



## Glossary - Planning Policy

**Accessibility.** The ability of people to move around an area and to reach key facilities, opportunities and places of interest or need. It can be measured by the means of transport that is used (for example walking or public transport) and by the ease of access by different groups (for example the elderly or disabled).

**Affordable Housing.** Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices.

**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 plan showing how it is intended to improve air quality in such an area.

**Annual Monitoring Report / Local Plan Monitoring Report (AMR / LPMR).** A statutory report setting out progress towards adopted planning policies to be published at least annually. Now referred to as an ‘Authority’s Monitoring Report’ in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

**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.

**Area Action Plan (AAP).** An AAP is currently being drafted for Walsall Town Centre that will allocate sites for various uses and set out a framework for improvement up to and beyond 2026.

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

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

**Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS).** A Core Strategy forms part of the Development Plan. It sets out the long-term spatial vision for the local planning authority’s area and the strategic policies and proposals to deliver that vision. The Core Strategy for Walsall has been produced jointly with the other three Black Country authorities (Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton).

**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 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.

**Call for Sites (CFS).** An opportunity for landowners, developers and others with an interest in land to submit sites to the Council for consideration to allocate it for a particular use(s) through a Site Allocation Document or Area Action Plan.

**Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).** A charge on most forms of new development to provide funds towards a wide range of infrastructure across the borough.

**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).** A measure of achievements during the monitoring period, for example the number of dwellings complete during the year. Core Output Indicators are those which the Department of Communities and Local Government formerly required to be in a local authority’s Monitoring Report. In many cases these are the same as indicators set out in the authority’s own policy documents (see also Local Output Indicators).

**Department for Communities and Local Government.** The central government department with responsibility for Planning and Local Government.

**Development Plan Document (DPD).** A statutory document, also known as the Local Plan that sets out planning policies for an area. It can allocate land to be used for particular purposes (for example housing or industry). Most DPDs are prepared by the local planning authority and are subject to independent examination. The planning authority is required to determine planning applications in accordance with the Development Plan.

There can be more than one DPD for an area. For example, the Core Strategy can set out “high level” policies, such as the number of dwellings to be provided in the authority’s area over a 20 year period, whilst an Area Action Plan can show

detailed proposals for specific sites in a part of the authority's area where major change is expected.

**Green Belt.** Area of land designated in the Development Plan that is intended to be kept 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.** In relation to minerals planning, it refers to 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 Plans (Formerly Local Development Framework - LDF).** A number of documents that make up the development plan for Walsall. It will provide the framework for delivering the planning strategy for the borough and will replace the Walsall Unitary Development Plan. "Saved" policies in the UDP form part of the Local Plan 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.

**Local Output Indicator (LOI).** Indicators set locally by a Planning Authority (see also Core Output Indicator).

**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.

**National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).** A document that sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

**Office for National Statistics (ONS).** A government department that 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.

**Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS).** Formerly part of the Development Plan, it provided a framework for local authorities to prepare their own Development Plan and other documents by apportioning housing numbers and other growth requirements at a regional level. RSS was formally revoked by the current Government on 20 May 2013.

**Renewable Energy.** Energy derived from sources other than fossil fuels that cannot be depleted, e.g. wind, water and solar energy.

**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).

**Section 106 (S106).** Planning obligations (Section 106 Agreements and Unilateral Undertakings) are legally binding documents that include certain obligations that the developer must meet and usually include financial contributions towards mitigating the impact of development on the local community.

**Significant Effects Indicators.** Development Plans and certain other documents are required to undergo Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) as part of their preparation. SEA measures the effects that the Plan is likely to have on the environment and other factors. Once the Plan has been adopted, the indicators allow the impact of the Plan on the factors identified in the SEA to be measured.

**Site Allocation Document (SAD).** A plan that will allocate land for various uses across the borough up to and beyond 2026.

**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.

**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.

**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 Local Plans 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.

**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).