Route 529 is expected to be completed in early 2011. Following the 51 Route receiving Red Route treatment during 2008, both the 529 and 301 schemes were incorporated into the Red Route initiative in 2010, along with the first phase of the Broadway Red Route scheme.

The Rail and Metro Network: UDP Policy T3. There have been no large rail infrastructure improvements in Walsall in 2009/10. The borough's first Rail Services and Facilities Improvement Plan was unanimously approved by Full Council in November 2007. The Plan brings together into a single document the Council's policies and aspirations for rail in Walsall, together with the proposals of key partners and stakeholders involved in the rail industry. During 09/10 the Plan has impacted on the development of Network Rails:

Rail Utilisation Strategies, The West Midlands Rail Development Plan and Centro's Public Transport Prospectus and other Centro proposals. It also stimulated a study investigating the viability of reintroducing passenger services on the current Walsall to Sutton Freight Line, which has now reported and stimulated a study into reinstating Aldridge station with Birmingham to Walsall services extending to serve it. Three separate studies have also been commissioned by Centro into reintroducing the recently discontinued Wolverhampton to Walsall service. These have now been reported and funding streams and timescales are being investigated.

Walsall Town Centre Transport Patterns

The 2006 West Midlands Local Transport Plan has set the following targets, which are monitored in part by biennial cordon surveys around the 9 centres and a biennial programme of 1500-pt automatic traffic counts done across the whole Met Area:

- Increase a.m. peak trips by public transport into the 9 LTP Centres from 32.73% (2005/06) to 33.8% by 2009/10
- No increase in a.m. peak traffic flows into the 9 LTP Centres between 2005/06 and 2010/11.

Transport – Main Headlines

Road Traffic. The current Local Transport Plan (LTP) for the West Midlands Metropolitan Area proposes a target of no more than a 7% increase in traffic mileage between 2004 and 2010. The methodology for monitoring this indicator has changed in 2006 from an annual 25-point survey process to a more statistically robust biennial 1500-point survey process. Unfortunately, this change has been so fundamental that comparisons between two different data sets have not been possible. Therefore, there is only one year of historic data set to compare to current performance. This will be resolved as the Met Area carries on with the 1500-point approach in future years. In 2006 the result was 102.3 and this had dropped to 101.1 by 2008, this is well ahead of target trajectory. New data should be available for 2010 in time for the next AMR.

Bus Services: UDP Policy T2. This is supported by the current **Local Transport Plan Target BVPI102 to increase the number of bus journeys from the base of 325 million trips in 2003/04 to 355 million trips by 2010/11.** The details of this target are yet to be agreed with Government Office, as the method of determining the bus usage figures have been changed by Centro, which has increased historic figures by approximately 15 million trips per annum. The LTP Target interim milestone for 2008/9 is **324m**. Passenger trips by bus in 2008-09 were **326.7m**. In 2009/10 this has dropped to 319.9m which is below the target level. This has coincided with a recession in the UK economy. These figures are for the whole conurbation. (Source: Centro ASR 2008-09).

Local biennial cordon surveys around Walsall Ring Road have shown a 6.6% drop in in-bound bus trips across the cordon in the morning peak (07:30 –

09:30) from 5827 person trips in 2007 to 5441 person trips in 2009. However, this has to be seen in the context of a 3.2% overall drop in person trips between 2007 and 2009 into Walsall. The main reasons for this fall is felt to be the disruption to the highway network around the town centre while the £17million Town Centre Transport Package Major Scheme was being implemented and the general fall in Public Transport usage in Metropolitan areas nationwide due to the recession.

The Rail and Metro Network: UDP Proposal T3. The LTP target for train journeys has been dropped. However it is interesting to note that the number of rail journeys in the metropolitan area is continuing to climb steadily. In 2000/1 22.8 million journeys were made by train, and in 2009/10 this figure has risen to 40 million. The 2009/10 figures represent an increase of 75.4% on 2000/01, giving a 6.4% rise from 2008/9 (37.6 million). No patronage figures for Walsall station are yet available for 2009.

Walsall's Rail Service and Facilities Improvement Plan has impacted on Network Rail's business plan and Rail Utilisation Strategies, London Midlands proposals, the West Midlands Rail Development Plan and the Centro Public Transport Prospectus. Partnership studies between Walsall, Centro and Network Rail are underway and others are proposed to look at how the aspirations of Walsall's Plan can be implemented including new stations at Aldridge and Willenhall, and the Black Country Access Study (Stourbridge to Walsall rail corridor).

Car Parking: UDP Policy T7 and T13. 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.

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 may justify being 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.

Monitoring Car Parking provision, as identified in previous AMR's has been difficult. 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.

At the present time, the Council does not have the resources or monitoring arrangements to easily analyse data on car parking provision within all permitted schemes. This year's guidance for the production of Annual Monitoring Reports has deleted the need to report against Core Indicator: *"Percentage of completed non-residential development complying with car*

parking standards set out in UDP". In addition, within last years AMR we recommended the deletion of our Local Indicator: "Percentage of completed new housing development with car parking provision in line with standards in Policy T13". We have therefore not reported against these indicators within this report and do not intend on reporting against them in future years.

The Council owned car parks in Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall have the same number of spaces as reported in the 2009 AMR. For Walsall Town Centre, last years AMR reported a total number of car parking spaces of 4636. The table below shows the number of spaces in the town centre:

Figure E3: Parking Provision and Usage in Walsall Town Centre

Off road car park spaces:

Owned by	Long/short stay	Number of Spaces
Council	Short	512 (Sat: 668)
Council	Long	859 (Sat: 738)
Private (but public use)	Short	3218
Private (but public use)	Long	0
Total		4624

Type	Number
Disabled (council owned only)	39
Carer and child	27
All Disabled (as of April 2006)	136

Off road car park Usage (publicly available): (Counts taken on single days in Nov 2010)

Type	Average for Wed	Average for Fri (Market Day)	Average for Sat (Weekend)
Council Short Stay	54% (2009 = 70)	64% (64)	39% (46)
Council Long Stay	54% (74)	51% (69)	35% (49)
Private Short Stay	66% (56)	73% (63)	72% (67)
Total Spaces	64% (61)	68% (65)	61% (61)

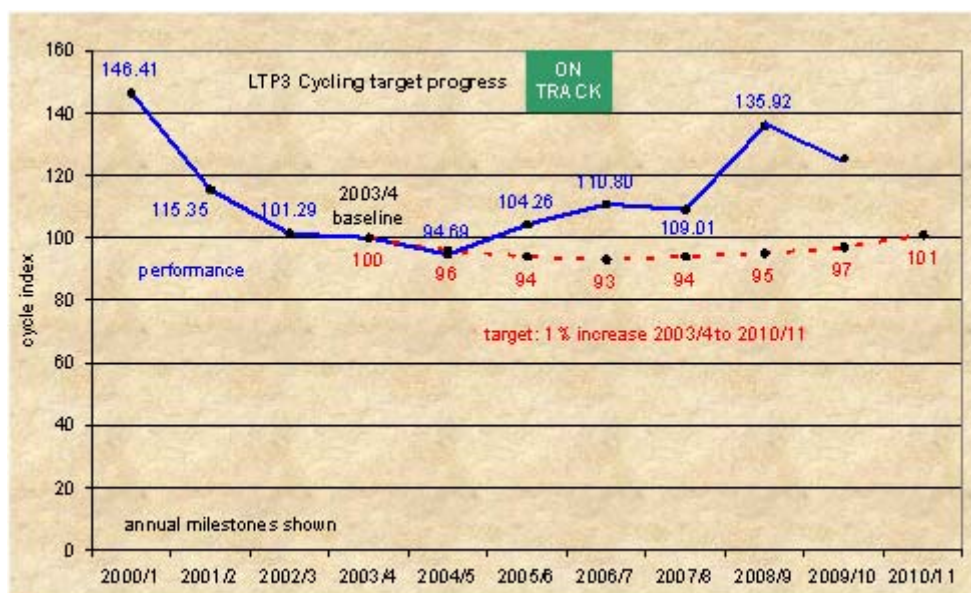
On 1 April 2009 the council took over civil parking enforcement powers. This gives it the powers to enforce legal parking within the town, freeing up the police to deal with other issues.

Walking: UDP Policy T8. 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. In 2009/10, Walsall has continued with its programme of capital infrastructure schemes to encourage walking through new road crossings, new pedestrian and walking links, including links to schools and a programme of training for children.

Cycling: UDP Policy T9 is supported by 2006 LTP target LTP3 for a 1% increase in the cycling index between 2003/4 and 2010/11. The trajectory

shown in Figure E4 below allowed for a drop below 100 in the early years to reflect the change in direction needed from previous performance.

Figure E4: West Midlands LTP Target LTP3 Cycle Usage Index



Performance against the target trajectory has been positive since 2004/05, showing steady increases in cycle trips. The 07/08 figures for the Met Area showed a slight fall from 110.8 in 2006/7 to 109.01 in 2007/8 which was still above the LTP target trajectory. However, last years figures show a significant recovery to 135.92, which is far above the LTP targets. There was a fall to 123.44 in 09/10; however this is still far above the LTP target.

Walsall has supported the aim of increasing levels of cycling by implementing infrastructure and developing safer routes to school, along with cycle training schemes and publicity.

School Travel Plans: target required by the Regional Spatial Strategy: 100% of schools to have travel plans by 2011. The West Midlands Met Area has been performing well above trajectory for this indicator for many years now (see Figure E5 below). However, in 2006 Walsall fell behind neighbouring authorities in terms of the percentage of overall approved school travel plans in place. Through the LAA process, funding was secured for four additional full time posts for a twelve month period from March 2007. In March 2008 Walsall, exceeded the LTP target and the Met Area wide performance with 79% or 102 schools with travel plans. In 2010, 127 schools had completed travel plans bringing the overall total to 98%

In March 2008, Walsall was the lead authority for a new national initiative "School TravelWise". This website gives sustainable travel information and helps pupils plan routes, which will complement and improve the effectiveness of school travel plans in Walsall. It also provides the mandatory information

required for the audit of the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority.

Under the priority of 'improving the quality of our environment', Walsall included national indicator NI 198 Mode of Travel to School as a LAA priority setting a target to reduce the % of children travelling by car to school from a baseline of 31.4% to 28.4% over the current LAA period. This will help support Walsall's efforts to tackle congestion. In addition, work to promote the use of public transport, walking and cycling will also strongly support other Walsall LAA priorities notably reducing per capita CO2 emissions and reducing Year 6 child obesity. Walsall is just one of 33 LAs nationally that have chosen the school travel indicator.

In 2008, the percentage of 5 to 16 year olds travelling by car (excluding car sharing) was 29.9% based on a comprehensive return across the borough via the spring school census, however in 2009 this rose to 30.5%, slightly above the 30.4% target. In 2010 this has reduced to 28.6% well within the target figure of 29.4% that was set for the 2009/10 out-turn.

The A*STARS (Active School Travel and Road Safety) Project, a new initiative between Walsall Council and Walsall NHS, was launched in October 2009. 11 schools are part of a 2-year pilot to promote and encourage sustainable forms of travel such as walking and cycling to help to reduce obesity levels.

In September 2010, 28 schools across the borough began a 2 year project designed to encourage more walking to school. The WOW project has been running successfully in many London boroughs for several years. Children walking once a week to school are rewarded with a collectable badge every month. Jointly funded with the Department for Health, the scheme is being delivered via Living Streets (the charity for pedestrians) in partnership with Walsall Council's School Travel Team.

Workplace Travel Plans: target required by Regional Spatial Strategy: 30% of all employees to work in organisations committed to work place travel plans by 2011. In 2008 22.9% of employees in Walsall were employed by companies with a travel plan, which was up from the 2007 figure. This however was below the West Midlands figure of 30.3%, which rose from 27.4% in 2007, and exceeds the 2011 LTP target of 30% of employees in companies with a travel plan. Walsall currently has no dedicated TravelWise officer so we are unable to ascertain whether the levels of Travel Plan take up have changed. Some Travel Plans have been submitted but have not yet been assessed so the presumption is that the levels have stayed the same at 22.9%.

UDP Policy T1: Helping People to Get Around. The Shopmobility scheme within Walsall has continued through 2009/10 and Centro have continued to support bus services within the borough through their Socially Necessary Services Fund. In 2009 there were 23 services which were supported either wholly or in part by Centro subsidies.

Accessibility Standards: UDP Policy T10, T11 and T12: In seeking to improve accessibility and encourage sustainable development in the borough, planning policies aim to minimise the need to travel. They seek to do this by focusing new homes in areas which are well served by a range of local services and employment opportunities, and are accessible by public transport, walking and cycling.

These accessibility policies are supported by Walsall Local Accessibility Action Plan (LAAP). Accessibility planning is a key priority of Walsall's Local Strategic Partnership, who endorsed the LAAP in February 2008. A progress check was conducted in 2009, and the LSP have tasked themselves with the responsibility for its further development and delivery.

The Core Output Indicator "The amount of new residential development within 30 minutes of key services" has not been reported in this AMR, in accordance with the latest guidance. However, the authority is still monitoring levels of accessibility jointly on a Metropolitan Area level through the West Midlands LTP Indicator LTP1b *"Increase the total population within thirty minutes inter-peak travel time of a main NHS hospital by 'accessible' public transport by 50% by 2011"*. This links in closely with the National Indicator NI175 Access to Services and Facilities.

Our NI175 figure (population within 30 minutes of a main hospital by "accessible" public transport" – largely our Bus Showcase routes) is calculated using Accession. However we have recently discovered that Accession was permitting trips to walk between successive bus stops not served by Showcase routes, where the distance between those stops was less than 400 metres. The upshot of this was that the isochrone was being expanded to an extended walk catchment of up to 30 minutes. In terms of measuring access to hospitals, it is not appropriate to include such an extensive walk distance in the isochrone. Therefore, to obviate this problem, stops not served by Showcase routes were removed from the Accession data set. The result of this is a considerably smaller 30 minute isochrone, but one which more accurately reflects acceptable walk distances to accessible Showcase services. The catchment population is also consequently reduced, and we've had to recreate Accession isochrones on the new basis for all years since 2005 and effectively rebase the target.

Therefore instead of our "old" but inaccurate data (2005-6 - 580,000, 2006-7 - 700,566, 2007-8 - 789,460, 2008-9 - 791,437) we propose:

Year	Total Population
2005 Baseline	252,571
2006	402,540
2007	428,941
2008	450,731

Within Walsall, the following Bus Showcase schemes contributed to the improvement in this indicator during 2009/10:

- Birmingham to Walsall (51 Route)
- Walsall to Stourbridge (311 Route)
- Walsall to Stourbridge via Darlaston (313 Route)

The 301 and 529 red route/bus showcase routes will help to further improve this in 2011 as they have been constructed during 2010.

APPENDIX E - STRENGTHENING OUR CENTRES

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 individual Town and District Centres is provided in separate UDP chapters (Chapters 12-17).

The effectiveness of the application of the UDP policies is measured through overlapping local (UDP) and Core Output Indicators. Table 1 below compares the amount of completed floorspace (GIA) for 2009-2010 with the amount of floorspace (GIA) completed in the previous year.

Table 1 – Gross increase in completed floorspace.

Type of Development	Total Floorspace Completed in the Borough		Floorspace Completed in Town, District or Local Centres		Percentage Completed in Town District or Local Centres (UDP Indicator)	
	08-09	09-10	08-09	09-10	08-09	09-10
Retailing (m²)³³	1,064	7,759	229	7,664	21.5%	98.8%
Offices B1(a) (m²)	320	150	204	150	62.5%	100%
Leisure (m²)	115	686	28	0	24.4%	0%
Total (m²)	1,499	8,595	461	7,814	40.4%	90.9%

The total amount of completed floorspace in the borough was 6,600m² higher than last year; however development within the different use classes has been varied. Compared to the previous year, retailing increased significantly, B1(a) fell and the amount of leisure floorspace completed across the borough was higher but no leisure development took place in the centres.

Whilst the out-of-centre developments have generally tended to be the results of specific circumstances, over recent years the principal issue has been the lack of significant completions in existing centres. In 2009-2010 there was a significant increase in the amount of A1 floorspace but, as with previous years, few office and leisure developments have been implemented. This is partly a reflection of the health of Walsall’s centres, but it is also the case that development does not come forward in an even-flow, in-centre developments will not take place every few years and new investment will take time to come forward: there are in-centre developments in the pipeline for future years. Nevertheless it will be important to continue to use planning policy to direct

³³ A1 & A2 combined

investment towards the borough's centres and to ensure out-of-centre development is only allowed where fully justified. The planning strategy for the borough should be strengthened through work on the Local Development Framework, in particular the adoption and implementation of the Black Country Core Strategy and work is about to start on identifying development opportunities for the Land Allocations DPD. Within the borough the Council is also supporting particular initiatives to promote retail, office and leisure development in Walsall and in other centres.

Retail Development

During 2009-2010 there were a number of other changes relating to retail development. The town centre was affected by the demise of the Ethel Austin fashion chain. Blockbuster also vacated its unit on Crown Wharf Retail Park but this was taken up by the Frankie and Benny's restaurant chain a few months later. This follows 2008-2009 when Walsall Town Centre was affected by the demise of several national retailers including Adams, Rosebys, Zavvi and Woolworths, all of whom occupied units in the primary shopping area. In October 2009 TJ Hughes began trading from the building previously occupied by Woolworths. The three other stores have since been occupied by other retailers and a bookmaker.

A new Tesco supermarket on the site of the former Walsall Technical College campus in Walsall town centre will be included in the 2010-11 AMR having opened in December 2010. This development will create opportunities for new retailers in the Old Square Shopping Centre. There are also significant retail developments in the pipeline for other parts of the borough, including extensions to the Morrison's supermarket in Aldridge District Centre and Ikea on Axletree Way. There is also a growing trend for public houses to be converted into convenience stores. This type of development is a concern, particularly in edge-of-centre and out-of centre locations but is largely beyond the control of the Council because of the Use Classes Order.

Office Development

Previous years have been marked by an almost total lack of B1(a) office development in the borough. During 2008-2009 three office developments were completed and in 2009-2010 there was one completion in Willenhall³⁴.

It is recognised that it will be important to attract office investment as part of the regeneration strategy to sustain and diversify the Black Country economy. The emerging Black Country Core Strategy promotes major office development (up to 220,000m²) in Walsall Town Centre as part of a network of strategic centres (with Brierley Hill, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton).

Outline planning permission was granted in October 2008 for 127,000m² of office space, with business incubation space, a data centre, and provision for a hotel and live-work units in the 'Gigaport' area of the town centre, which will go a long way towards addressing the Core Strategy target. The new headquarters of Walsall Housing Group are currently under construction within the Gigaport and should contribute 4,018sqm of B1(a) floorspace

³⁴ Apart from ancillary or temporary uses.

towards the 2010-11 AMR. It is also proposed the planned development at Walsall Waterfront should accommodate some office development.

Leisure Development

Previous years have seen little leisure development overall, whilst what developments there have been (children's play centres) have tended to be developed outside of centres because of the requirement for industrial-type buildings. In 2009-2010 there were two³⁵ leisure completions, an extension to the clubhouse at Calderfields Golf Course and a gymnastics centre north of Walsall Town Centre (height and other building design issues limited the number of sequentially preferable sites).

Walsall's UDP recognises that more leisure development is needed in the town centre and has identified a site at Walsall Waterfront where a planning application for a leisure-led scheme was submitted in August 2010. The need for leisure development in the town centre is also recognised in the emerging Black Country Core Strategy.

The Health of Existing Centres

The UDP recognises 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 the level of vacant units, and although this indicator needs to be used with care, the UDP identifies this as a monitoring indicator.

In 2005/06 the Council was able to monitor the vacancies in the town and district centres. For the past 4 years it has not been possible to do the necessary surveys because of changes to the organisation of the council's information resource. Similar changes at the metropolitan level have meant the information is not available from other sources. Last year the council did carry out detailed surveys of the local centres for the Black Country Centres Study 2009 and is reviewing its monitoring capability for future years.

Commercial information on the district and local centres is limited, as they are not considered (by institutions and the Valuation Office Agency (VOA)) to be of interest for commercial property investment. In previous years information on Walsall Town Centre has come from the VOA's Property Market Reports. However, information on retail yields was not published last year because the volatile economic conditions meant that such information would not provide a true reflection of the situation. A review of the number of centres covered in the Property Market Reports in future was concluded in January 2010. VOA data on shops offices and industry will now be published annually, but with a reduced number of data points that will not include Walsall.

Information on Walsall town centre from PROMIS indicated prime retail yields of 7% in Spring 2010 (slightly above the centres average), which showed "an inward yield shift on the previous six month level in line with the majority of the

³⁵ Extensions to a building at West Bromwich Football Club's training ground and a sports hall at Streetly School were also completed. However, neither of these developments is accessible to the general public, thus they have therefore been excluded from the total floorspace figures.

other PROMIS centres, and a fall from 8% in Spring 2009” (Market Relocation Report – Update, GVA Grimley (2010)).

More recent information on primary retail rents ('In Town Retail Rents' Wall Charts, Colliers CRE, Summer 2009) show that the Zone A retail rent for Walsall fell between June 2008 and June 2009 from £100psf to £90psf (-10%). Colliers CRE's 2010 Midsummer Retail Report shows that between June 2009 and June 2010 the average prime retail rent in the West Midlands fell by 3.3% from £121psf to £117psf. Over the same period the average prime retail rent for Great Britain fell from £115psf to £114psf or 1.4%³⁶.

At the time of publication market conditions in the UK retail sector remained poor with few signs of improvement in the short term. There is concern from market analysts that tax rises and job cuts are making consumers more cautious about their spending habits. This will continue to create challenges for the borough over the 2010-2011 monitoring year and beyond.

³⁶ Colliers CRE weight the regional averages by population so the actual GB average for 2009 was £115.291855949716 and the 2010 figure was £113.646803729874, which equates to a difference of -1.4%.

Primary Aggregates

With regard to aggregates monitoring, Walsall is part of the West Midlands County sub-regional area.³⁷ The only authorities in the West Midlands County producing primary aggregates are Solihull and Walsall. Both authorities produce sand and gravel only, and the quarries in Walsall are mainly producing sand.

The West Midlands County no longer produces any crushed rock. The last hard rock quarry (in Sandwell) closed in 2007, and since 2005 there has been no requirement for the West Midlands County to contribute towards crushed rock supplies.

Targets for Primary Aggregate Production – Recent Changes

Until recently, sub-regional targets (apportionments) for primary aggregate production were set out in the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. The sub-regional sand and gravel apportionment for the West Midlands County 2002 - 2010 was 0.506 million tonnes per annum.³⁸

The RSS apportionments were reviewed during 2009/10 following the issue of the “National and regional guidelines for aggregates provision 2005-2020” in June 2006. In March 2010, an Interim Policy Statement on Construction Aggregates was issued by the former West Midlands Regional Assembly. This included a new set of apportionments. Alternative apportionments had also been considered, including “Option 1c” which was supported by a majority of AWP members.

In June 2010, the Coalition Government signalled its intention to abolish regional spatial strategies and advised planning authorities that aggregates apportionments should be agreed at a local level having regard to technical advice provided by the AWP. No targets for annual production are set in the Walsall UDP, but the Black Country Core Strategy aims to maintain production at current rates and plans to provide an appropriate share of the West Midlands County sand and gravel apportionment under Option 1c.

Table M1a below compares the existing RSS sand and gravel apportionment for the West Midlands County with those in the Interim Policy Statement and Option 1c, and sets out the tonnage of permitted reserves required to demonstrate a 7-year landbank @ December 2008 (the end of the last monitoring year).

³⁷ The West Midlands County comprises the Metropolitan unitary authorities of Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

³⁸ See Policy M2, West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (January 2008), West Midlands Regional Assembly.

Table M1a: West Midlands County Sand and Gravel Apportionments and Landbank Requirements @ December 2008 (million tonnes/ MT)

Apportionment	Annual Production Requirement	Landbank Requirement @ December 2008 (7 years' production)
RSS Policy M2	0.506 MT	3.542 MT
Interim Policy Statement	0.528 MT	3.696 MT
Option 1c	0.550 MT	3.850 MT

Sources: West Midlands RSS (January 2008), WMRA, Report to WMRA Regional Planning and Environment Executive (23.02.10), and Interim Policy Statement on Construction Aggregates (March 2008), WMRA

Performance in 2008 - Primary Aggregate Production

Primary aggregate supply and production in the West Midlands is monitored through annual surveys co-ordinated by Warwickshire County Council on behalf of the West Midlands AWP. Aggregates monitoring has always covered calendar years (1 January – 31 December) rather than normal LDF monitoring years (1 April – 31 March).

Information is published in the AWP annual reports which are available on the CLG website. The latest available survey data is for the monitoring year 2008, although the 2008 annual report has not yet been published. This is expected to be available on the CLG website and Warwickshire County Council website in 2011.

For monitoring purposes, aggregate sales are regarded as equivalent to production. Table M1b below summarises aggregates sales in the West Midlands County during 2008. Around half a million tonnes of sand and gravel were sold, which is slightly below the production rate assumed in the RSS apportionment which applied at the time. However, production in Walsall accounted for only around 10% of the total.

Table M1b: Primary Aggregate Sales in the West Midlands County (including Walsall), 2008³⁹

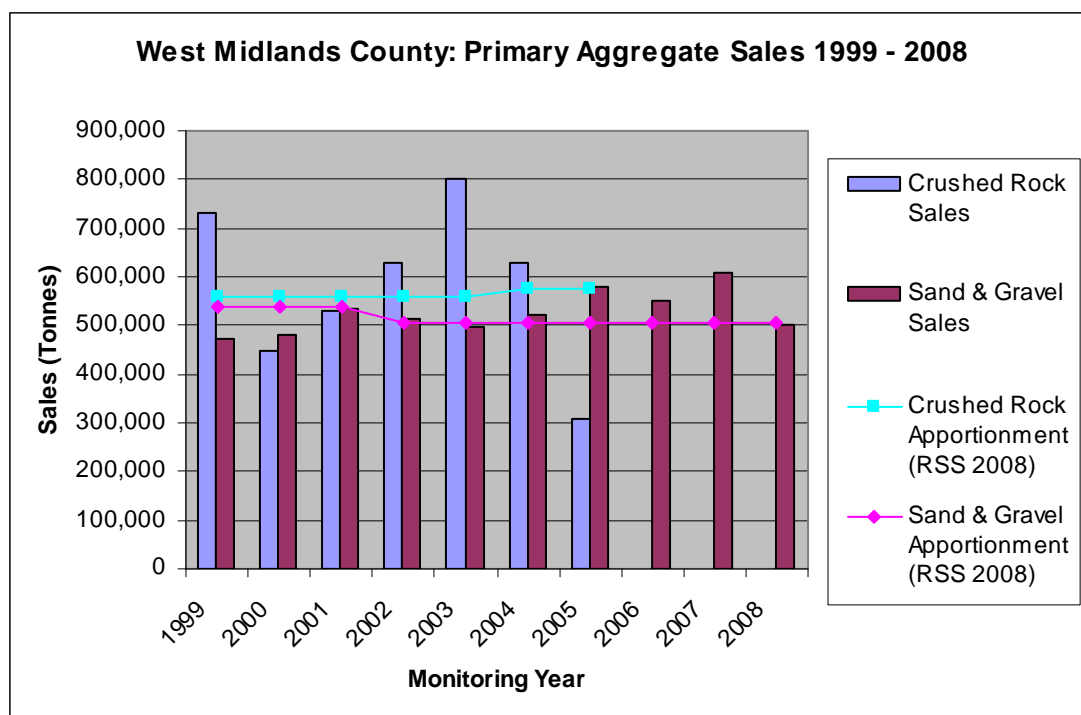
Type of Aggregate	Crushed Rock	Sand and Gravel	Total
Amount produced	0	500,000	500,000

Trend data from AWP Annual Reports 1999 – 2007 and from the 2008 survey shows that average production in the last 10 years has been around 0.526 million tonnes per annum (see Figure 1 below). Since 2001, annual sand and gravel sales in the West Midlands County have been slightly higher

³⁹ Source: West Midlands AWP Annual Survey 2008, reproduced in Black Country Core Strategy Minerals Monitoring Update, June 2010 (Examination Core Document J11)

than the RSS sub-regional apportionment except in 2008 when sales fell. Walsall has contributed around 10% of sub-regional sales.

Figure 1: Primary Aggregate Sales



Source: West Midlands AWP Annual Reports 1999 – 2007 and 2008 survey data

Performance in 2008 - Primary Aggregate Supply

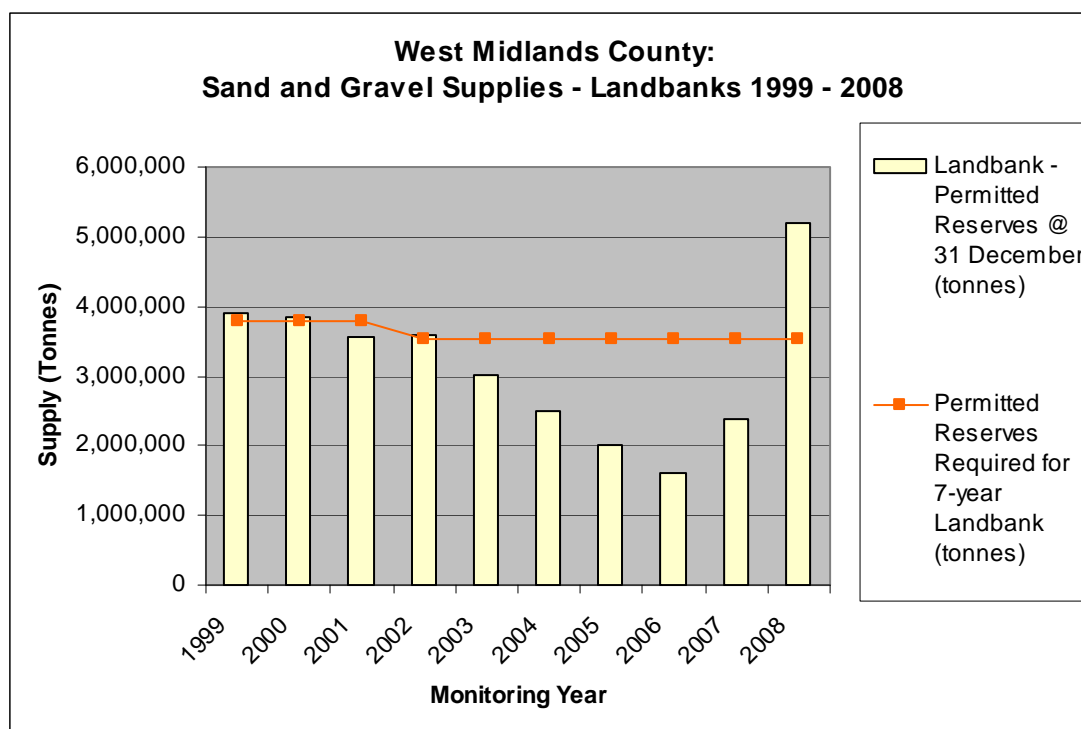
National policy guidance requires mineral planning authorities to maintain a minimum 7-year landbank of permitted sand and gravel reserves, at the annual rates set out in apportionments. Table M1a above indicates that the West Midlands County needed to identify permitted reserves of around 3.542 tonnes to demonstrate a 7-year landbank @ December 2008, at the RSS annual apportionment rate.

Figure 2 below shows how the West Midlands County sand and gravel landbank has changed over the last ten years. Until 2007, supplies of sand and gravel reserves were not keeping pace with production and the landbank declined. In 2007 and 2008 the landbank increased, as a result of new permissions being granted in Solihull. At 31 December 2008, the West Midlands County landbank was estimated to be 5.210 million tonnes, equivalent to 10.29 years at the RSS apportionment rates.

Permitted sand and gravel reserves in Walsall remain at a very low level. The baseline information used in the Black Country Core Strategy estimates that permitted reserves were around 0.2 million tonnes at 31 December 2008, less than 5% of the total landbank.⁴⁰ Walsall is therefore only making a very small contribution towards the West Midlands County landbank, the bulk of which is provided by Solihull.

⁴⁰ Core Strategy Policy MIN2, Table 20 (see Inspectors' Report, October 2010, Appendix A)

Figure 2: Sand and Gravel Supplies



Source: WMRAWP Annual Reports 1999 – 2007 and 2008 survey data

Landbank requirements for the West Midlands County increased in 2009/10 due to the revised apportionments - see Table M1a above. This means that the West Midlands County is now expected to identify a landbank of between 3.696 million tonnes and 3.850 million tonnes, to meet the 7-year requirement in national policy guidance (MPS1, Annex 1).

To maintain supplies in the long-term, development plans are expected to maintain a “rolling” landbank throughout the plan period, at the annual rates assumed in the apportionment, plus 7 years beyond. Accordingly, the Walsall UDP, which has an end-date of 2011, identifies sand and gravel resources sufficient to provide an appropriate contribution towards the sub-regional landbank to 2018, at the apportionment rates assumed in the RSS. These resources are identified as mineral safeguarding areas (MSAs) on the Proposals Map.

However, as the apportionments have changed, the Black Country and Solihull Core Strategies must make provision for future sand and gravel supplies in line with the new requirements. Both Core Strategies will have an end date of 2026. Table M1c below shows the amount of resource they need to identify to demonstrate a 7-year “rolling” landbank running from the next monitoring year (2009) through to 2026 – between 13.20 million tonnes and 13.75 million tonnes.

The Black Country Core Strategy identifies provision in Walsall aimed at contributing towards this requirement. It identifies two areas of search for sand and gravel extraction, based on the MSAs designated in the UDP. The

resource within these areas (including permitted reserves) is estimated to be around 4 million tonnes.⁴¹ This provides around 30% of the total sub-regional requirement.

Table M1c: West Midlands County Sand and Gravel Apportionments and Landbank Requirements 2009 – 2026 (million tonnes/ MT)

Apportionment	Annual Production Requirement	Landbank Requirement 2008 – 2026 (17 year plan period + 7 years)
RSS Policy M2	0.506 MT	12.650 MT
Interim Policy Statement	0.528 MT	13.200 MT
Option 1c	0.550 MT	13.750 MT

2009/10 Update

Sand and gravel production is believed to have ceased at Aldridge Quarry during 2008. No production took place in 2009 or 2010 according to recent surveys. This means that Branton Hill Quarry is now the only active sand and gravel quarry in Walsall.

No new permissions for sand and gravel working were granted in Walsall during 2009/10. The application for an extension to Branton Hill Quarry, reported in previous AMRs, was still not determined at 31 March 2010.

Secondary and Recycled Aggregates

Secondary and recycled aggregates are defined as follows:

- Secondary aggregates – aggregates produced as a by-product of mining and quarrying or of industry
- Recycled aggregates – aggregates produced from recycling of waste, in particular, construction, demolition and excavation waste (CD&EW)

There is some evidence that significant quantities of alternatives to primary aggregates (secondary and recycled aggregates) are being produced in the West Midlands County area.⁴² A recent national survey suggests that in England as a whole, around 85% of construction, demolition and excavation waste is either recovered or beneficially re-used without further processing.⁴³

⁴¹ Core Strategy Policy MIN2, Table 20 (see Inspectors' Report, October 2010, Appendix A)

⁴² See: The Sustainable Use of Resources for the Production of Aggregates in England (2006), WRAP

⁴³ Construction, demolition and excavation waste arisings, use and disposal for England 2008 (April 2010), WRAP

However, evidence for production of secondary and recycled aggregates at a local level is still lacking. There are no quarries in Walsall producing aggregates as a by-product of quarrying other minerals. At the end of March 2010, the Borough had only two known fixed secondary and recycled aggregate production sites. The West Midlands AWP has attempted to monitor secondary aggregate production at these sites from time-to-time, but this has not yielded useful results.

Until better monitoring arrangements are in place, the only evidence for production of secondary aggregates is from national surveys commissioned by CLG from Capita Symonds. The latest survey covered production during 2005. Although there are caveats attached to the sub-regional data from this survey, it is the only indication we have of recycled aggregate production at the present time.

A study on waste carried out to inform the Black Country Core Strategy used the sub-regional data from the 2005 survey and attributed a “weighted share” for each of the Black Country authorities, to estimate CD&EW arisings and recycled aggregate production. The data for Walsall is summarised in Table M2 below.

Table M2: Estimated Production of Alternative Materials in Walsall, 2005

Type of Aggregate	Secondary	Recycled	Total
Amount produced	Not known	125,000	125,000

The Black Country Core Strategy encourages production of secondary and recycled aggregates by promoting on-site recycling of waste and by identifying broad locations suitable for development of new processing facilities. However, as there are no reliable data on existing and potential production of secondary and recycled aggregates, the Core Strategy includes no targets for future production.

It is proposed that such targets will be set at a later date, when better information is available through monitoring. The collection of better data has therefore been identified as a key priority.

During 2010/11, arrangements will be put into place to capture local data on secondary and recycled aggregates production from April 2011 onwards, which will contribute towards the joint monitoring of the Black Country Core Strategy. This monitoring will aim to capture two sets of data:

- **Production of secondary and recycled aggregates at fixed production sites** – the Council is reviewing the information it holds on existing facilities in Walsall, so that surveys can be carried out from April 2011 onwards.
- **Production of recycled aggregates through on-site recycling of construction, demolition and excavation wastes (CD&EW)** – the

Council is proposing to include provision of information about on-site management of waste in its Local Validation Checklist, which is expected to be in place in December 2010.

2010/11 Update

The following data was collated early in 2010 to provide background evidence for the Black Country Core Strategy Examination:

- Estimate of secondary and recycled aggregate production at fixed recycling and processing facilities in the Black Country;⁴⁴
- Inputs and outputs of “construction and demolition wastes, naturally occurring minerals, and various mineral wastes” at licensed waste management facilities in the Black Country during 2008;⁴⁵
- Estimated construction and demolition waste arisings in the Black Country to 2026, from the West Midlands Landfill Capacity Study 2009.⁴⁶

Estimate of Production at Recycling and Processing Facilities

An analysis of known fixed recycling and processing facilities in the Black Country was undertaken during 2010, using 2007 and 2008 data obtained from published and unpublished sources. This suggests that fixed recycling and processing facilities in the Black Country are currently producing around **0.83 million tonnes of secondary and recycled aggregate per annum.**

⁴⁴ See: Black Country Core Strategy Examination – Matter 8 Minerals: Hearing Statement by the Black Country Authorities, Appendix 2, Table A2.1.

⁴⁵ See: Black Country Core Strategy Examination - Minerals Monitoring Update (June 2010), Table M2b (Examination Core Document J11).

⁴⁶ See: Black Country Core Strategy Examination – Matter 8 Minerals: Hearing Statement by the Black Country Authorities, Appendix 2, Tables A2.3a and A2.3b.

Waste Inputs and Outputs

Data from the Environment Agency's Waste Data Interrogator includes a breakdown of wastes by Substance-Oriented Classification (SOC). This makes it possible to extract data on inputs and outputs of "construction and demolition wastes," "naturally occurring minerals" and "various mineral wastes," into licensed waste management facilities. These types of material have the potential to be re-used or recycled as aggregates.

The data indicates that around 0.264 million tonnes of potentially usable material was input into licensed waste facilities in Walsall during 2008, whereas outputs were around 0.082 million tonnes. A very low proportion of the inputs (only around 500 tonnes) went to recovery or treatment facilities and most of the inputs (around 0.212 million tonnes) went to landfill sites.

Total outputs of the same materials were around 0.082 million tonnes, of which only 0.28 million tonnes was exported from landfill facilities. Transfer facilities generated more outputs (0.053 million tonnes) than inputs (0.051 million tonnes). Whilst the actual fate of the outputs is not known - for example the outputs from transfer facilities could have been destined for recycling facilities elsewhere - the data suggests we may not yet be realising the full potential for re-use and recycling of wastes into aggregate in Walsall.

However, it is unlikely to be feasible or desirable to divert 100% of potentially viable wastes into the production of aggregates. Depositing inert materials to landfill or onto land (whether or not they are classified as a "waste") can be a beneficial use, and is essential to achieve successful restoration of derelict sites and former mining and quarrying voids. Furthermore, some licensed landfill sites (such as Branton Hill in Walsall) are in environmentally sensitive locations, and may only accept clean, inert fill materials.

Construction and Demolition Waste Arisings

Data from the West Midlands Landfill Capacity Study 2009 suggests that in 2009, Walsall generated around 311,500 tonnes of construction and demolition waste – much of which could in theory be re-used or recycled as aggregate. The study includes future estimates of arisings, which suggest that by 2025/26 Walsall could be producing as much as 520,000 tonnes of construction and demolition waste, assuming that the proposed levels of housing and other development take place. This also suggests there may be further scope for increasing production of recycled aggregates.

Brick Clay

There is still no system in place for regular monitoring of supply of clay to brickworks. However, the 2008/09 monitoring data has been updated to 2009/10, using information supplied by quarry operators and brick manufacturers and information extrapolated from previous surveys.

There are three operational brickworks in Walsall, which use the following types of locally occurring clays:

- **Fireclay** – a high quality buff coloured clay which occurs as layers beneath coal seams. There are resources of fireclay present in the Brownhills area of Walsall.
- **Etruria Marl** – a high quality red coloured clay. The main deposits in Walsall are in the Stubbers Green and Shelfield areas.

Both types of clay are nationally and regionally scarce. There are currently no locally available supplies of fireclay except for a small stockpile at the former Birch Coppice site, which is operated by Potters Clay & Coal Company Ltd. The Etruria Marl supply situation at 31 March 2010 is summarised in Table M3 below.

Table M3⁴⁷: Supply of Etruria Marl to Walsall Brickworks, March 2010

Works	Operator	Main Source of Supply in Walsall	Estimated Supply @ March 2010 (years)
Aldridge	Ibstock	Highfields South (imports)	Less than 5
Atlas	Ibstock	Atlas	15 – 24
Sandown	Wienerberger	Sandown Highfields South (imports)	Less than 5

Further information on brick clay supply can be found in the Minerals Monitoring Update (June 2010) which formed part of the evidence for the Black Country Core Strategy Examination.

The Black Country Core Strategy includes policies on the working of Etruria Marl and Fireclay and supplies of clay to brickworks in the Black Country. The Core Strategy has addressed deficiencies in supply of clay as far as possible, by identifying areas of search containing Etruria Marl and Fireclay resources in Walsall which have the potential to be exploited in future.

Monitoring arrangements for these policies will be put into place during 2010/11, and the next AMR will explain the arrangements for monitoring from April 2011.

2009/10 Update

Extraction of Etruria Marl at Highfields South Quarry continued during 2009/10, concurrently with landfilling operations, which has helped to maintain supplies of clay to local brickworks. However, it is understood that

⁴⁷ Source: Correspondence with brick manufacturers, May 2010

working ceased around the end of the monitoring year, in accordance with a condition attached to the approved restoration programme.

During 2009/10 an application was received for working at the “causeway” site at Sandown Quarry. This is a former mineral railway line extending into the quarry which is not covered by the original mineral permissions. Allowing this area to be worked would increase supplies from the quarry to around 2014/15, by enabling working of new material, and allowing access to permitted reserves which are not currently accessible.

The Black Country Core Strategy – A New Waste Planning Strategy

The current waste planning strategy for Walsall is provided by the Walsall UDP, which was adopted in 2005. However, the UDP does not include any specific targets or requirements for development of new waste management infrastructure or for the diversion of waste away from landfill.

All of this will change when the Black Country Core Strategy is adopted in early 2011, because the Core Strategy does include indicative targets for waste management. The new waste policies in the Core Strategy will supersede those in the UDP on adoption.

The Core Strategy sets out indicative requirements for new waste management capacity across all waste streams (WM1). These have been based on the most up-to-date information available on current and future waste arisings, existing waste management capacity and provision, and specific local needs, and take into account national minimum targets for diversion of waste away from landfill in the Waste Strategy for England 2007.

Excluding capacity expected to be provided by identified major infrastructure projects, the Core Strategy identifies the following residual requirements for new waste management infrastructure in Walsall to 2025/26:

- **Municipal Waste Recovery/ Treatment** – possible need for additional material recovery capacity and for new organic waste treatment capacity (municipal waste management strategy to determine);
- **Commercial and Industrial Waste Recovery/ Treatment** – minimum 110,000 TPA recovery/ treatment capacity;
- **Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste Recovery/ Treatment** – possible need for additional “urban quarries” / facilities for managing contaminated soils;
- **Waste Transfer** – minimum 35,000 TPA transfer capacity.

The above requirements will be met through new planning permissions and/ or site allocations in other development plan documents to be prepared as part of the Walsall LDF. The Core Strategy identifies broad locations suitable for different types of operation and includes criteria for assessing the suitability of proposals under consideration (Policy WM4).

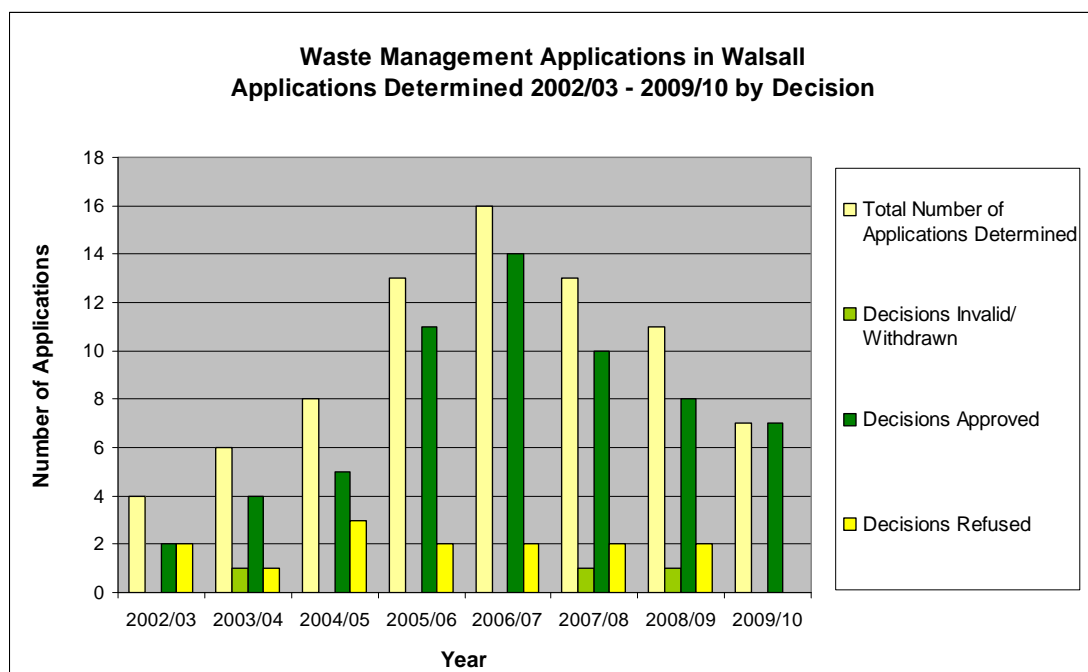
As well as making provision for new waste management infrastructure, the Core Strategy seeks to influence the way that material resources are managed in new developments. Applications for “major” development will be expected to provide supporting information on the management of waste generated by the development (Policy WM5).

Each Core Strategy policy has monitoring indicators and targets attached to it, many of which are related to the existing Core Output Indicators. The 2011 AMR will set out proposals for monitoring the indicators and targets in the Core Strategy. Data collection will commence in April 2011, and will be reported in future AMRs from 2011/12 onwards.

New Waste Management Capacity 2009/10

The number of waste management development applications received by the Council varies from year to year. The number of applications fell in 2008/09 and 2009/10 compared to previous years (probably due to the economic downturn), but was comparable to the numbers received prior to 2005/06. The overwhelming majority of applications submitted to the Council are approved, as will be apparent from Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Waste Management Applications



Source: Walsall Council Planning Register

A significant proportion of the waste management development applications submitted to Walsall Council are for minor/ ancillary developments or improvements at existing waste management facilities with no net increase in capacity. In the past, capacity information has not always been provided by applicants even where a net increase in capacity was involved. However, it is now a requirement to indicate the capacity of waste management developments on the standard application form.

Eight applications for waste management development came forward in Walsall during 2009/10. These included some very significant developments, such as infilling of the North Walsall Cutting by landfilling within inert waste, relocation of the Interserve waste transfer facility (new facility to include material recycling), and the relocation of the Council's waste management depot to the former Wagon Automotive site in Brownhills. Of the applications

submitted during 2009/10, four were approved and the remaining four were not determined at 1 April 2010.

Seven waste management applications were approved during 2009/10, including three submitted in the previous monitoring year (2008/09). These are listed in Table W1a below. Only three of the approved applications involved a net increase in waste management capacity.

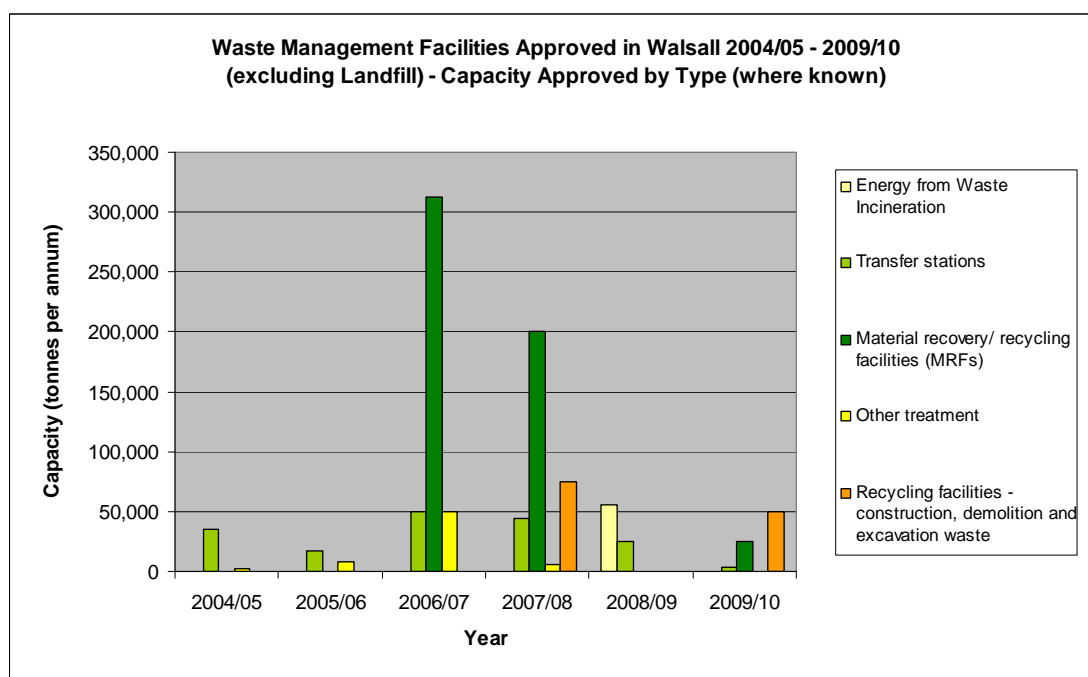
Table W1a: Waste Management Development Applications in Walsall - Applications Approved 2009/10

Application Reference	Location	Summary	Capacity
09/0009/FL	Former Hanson Aggregates Ltd, Leamore Lane, Walsall WS2 7DE	Alteration of Condition 8 of permission 08/1590/FL	N/A
09/0030/FL	Empire Works, Stubbers Green Road, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 8BL	Re-submission of 08/0916/FL: construction of a waste transfer station	N/A (relocation of existing transfer facility)
09/0800/FL	G & P Batteries Ltd, Crescent Works, Willenhall Road WS10 8JR	Re-build storage & processing unit following fire damage	N/A (rebuilding of existing facility)
09/0979/FL	Unit 1B, Gatehouse Trading Estate, Lichfield Road, Brownhills WS8 6JZ	Change of use to allow for the storage of waste asbestos prior to disposal elsewhere	3,650 tonnes per annum
08/1799/FL	154 Green Lane, Walsall, WS2 8LE	Erection of a two-storey office building ancillary to existing scrap metal yard	N/A (ancillary building)
09/1342/FL	Ex Railway Cutting between Mill Street and Reedswood Way, Walsall	Filling of cutting with inert wastes and associated works	80,000 cubic metres landfill capacity (total) over five years
09/1823/FL	Adj. Ibstock Brick, Brickyard Road, Aldridge	Development of a material recycling facility	75,000 tonnes per annum

A 2008/09 application involving potential loss of a commercial waste management depot at Brownhills Business Park (reported in the previous AMR) was the subject of an appeal during the 2009/10 monitoring year. This was granted in May 2010, but the Council has challenged the decision in the High Court. At the time this AMR was prepared, no hearing date had been set.

Figure 2 below summarises the theoretical net increase in capacity by waste management type from permissions granted 2004/05 – 2009/10 in Walsall where capacity is known.

Figure 2: Waste Management Permissions



Source: Walsall Council Planning Register

Table W1b below summarises the new waste management capacity implemented in Walsall by type since 2004/05 where the capacity is known, excluding landfill capacity. Waste management capacity means maximum annual throughput – the maximum amount of waste in tonnes which a facility can handle in a year, or tonnes per annum (TPA). The facility types are as listed at Section 22 of the Standard Application Form.

Table W1b: New Waste Management Capacity Implemented in Walsall 2004/05 – 2009/10, by Type (Where Known) – Tonnes per Annum⁴⁸

Year	Energy from Waste Incineration	Transfer Stations	Material Recovery/ Recycling Facilities (MRFs)	Other Treatment	Recycling facilities - CD&EW	Other Waste Management	TOTAL
2004/05		35,000	0	2,500	0	0	37,500
2005/06		5,000	0	5,000	0	0	10,000
2006/07		0	0	2,500	0	0	2,500
2007/08		25,000	62,400	0	74,920	50,000	212,320
2008/09	300	74,000	250,000	0	0	0	324,300
2009/10	0	3,650	0	0	0	0	3,650

Source: Walsall Council Planning Register

The table shows that a significant amount of new waste capacity has been developed since 2004/05. Whilst transfer facilities still predominate, some recovery facilities have come forward. The most notable of these is the Greenstar MRF in Aldridge completed in 2008/09, which is believed to be the largest facility of its type in the country.

During 2009/10, the following new waste management facilities were implemented:

- New storage and processing unit at G&P Batteries in Darlaston (rebuilding of premises damaged by fire in 2008, no net increase in capacity);
- New asbestos waste transfer facility (Watling Waste Services) at Gatehouse Trading Estate in Brownhills – 3,625 TPA;
- New waste transfer facility at Empire Treatment Works (Veolia) in Aldridge (relocation of existing facility, no net increase in capacity).

At 31 March 2010, a new storage and office unit was under construction by Chemtech Waste Management Ltd (now Envirosol Ltd) at Collier Close in Brownhills. The other significant schemes in the pipeline are a new waste recovery facility being developed by Interserve in Aldridge and a new Council depot being developed at the former Wagon Automotive site in Brownhills (see section below for details of the depot scheme).

Municipal Waste Management

Total municipal waste arisings in Walsall have continued to fall (see Figure x below). In 2009/10, a total of 126,314 tonnes of municipal waste was collected by the Council, compared to 130,254 tonnes in 2008/09 and

⁴⁸ There are one or two variations in this table compared to similar tables published in previous AMRs, due to a recent review and correction of data from earlier years.

138,382 tonnes in 2007/08. Due to stockpiling of waste between reporting periods, slightly less than this (124,917 tonnes) was actually managed during the monitoring year. Table W2 below summarises municipal waste management performance in 2009/10.

Table W2: Municipal Waste Management in Walsall 2009/10 by Management Method⁴⁹

Management Method	Landfill	EfW	Without EfW	Recycle/ Compost	Other	Total Waste Managed
Amount of waste arising (tonnes)	42,306	26,698	0	55,913	0	124,917
Proportion of total waste arisings (%)	33.87%	21.37%	0.00%	44.76%	0.00%	100.00%

Due to recent service improvements, Walsall's municipal recycling and composting rate has continued to increase, and in 2009/10 the Council achieved a rate of nearly 45%. However, other authorities are doing even better. In 2009/10, four authorities - Staffordshire Moorlands, South Oxfordshire, Rochford and Cotswold – achieved recycling and composting rates of more than 60%.

The proportion of Walsall's waste sent for energy recovery has increased since 2006/07, but performance fell back slightly in 2009/10 to 21%, from 23% in 2008/09 and nearly 26% in 2007/08. Walsall's municipal waste energy recovery rate (an average of 23% 2006/07 – 2009/10) remains significantly lower than that of authorities with their own energy from waste facility who are typically achieving rates of more than 60%. Walsall's energy recovery performance should improve significantly once the W2R facility is operational.

Walsall is much less reliant on landfill for managing its municipal waste today than it was in the recent past, and there has been a dramatic fall in the amounts of waste landfilled during the last five years. The proportion of residual municipal waste sent to landfill fell again in 2009/10, and was less than half of the tonnage of waste landfilled in 2004/05. Walsall is now sending less than 35% of its municipal waste to landfill.

The Council has benefited from an improved waste collection service and from having contracts in place to send dry recyclable waste to the Greenstar MRF facility in Aldridge and green garden waste to composting facilities in Staffordshire. Further improvements to the Borough's municipal waste infrastructure are planned.

The main municipal waste infrastructure improvements in the pipeline are:

⁴⁹ The figures in this table differ slightly from the unverified data from May 2009 in Table W2a of the Black Country Core Strategy Waste Data Update – June 2010 (CD J10). Source: Defra Municipal Waste Data 2009/10, November 2010.

Relocation of North Walsall Depot

Planning permission was granted for a new Council depot on the former Wagon Automotive site in Brownhills in August 2010. This will replace the existing North Walsall Depot off Green Lane. Work on the new depot started following the grant of permission, and it is expected to be operational by April 2011.

W2R Energy Recovery Facility, Four Ashes, South Staffordshire

This project is being developed by Staffordshire County Council with three partners, including Walsall Council. Permission has been granted and the preferred bidder (Veolia) has been chosen. The facility is expected to be operational from 2012/13 and will be managing up to 60,000 tonnes of Walsall's residual municipal waste.

The W2R project was not affected by the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) in October 2010, as PFI funding was already in place. The formal partnership agreements were signed in August 2010, and a revised planning application has been submitted to Staffordshire County Council by Veolia. The application is expected to be determined in January 2011

Waste Management Targets

Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS)

The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) sets the maximum amounts of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) that can be sent to landfill in each waste planning authority area. Statutory targets are set for each authority for the years 2009/10, 2012/13 and 2019/20, aimed at meeting Landfill Directive targets for the UK as a whole.

The year 2009/10 was therefore the first LATS target year. Defra announced in September 2010 that the UK as a whole has met the 2010 statutory target. Table W3 below shows that the amount of BMW landfilled by Walsall Council in 2009/10 significantly exceeded the target set for the authority.

Table W3: Walsall LATS Target and Performance 2009/10: Tonnes of BMW Sent to Landfill⁵⁰

LATS Target 2009/10 (tonnes)	Walsall Performance 2009/10 (tonnes)
56,218	29,996

National Indicators (NIs) and Local Area Agreements (LAAs)

⁵⁰ Source: LATS Public Register.

Local targets for waste management changed in 2008/09 when the National Indicators (NIs) and Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets replaced the previous Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI). The current LAA targets cover the period 2008/09 – 2010/11. Three of the NIs relate to waste management. These are:

NI191: Residual household waste per head of population (kg)

NI192: Percentage of household waste re-used, recycled or composted

NI193: Percentage of municipal waste landfilled

NI191 is a LAA indicator for Walsall, and targets have been agreed for 2008/09 – 2010/11. The targets have not changed as a result of the 2010 LAA refresh. The Council has also set performance targets for NI192 and NI193 for the year 2009/10. The three NIs for waste and the Walsall targets and performance for 2009/10 are in Table W4 below with the LAA target (NI191) highlighted in green.

The table clearly shows that Walsall is significantly exceeding all of the NI and LAA targets set for management of Municipal and household waste. The key achievement during 2009/10 was the increase in the percentage of household waste re-used, recycled or composted, which was 47.33% - the highest rate of any Metropolitan authority in England. Walsall was also one of the “top ten” improving recyclers.

Table W4: Waste Management National Indicators and LAA Targets for Walsall – Performance in 2009/10⁵¹

National Indicator	Walsall Targets 2009/10	Direction of Target	Walsall Performance 2009/10
NI191: Residual household waste per head of population (kg)	739.00kg	Maximum (decrease) ↓	540.66kg
NI192: Percentage of household waste re-used, recycled or composted	40.00%	↑ Minimum (increase)	47.33%
NI193: Percentage of municipal waste landfilled	45.00%	Maximum (decrease) ↓	33.87%

Looking to the Future – New Strategies, New Targets

⁵¹ Source: Walsall Council Performance Data 2009/10 (unpublished) and Defra Municipal Waste Management Data 2009/10, November 2010.

There is uncertainty about the future of the existing LATS, NI and LAA targets. A review of the national waste strategy was announced in June 2010, aimed at implementing the provisions of the revised Waste Framework Directive (November 2008). The early results of the “call for evidence” (July - October 2010) are expected to be published in spring 2011.

The national waste strategy review is likely to result in new national targets for diversion of waste from landfill and for re-use and recycling of waste, reflecting the aspirations and targets of the Waste Framework Directive. These will in turn need to be reflected in any local targets set in future land use, waste management and neighbourhood plans.

The current NI and LAA indicators and targets will probably cease to exist after April 2011. In October 2010, the Secretary of State announced that the national indicator set would be replaced by “a single, comprehensive list of all the data we expect local government to provide to central Government.” He also confirmed that local authorities would not be required to prepare new LAAs once the existing ones expire in March 2011.

It is not clear what effect these changes will have on local targets for waste, but it seems likely that new indicators and targets will be developed for Walsall Borough or at a local neighbourhood level. Any new developments will be reported in the 2011 AMR.

APPENDIX H – UDP POLICY ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Walsall UDP 2005 Monitoring Indicators	Walsall Corporate Plan 2010/11 nine priorities	Walsall's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 - 2021 priorities	Summary
Protection of Green Belt from inappropriate development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving health Improving the quality of our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling safe and being healthy Improving the quality of our environment Accessible and sustainable places for business 	The protection of Green Belt helps to promote healthy living through the provision of recreational space. It also helps to maintain the environmental quality of the borough. In addition it encourages the sustainable location of development on brown field sites.
Tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving health Improving the quality of our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling safe and being healthy Improving the quality of our environment 	Tree planting promotes access to the countryside, providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and leisure while protecting natural environment.
Progress towards the achievements of the targets in the Biodiversity Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving health Improving the quality of our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling safe and being healthy Improving the quality of our environment 	The protection of wildlife in the borough is part of improving the quality of the environment and encouraging healthy lifestyles.
Protection of sites of nature conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving health Improving the quality of our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling safe and being healthy Improving the quality of our environment 	The protection of sites of nature conservation helps to promote healthy living through the provision of recreational space while maintaining the environmental quality of the borough.
Protection of buildings of historic or architectural interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of our environment Vibrant Town and Neighbourhood centres 	The protection of buildings of historic or architectural interest provides educational potential and helps to maintain the environmental quality and vibrancy of the borough.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving education and skills 	
Land developed for employment uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing worklessness and creating opportunity and potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing strong and dynamic communities • Creating opportunity and potential • Research and development • Working with employers to create jobs and opportunities, 	The development of land for employment land is fundamental in reducing worklessness and providing opportunities. It is needed to attract further investment into the borough and to ensure communities are dynamic.
The proportion of development that takes place on Brownfield sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of our environment • Accessible and sustainable places for business • Vibrant Town and Neighbourhood centres 	The development of Brownfield land is important in improving the environmental quality and sustainability of the borough.
The extent to which New Employment Sites allocated in Policy JP1 are successfully protected from loss to other inappropriate uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing worklessness and creating opportunity and potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating opportunity and potential • Accessible and sustainable places for business • Vibrant Town and Neighbourhood centres • Research and 	The protection of employment sites is fundamental in providing enough land of the right quality to meet the full range of employment needs. This helps to attract investment and reduce worklessness

		development	
Proportion of development for retailing, leisure and other town centre uses that takes place in established centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of our environment • Reducing worklessness and creating opportunity and potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating opportunity and potential • Accessible and sustainable places for business • Improving the quality of our environment • Vibrant Town and Neighbourhood centres • Research and development 	Concentration of activities enhances the vitality and viability of the town centre and other established centres. This also ensures such services and facilities are accessible to the community. The viability of the Town and District centres directly impacts on investment throughout the borough.
Amount of vacant floor space in centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing crime and feeling safe • Improving the quality of our environment • Reducing worklessness and creating opportunity and potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating opportunity and potential • Feeling safe and being healthy • Improving the quality of our environment • Accessible and sustainable places for business • Vibrant Town and Neighbourhood centres • Research and development 	The amount of vacant floor space in centres indicates the vibrancy and viability of centres. Increased surveillance and quality of environment provided by reduced vacancy rate in centres helps to reduce crime and make residents feel safer in their neighbourhoods.
The reduction of vacancy rates in the existing housing stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing crime and feeling safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling safe and being healthy 	The reduction of housing vacancy rates plays a role in meeting housing needs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing strong and dynamic communities • Improving housing choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing choice • Improving the quality of our environment 	and improving the environmental quality of residential areas. Increased surveillance and quality of environment provided by reduced vacancy rate in housing stock helps to reduce crime and make residents feel safer.
Progress towards RSS target for the provision of additional dwellings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing choice, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing choice • Vibrant Town and Neighbourhood centres 	Meeting housing targets is crucial to meeting housing needs in the borough which it turn helps to ensure the vibrancy of town and neighbourhood centres.
The contribution of windfall sites to housing provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing choice 	Housing developments on windfall sites helps to meet housing needs in the borough which it turn helps to ensure the vibrancy of town and neighbourhood centres.
Provision of housing on previously developed sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing choice • Improving the quality of our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing choice • Improving the quality of our environment, 	The development of previously developed land is fundamental to improving the environmental quality and sustainability of the borough.
Affordable housing completions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing choice • Developing strong and dynamic communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing choice 	The provision of affordable housing is crucial in ensuring that housing needs of all the community are met within the borough.
The density of new development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing choice • Developing strong and dynamic communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing choice 	The density of housing is important in making the most efficient use of housing land in order to meet housing needs in the borough. .
The types and sizes of dwelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing 	Ensuring that there are a good mix of

built - aim to achieve a mix of types and sizes appropriate to local circumstances	<p>choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing strong and dynamic communities 	choice	types and sizes of dwellings being developed within the borough is important in ensuring that all housing needs are met.
Increase number of bus journeys in line with LTP target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of our environment Reducing worklessness and creating opportunity and potential Developing strong and dynamic communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating opportunity and potential Improving access to employment, services and facilities Vibrant Town and Neighbourhood centres 	An increase in the amount of journeys made by bus can help increase the sustainability of the borough and therefore improve the quality of environment. Increase in bus journeys also shows that services, jobs and facilities are being assessed by the community.
Increase the number of rail passenger journeys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of our environment Reducing worklessness and creating opportunity and potential Developing strong and dynamic communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating opportunity and potential Improving the quality of our environment Improving access to employment, services and facilities Vibrant Town and Neighbourhood centres 	The increase in rail journeys acts as a way to encourage inward investment, attract shoppers and visitors to the town and District Centres. It also increases the sustainability of the borough and therefore improves the quality of the environment.
Keep traffic growth in line with LTP target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of our environment, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of our environment Improving access to employment, services and facilities Vibrant Town and Neighbourhood 	The level of traffic and congestion can impact on the economy and deter investment so it is important that it is measured and controlled.

		centres	
Increase proportion of trips made by bike in line with LTP target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving health Improving the quality of our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling safe and being healthy Improving the quality of our environment, 	The increased use of bikes helps to promote healthy lifestyles in the community and increase the sustainability of the borough.
Car parking provision for new housing development in line with standards in T13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving housing choice Improving the quality of our environment, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving housing choice Improving the quality of our environment, 	The provision of car parking needs to be sufficient enough to avoid road safety and amenity problems while still encouraging more sustainable modes of transport.
Amount of eligible open space managed to Green Flag Award standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving health Improving the quality of our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling safe and being healthy Improving housing choice 	Improvements or maintenance in the quality of open space helps to promote healthy lifestyles in the community and help to make the borough more attractive.
Protection of urban open spaces from inappropriate development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving health Improving the quality of our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling safe and being healthy Improving housing choice 	The protection of open spaces helps to promote healthy living through the provision of recreational space. It also helps to maintain the attractiveness and environmental sustainability of Walsall.
Provision of new urban open spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving health Improving the quality of our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling safe and being healthy Improving housing choice 	The provision of new open spaces helps to promote healthy living through the provision of recreational space.
Local Output Indicator - Length of greenways constructed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving health Improving the quality of our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling safe and being healthy Improving housing choice 	An increase in greenways helps to promote healthy living through the provision of recreational space. Greenways are also key in ensuring the environmental sustainability of the

			borough.
Protection of playing fields/sports pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving health, Improving the quality of our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling safe and being healthy • Improving housing choice 	The protection of playing fields/sports pitches helps to promote healthy living through the provision of recreational space.
Supply of Clay to Brickworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing worklessness and creating opportunity and potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating opportunity and potential 	
Progress with initiatives for more sustainable waste management, and against national, regional and local waste management targets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the quality of our environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing choice • Research and development, 	Sustainable waste management forms part of ensuring the environmental sustainability of the borough while promoting investment in this sector of the economy.

APPENDIX I – SUMMARY OF POLICY PERFORMANCE

Topic Area	UDP Policy	Core Indicators and Local Indicators	Performance
Environment	Protection of Green Belt from inappropriate development	100% protection of Green Belt from inappropriate development	G
	Change in areas of biodiversity importance	3. Change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance, including: (i) change in priority habitats and species (by type) (ii) change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional, sub-regional or local significance. 2. Areas (ha / % of resource) lost to development requiring planning permission since 1 April 2007	A
	Progress in relation to targets in the Biodiversity Action Plan for Birmingham and the Black Country	Appendix C provides further detailed information on this indicator	R
	Tree Planting	Progress in relation to targets in forest plans/strategies	A
	Historic Environment: Protection of buildings of historic or architectural interest	100% protection of buildings of historic or architectural interest	G
	Conservation Area Management: Preparation of character appraisals and management strategies	5 to be prepared by April 2009	G
	Renewable Energy capacity installed by type	Regional Energy Strategy Target: 5% of electricity to be from renewable sources by 2010	R
	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the EA on either flood risk or water quality	None	G
Jobs and Prosperity	Land developed for employment uses	13 ha per annum	R
	The proportion of development that takes place on Brownfield Sites	95% of all land developed	G
	The extent to which the New Employment Sites allocated in policy JP1 are successfully protected from	95% of the total area	G

	loss to other, inappropriate uses		
Strengthening Our Centres	Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development (relates to town centre uses in Use Classes A1, A2, B1a and D2) within the LA area	None	G
	Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development (relates to town centre uses in Use Classes A1, A2, B1a and D2) within town centres	None	G
	The proportion of all retail, leisure and other 'town centre' uses that takes place in established centres	90%	G
	Amount of vacant floor space in centres	Vacancies to be at or below the national average	R
Housing	Housing Land Supply	5 year supply of 2,250 net additional dwellings (2,500 gross)	G
	Net additional dwellings over the previous 5 year period	None	RAG N/A
	Net additional dwellings for the current year	450 net	G
	Projected net additional dwellings up to 2026	a) Net additional dwellings 2010-2026 = 9776 b) Hectares 2011-2016 = 72ha c) Target dwelling numbers 2011-16 = 2535	RAG N/A
	Managed delivery target	507 dwellings per annum to 2016. 460 dwellings per annum thereafter	RAG N/A
	Percentage of New and Converted Dwellings on Previously Developed Land	Planning Policy Statement 3 sets a target of 60%. UDP policy H1 sets a target of 95%	G
	Additional Pitches for Gypsies and Travellers	None	A
	Gross Affordable Housing Completions	3,600 additional affordable homes over the period 1991-2011	A
	Building for Life Assessments (BfL)	The number and proportion of total new build completions on housing sites reaching very good, good, average and poor ratings against the BfL criteria	R
	Vacancy Rates in Existing Housing Stock	Reduce vacancies to 3% by 2011	A
	Housing Windfall Sites	Annual average of 275 dwellings per annum	G

	Density of New Development	Overall average density of new residential development during the year to be at least 30 dwellings per hectare	G
	Mix of Dwelling Types	To achieve a mix of types and sizes appropriate to local circumstances at the time the dwellings are constructed	A
Transport	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	Increase the Total Population within 30 minutes inter-peak travel time of a main NHS Hospital by accessible public transport from 2005 baseline of 580,000 by 50% by 2011	G
	Increase number of bus journeys in line with LTP target	LTP target is to increase bus use within West Mids Met Area to 355 million trips per year by 2010/11	A
	Car parking provision for new housing development in line with standards in T13	Car park spaces to meet the standards within UDP Policy T13	G
	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	G
	Increase proportion of trips made by bike in line with LTP target	LTP Target is 1% increase in cycling index between 2003/04 and 2010/11	G
Leisure and Community	Amount of eligible open space managed to Green Flag Award standard	Retention of existing Green Flag sites and award of new sites as per Green Space Strategy	A
	Protection of urban open spaces from inappropriate development	100% protection	G
	Provision of new urban open spaces	At least 24 hectares of new urban open space 1991-2011	G
	Length of greenways constructed	At least another 10 miles (16 km) 2002 - 2011	G
	Protection of playing fields / sports pitches	100% protection	G
Minerals	Production of primary land won aggregates by mineral planning authority	0.550 million tonnes per annum	R
	Production of secondary/recycled aggregates by mineral planning authority	6.25 million tonnes per annum (27% of total regional aggregate production)	A

	Supply of clay to brick manufacturing plants	25-year supply of brick clay to each operational or proposed brick manufacturing plant	R
Waste	Capacity of new waste management facilities by waste planning authority (by type)	None	G
	Amount of municipal waste arising, and managed by management type by waste planning authority	53% by 2010, 67% by 2015 and 75% by 2020	G
	Progress with initiatives for more sustainable waste management, and against national, regional and local waste management targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LATS allowance – maximum 56,218 tonnes of BMW sent to landfill • NI191: maximum 739.00kg household waste per head of population (also LAA target) • NI192: minimum 40.00% household waste re-used, recycled, composted • NI193: 45.00% maximum municipal waste sent to landfill 	G

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