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BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

THURSDAY 19TH JUNE 2025

AT 6.00 P.M.

PARKSIDE SUITE - PARKSIDE

MEMBERS: Councillors S. M. Evans (Chairman), B. Kumar (Vice-Chairman), S. Ammar, A. Bailes, R. Bailes, S. J. Baxter, J. Clarke, S. R. Colella, A. M. Dale, J. Elledge, D. J. A. Forsythe, E. M. S. Gray, C.A. Hotham, D. Hopkins, R. J. Hunter, H. J. Jones, R. E. Lambert, M. Marshall, K.J. May, P. M. McDonald, B. McEldowney, S. T. Nock, D. J. Nicholl, S. R. Peters, J. Robinson, S. A. Robinson, H. D. N. Rone-Clarke, J. D. Stanley, K. Taylor, S. A. Webb and P. J. Whittaker

AGENDA

WELCOME

1. **To receive apologies for absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests.

3. **Political Balance** (Pages 5 - 10)

4. **Bromsgrove District Plan (Pages 11 - 68)**
5. **To consider any urgent business, details of which have been notified to the Head of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services prior to the commencement of the meeting and which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting**

J. Leach
Chief Executive

Parkside
Market Street
BROMSGROVE
Worcestershire
B61 8DA

11th June 2025

**If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact
Jes Bayley-Hill / Jo Gresham**

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Notes:

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Council
2025

19th June

Political Balance and Committee Allocations Report

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor Karen May	
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes	
Relevant Head of Service		Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services	
Report Author Claire Felton	Job Title: Head of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services Contact email: c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: (01527) 64252		
Wards Affected		All	
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		N/A	
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)		Sustainability	
Non-Key Decision			
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.			

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Council is asked to RESOLVE that:-

- 1) **for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year, the Committees set out in the table in Appendix 1 of the report be appointed and that the representation of the different political groups on the Council on those Committees be as set out in that table until the next Annual Meeting of the Council, or until the next review of political representation under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, whichever is the earlier.**
- 2) **Members be appointed to the Committees and as substitute members in accordance with nominations to be made by Group Leaders.**

2. **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The political balance is reported for Members' consideration at Annual Council meetings.
- 2.2 Further reports in respect of the political balance may be presented for Council's consideration during the municipal year should there be a change to the political composition of the authority.

- 2.3 This report has been prepared due to changes arising to the political balance of the Council since the Annual Council meeting.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 The rules of political proportionality mean that the political balance of the Council needs to be reflected in the political composition of individual Boards and Committees. In addition, the total number of seats allocated to each group must reflect the political balance of the Council.
- 3.2 The proposed allocation of seats on each Board/Committee is done on a strict mathematical basis.
- 3.3 The political balance calculations have been reviewed following changes to the political groups at the Council since the Annual Council meeting. The membership of the Council now comprises 11 Conservative members, 7 Liberal Democrat members, 6 Labour members, 5 Independents 2025 members and 2 Bromsgrove Independents members.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Sections 15 -17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 place a duty on Councils to allocate the seats on certain committees in proportion to the size of the political groups on the Council.
- 5.2 The definition of a Political Group for these purposes is that it has a minimum of 2 members.
- 5.3 A review of the political balance must take place as soon as is reasonably possible after a change occurs to the Council's political balance.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation Implications

- 6.1 There are no implications for Local Government Reorganisation.

Relevant Council Priority

- 6.2 A review of the Council's political balance is required following changes to political groups at the Council. The review will help to ensure that the Council remains sustainable.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.3 There are no specific climate change implications.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.4 There are no specific equalities and diversity implications.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Given there is a legal duty on Councils to allocate the seats on certain Committees in proportion to the size of the political groups on the Council, Members do need to agree the political balance.
- 7.2 There is a risk that if a political balance is not agreed for the Council this could cause reputational damage.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Political Balance June 2025

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Agenda Item 3

APPENDIX 1 POLITICAL BALANCE CALCULATION June 2025 Council meeting

The figures in *italics* are the mathematical calculations.

Committee	Cons 11 <i>35.48% of total</i>	Lab 6 <i>19.35% of total</i>	Lib Dems Dem 7 <i>22.58% of total</i>	Independents 2025 5 <i>16.13% of total</i>	Bromsgrove Independents 2 <i>6.45% of total</i>	Total
Overview and Scrutiny Board	4 <i>3.90</i>	2 <i>2.13</i>	2 <i>2.48</i>	2 <i>1.77</i>	1 <i>0.71</i>	11 11 members on Board <i>11</i>
Licensing Committee	5 <i>4.61</i>	3 <i>2.52</i>	3 <i>2.94</i>	2 <i>2.10</i> * Take 1 seat only	1 <i>0.84</i>	14 13 members on Cttee <i>13</i>
Planning Committee	4 <i>3.90</i>	2 <i>2.13</i>	2 <i>2.48</i>	2 <i>1.77</i>	1 <i>0.71</i>	11 11 members on Cttee <i>11</i>
Audit, Stds & Gov'ce Committee	4 <i>3.90</i>	2 <i>2.13</i>	2 <i>2.48</i>	2 <i>1.77</i>	1 <i>0.71</i>	11 11 members on Cttee <i>11</i>
Electoral Matters Cttee	2 <i>2.48</i>	1 <i>1.35</i>	2 <i>1.58</i> * Take 1 additional seat	1 <i>1.13</i>	0 <i>0.45</i>	6 7 members on Cttee <i>7</i>
Appointments	2 <i>1.77</i>	1 <i>0.97</i>	1 <i>1.13</i>	1 <i>0.81</i>	0 <i>0.32</i>	5 5 members on Cttee <i>5</i>
Entitled to	21	11	13	9	4	58
TOTAL received	21	11	12	10	4	58
<i>Exact Mathematical Entitlement</i>	<i>20.58</i>	<i>11.22</i>	<i>13.10</i>	<i>9.36</i>	<i>3.74</i>	58
Final balanced total	21	11	13	9	4	58

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**Bromsgrove District Local Plan Draft Development Strategy
Consultation 2025**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Assistant Director	Ruth Bamford
Report Author	Job Title: Mike Dunphy email:m.dunphy@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: (01527) 881325
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	Yes via Strategic Planning Steering Group
Relevant Council Priority	Economic Development Housing Environment Infrastructure
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is asked to RESOLVE that

- 1) Bromsgrove District Local Plan Draft Development Strategy Consultation be approved, for a period of public consultation between 30th June and 22nd September 2025 in order to enable these and other potential proposals to come forward and to continue to be appraised as part of the plan making process.**

The Council is asked to RESOLVE to NOTE that

- 2) By endorsing the consultation members are not approving any one particular site for development at this stage and members are still entitled to form individual views on the merits of the possible sites identified for development.**
- 3) Delegated authority is given to the Assistant Director for Planning, Leisure and Culture Services following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Licensing and WRS to make any minor technical corrections and editorial changes deemed necessary to aid the understanding of the documentation prior to final publishing.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a twelve-week District wide consultation on the Bromsgrove District Local Plan Draft Development Strategy (DDS) 2025.
- 2.2 In February 2025 the Council approved a new Local Development Scheme which identified that consultation on a draft Local Plan would begin in May or June 2025. If approved, the consultation on the DDS will mean the Council will have met its stated aim, and satisfy the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) that Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) is committed to plan-making and progressing a Local Plan in line with its published timetable. The Council could be at risk of Government intervention should a new local plan not progress according to the timetable.
- 2.3 The DDS builds on previous consultation carried out in 2018 and 2019 when the Council consulted on Issues and Options and Further Strategic Issues respectively. The 2019 consultation also included a Call for Sites exercise, which provided the Council with over 400 different sites to be assessed for inclusion in future versions of the Plan. These sites have now been assessed and the DDS includes an initial suite of possible sites for potential allocation to inform a future draft Local Plan.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

Housing and Employment needs

- 3.1 The DDS has been developed over a number of years where the plan-making system has suffered from major uncertainties. These uncertainties have required the Council to react in different ways to the changing circumstances. Most notable in all the changes was the publication of a new Standard Method for assessing Local Housing Need (LHN) in December 2024. The new Standard Method for LHN was the newly elected Government's response to the housing crisis. The new LHN significantly increases the housing requirement for Bromsgrove district from an annual requirement of approximately 380 new dwellings per annum (DPA) to just over 700 DPA. The latest LHN figure (May 2025) is 715 DPA, which means the overall requirement for a plan which runs for 15 years post adoption stands at 12,155 (assuming the plan requirement number is fixed in late 2027). BDC has approximately 3,000 dwellings in supply which leaves a requirement to find land for circa 9,155 new dwellings, the DDS is the first attempt to do this. Please note, the LHN will more than likely change as new housing affordability

information is published annually. As soon as changes are published officers will reflect these in any updated material.

- 3.2 The process for determining other development needs such as employment is not fixed and no set requirements are provided in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) or the National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). The DDS has responded to this by setting out a number of key questions, of which the answers will help to inform an update to the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) which is required by the NPPF.

Development of the Strategy

- 3.3 The DDS has been produced with significant involvement from the elected members of Bromsgrove District throughout 2024 and 2025. The Strategic Planning Steering Group (SPSG) has been presented with a number of alternative options produced by both officers and members. What is clear from the discussions at the SPSG is that there are many different views on what and where the future development across Bromsgrove district should look like.

- 3.4 The options which were discussed at length consisted of:

- A. Development at Bromsgrove settlements plus edge of West Midlands conurbation;
- B. Development at Bromsgrove settlements only;
- C. Development along rail corridors only;
- D. Development at Bromsgrove settlements plus creation of, and improvements to, motorway junctions to the north and southwest of Bromsgrove town; and
- E. Development along the edge of the West Midlands conurbation only.

- 3.5 The options A-E above share many similarities, and on balance it is felt at this stage considering the current evidence, that option A will provide the most sustainable development pattern for the District. Wide-ranging views have been expressed in relation to these options and there is no clear consensus from the elected members on what the detailed strategy should be at this stage. This highlights the need for consultation so the largest number of opinions as possible can be understood and tested. All these views will be considered and appraised and if they meet the criteria, be fed into following iterations of the Plan for further consultation at a later date.

- 3.6 Informing the development of the DDS and the discussions at the SPSG has been the emerging evidence base. The DDS and the choices made

to this point have been informed by evidence such as Green Belt Assessment, Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Assessment, individual site assessments and many more elements which can be accessed on the evidence base page of the Council's website. All of this information also forms part of the consultation package and will be open for comment as part of the consultation.

- 3.7 At this stage it needs to be stated that the DDS is not a full draft local plan. There are many more elements which constitute a local plan which remain to be produced. One challenge which has always been present in plan-making is securing meaningful engagement with residents, stakeholders such as the NHS, the highways authorities, and the development industry. Typically, if an indication is given as to where growth may be happening, then people and organisations can engage and provide substantive responses. If no indication is given of where growth may be happening, then very often more generic non-specific responses are provided. At this stage in the process, we are now looking for substantive and specific responses to inform the next stage of plan-making.
- 3.8 The DDS is suggesting a suite of sites for potential future development. These sites have been selected using the site selection methodology. This methodology explains the criteria which have been used to assess the sites. The site selection methodology also has an addendum to it which explains the recent strategy development, and the need to relook at some elements such as green belt harm in order to meet the increased housing needs as referred to in para 3.1 above.
- 3.9 Also, as part of the consultation, the location of all the alternative sites submitted to the Council under the Call for Sites exercise will be open for consultation. If consultees have a preference for other sites to be included or simply wish to comment on the sites that haven't been chosen up to this point, then the ability to do that will be part of the consultation. It is clear when considering the site assessments carried out that many more sites have not been selected than those which have.

The Draft Development Strategy

- 3.10 The DDS is a draft, and the purpose of this consultation is to help provide the evidence by which to move on from a draft to a preferred option. There is no suggestion at this point that any of the sites included are fixed. Sites will be scrutinised again following the consultation. There is every possibility that the preferred option, once prepared, will not include exactly the same sites that have been selected up to this point. It is vitally important for residents and stakeholders in this process to make their views known to us to help inform those future decisions.

3.11 The DDS contains possible development sites across the district. The list of potential sites is below:

Potential housing sites to meet the Local Housing Need shortfall up to 2043		
Site Ref.	Site Name	Indicative Capacity
BROMSGROVE		
BRM01	Land at and adjacent Bromsgrove Golf Centre	1300
BRM02	Land at Norton Farm	80
BRM03	Land off St Godwald's Road	300
BRM04	Bromsgrove Cricket, Hockey & Tennis Club	150
BRM05	Land at Stoke Court Farm	190
BRM06	Land north of Old Burcot Lane	550
SUB TOTAL		2570
ALVECHURCH		
ALV01	Land west of Redditch Road / south of Station Road	400
ALV02	Land to east of Birmingham Road	100
SUB TOTAL		500
BARNT GREEN		
BAR01	Land between Twatling Road and Cherry Hill Road	140
BAR02	Land north of Kendal End Road	50
BAR03	Sandhills Farm	150
SUB TOTAL		340
CATSHILL		
CA01	Land between Woodrow Lane and A38 Halesowen Road	165
CA02	Land to rear of Four Oaks Drive	140
CA03	Land west of Birmingham Road	300
SUB TOTAL		605
HAGLEY		
HAG01	Land North of Western Road	180
HAG02	Land south of Western Road	350
SUB TOTAL		530
WYTHALL		
WY01	Land south of Houndsfield Lane	875
WY02	Land east of Lea Green Lane	60

Potential housing sites to meet the Local Housing Need shortfall up to 2043		
WY03	Land south of Station Road	300
SUB TOTAL		1235
STOKE PRIOR		
STP01	Land at Ryefields Farm	500
SUB TOTAL		500
FRANKLEY		
FRA01	Land at Frankley	3000
SUB TOTAL		3000
TOTAL		9280

- 3.12 These sites are the outcome of the consideration of the evidence and discussions held over recent months. The principle of the strategy is to identify sites which are located in the most sustainable locations. That means locations where there is already existing physical and social infrastructure which can be enhanced to accommodate further growth. Locations which are close to existing transport corridors, ideally public transport corridors such as rail and bus routes. Locations which have town and local centres and ideally a wide range of jobs. The sites chosen have been based on a selection process which looks to find those sites which best meet the criteria above, but also which have the least amount of constraints from environmental designations, such as flooding, and noise pollution for example. The full Site Assessment and Site Selection methodology and Outcomes can be seen in the evidence base.
- 3.13 Also included in the consultation are a series of questions about the future employment land strategy the Plan could include. As stated above, the HEDNA needs to be updated and the information provided though this consultation will help to inform the nature of the updated evidence.
- 3.14 A further part of the DDS is a section outlining a possible longer-term approach to growth for Bromsgrove District. This option includes the potential for major new motorway or rail infrastructure to be provided. Through the consultation, we're keen to understand the challenges posed by this option. It may be that if they are seen favourably and considered to be deliverable within the Plan period, the DDS and the sites chosen may need to be reassessed to enable a different approach.
- 3.15 As stated above, the Development Strategy is a draft, and we're seeking important information from the consultation process. Most notably, we are seeking information on the current infrastructure challenges the

District faces and the possible solutions to these challenges going forward. For each of the areas where growth is being suggested, information has been provided on the possible infrastructure required to support that development. The only way we can test if these assumptions are the correct way to progress, is to fully understand the current issues each areas faces and test whether the possible solutions will ensure that development does not impact adversely on these areas. This work cannot be done solely by officers or consultants. This work has to be informed by the views of the communities across Bromsgrove District that have key local knowledge of these places. This is the most significant element of this consultation.

The Consultation

- 3.16 The Consultation is scheduled to begin on the 30th June 2025 to avoid any crossover with the current consultation on Local Government Reform. The consultation period will run for 12 weeks until 22nd September, allowing for significant engagement over the summer period. Consultation methods will be designed to reach the broadest range of consultees as possible, with the integration of both digital and non-digital consultation methods to achieve this. Council Officers will be available at in-person events, so the public are able to speak with Officers directly. The schedule of these events will be finalised following the Council meeting if approval to consult is agreed. A drop-in session will be held in all locations where growth is being suggested.
- 3.17 For this consultation, an online consultation platform called 'Commonplace' will be used. This consultation platform should make it easier to engage with 'harder-to-reach' groups such as young people. Commonplace should also make the consultation process more engaging for consultees (through offering a range of options such as being able to look at interactive maps) and enables more detailed post-consultation analysis, by using data gained from the digital platform to identify demographic data about consultation respondents.
- 3.18 The text used in the DDS document (Appendix 1) will be consistent with the text used on Commonplace. The DDS document will be provided online in full and at events in hard copy. The current version suggests in red text the form of questioning which will be in place for the consultation. In most instances, each question will be followed by a free text field to allow people to express their thoughts in full, rather than be constrained by prechosen options. The links in the document will also be completed following the Council meeting and the completion of the website. The functionality of Commonplace will allow for different interaction with various elements of the consultation; for instance, being able to click on a map and submit comments rather than filling in forms. The consultation

will be undertaken in compliance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) rules on data and the relevant privacy notices will be displayed, so respondents are clear how the data they provide will be used.

- 3.19 The DDS Consultation document and all of the associated evidence base will be published on the Council's website, statutory consultees notified and paper copies of the document will be available in selected locations, which will be confirmed following the Council meeting.
- 3.20 Consultees will be encouraged to reply via Commonplace. However email and paper responses will also be accepted to make responding to the consultation as accessible as possible. A dedicated email address (bromsgroveplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk) will be available for consultee responses. All consultation documents will be made available on a dedicated Council webpage and Commonplace:

<https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/council/policy/planning-policies-and-other-information/bromsgrove-district-plan-review/>

<https://www.bromsgroveplan.commonplace.is>

Until the consultation is launched, the Commonplace website above will be showing a holding page where interested parties can sign up to be notified when the consultation goes live.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A budget exists for the production of the Local Plan. This consultation is being funded from this budget.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The consultation will be carried out in accordance with the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 which outlines the statutory obligations for the consultation. The consultation will also meet the commitments set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI includes an explanation of the plan-making process and identifies the consultation methods the Council will use during the consultation process.

6. OTHER – IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation

- 6.1 The latest National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and English Devolution Bill were published near simultaneously in December 2024. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have made it very clear that plan-making has to continue with all authorities being required to have a new plan timetable and subsequently a new plan in place as quickly as possible.
- 6.2 As recently as 3rd June, MHCLG wrote to Chief Executives of the Worcestershire Councils with an update on Local Government Reorganisation. Included within that letter is the following statement:

'The Government also recognises that developing proposals could distract councils from their essential day-to-day activities. However, residents and businesses depend on councils to deliver crucial services and to continue the efforts needed to establish successful new unitary councils. This is particularly important for advancing local plans to allocate land for new homes. As mentioned in the invitation letters, the Government expects local planning councils to work towards adopting an up-to-date local plan as soon as possible. Local Government Reorganisation should not hinder this vital work, nor should the introduction of the new legal framework for local plan-making later this year or our strategic planning reforms. Significant financial support has already been provided to eligible councils to aid in plan-making, and we encourage councils to utilise additional support available through the Local Government Association's Planning Advisory Service.'

Relevant Council Priorities

- 6.3 The Bromsgrove District Local Plan Draft Development Strategy Consultation 2025 is relevant to the following Council priorities:
1. Economic Development
 2. Housing
 3. Environment
 4. Infrastructure

Climate Change Implications

- 6.4 The Local Plan will have significant implications for climate change, shaping the location and nature of new housing, employment, and infrastructure development. To ensure that climate resilience and sustainability are at the forefront of our plan-making, we need to adopt specific strategies such as promoting renewable energy sources,

enhancing green infrastructure and improving energy efficiency to ensure only the most sustainable developments come forward. Additionally, prioritising sustainable transport options to reduce car dependency, implementing flood risk management strategies and ensuring Biodiversity Net Gain in all projects, will help Bromsgrove District achieve its commitment to Net Zero by 2050 and create a more sustainable and resilient community.

- 6.5 The specific policies to achieve the above will all be developed using the responses to this consultation and additional further evidence as required and will be contained in the next iteration of the Plan which is expected to be a full 'preferred option' style plan.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.6 This consultation will be open to all to comment in multiple ways, both online and in hard copy. Consultation events will also take place in a variety of locations and at different times of the day. Every effort will be made to ensure that we reach the widest amount of people and organisations as possible.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 As stated above, the Government has stated that all Local Government Authorities must have an up-to-date Local Plan. The Council approved its Local Development Scheme in February 2025, which sets out the plan-making timetable in order to achieve an up-to-date local plan. This consultation is in-line with this timetable. The timetable agreed by members was that consultation would begin in May or June as confirmed by paragraph 2.7 of the report that accompanied the LDS.

'The significant element to note on the timetable is the publication of a draft plan for wide ranging public and stakeholder consultation in May or June this year. The details of the draft plan and also the approach to engagement and consultation will be covered in further reports in due course.'

- 7.2 The risk of not progressing to a new Local Plan is being managed by undertaking this consultation. Should the timetable not be kept to in the future, there is a risk of intervention by MHCLG, as outlined in the report accompanying the Local Development Scheme. The table below summarises the Local Development Scheme timetable:

Year	Action
May-June 2025	Draft plan consultation begins (12 weeks)
October 2025	Notice of plan making under 30-month system
February 2026	Gateway 1 (Advisory)
June - July 2026	Public consultation (8 weeks)
December 2026	Gateway 2 (Advisory)
April - May 2027	Public consultation (6 weeks)
December 2027	Gateway 3 (Stop/Go)
January 2028	Examination
July 2028	Finalisation and Adoption

7.3 Not progressing a new plan or delaying the progression of the new plan, because of the uncertain future caused by Local Government Reorganisation, or dissatisfaction with the implications of wider Government policy, such as the increased housing need, could also leave the District at risk of Government intervention should a new local plan not progress according to the timetable.

7.4 In addition, due to the fact that the Council does not have a 5 year housing supply and also on the basis of the application of grey belt/green belt in the NPPF, this would lead Bromsgrove District Council open to the risk of sporadic forms of development from various applicants. The only way to guard against such sporadic development is by having an adopted local plan in place as this provides the necessary security.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A – Bromsgrove District Plan Draft Development Strategy 2025

Background Papers

The evidence which supports this consultation can be accessed on the following page of the Council’s website:

Bromsgrove District Local Plan Evidence base

<https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/council/policy/planning-policies-and-other-information/bromsgrove-district-plan-review/evidence-base/>

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor	9 th June 2025
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Ruth Bamford	9 th June 2025
Financial Services	Bob Watson	9 th June 2025
Legal Services	Claire Felton	9 th June 2025
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Rebecca Green	9 th June 2025
Climate Change Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)	Matt Eccles	9 th June 2025



Bromsgrove
District Council

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

Bromsgrove District Local Plan

Draft Development Strategy Consultation Document

June 2025

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1. CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

Introduction

1.1 Bromsgrove District Council is in the process of reviewing and replacing the Bromsgrove District Plan (adopted January 2017), which will set out where new housing, employment and other development alongside its supporting infrastructure will take place over the next 15 years or so. The Plan will also set out policies to protect and enhance our natural and historic environments and ensure that our retail centres and recreation facilities continue to improve and thrive, this is all in line with the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

1.2 Whilst plan-making is a technical and complex process, we've tried to cut out as much planning jargon as possible. It's language we use every day and we're conscious that what we're trying to put across to you may not always be as clear as we think it is. We've included some background information later in this document, but if you feel that this process is still unclear, details of how to contact us for a chat can be found at the end of this document.

Consultation that has been done before

1.3 As part of our early review of the adopted Plan, in late 2018, we undertook Issues and Options Consultation which was an opportunity to check that we were thinking about the right issues to address through an updated Plan. This was followed up 12 months later with Further Strategic Issues Consultation, which outlined the next steps towards developing a potential strategy and accompanying policies. At the same time, we put out a Call for Sites request in order for developers and landowners to submit development sites to us for our consideration for allocation.

Why we're consulting with you now

1.4 Whilst we would have liked to make more progress with the Plan review, there have been some hurdles to slow our progress. Most notably, multiple changes to the NPPF including how housing need is calculated and, changes to the plan-making process which have created uncertainty for plan-making. In terms of the new plan-making process, we aren't significantly progressed enough with the Plan to continue under the old process, meaning that we will need to submit our Plan under the new system. Whilst detailed plan-making guidance is awaited from Government, we feel that we're in a position to bring the work we've undertaken to date into a consultation arena for feedback. We think this will stand us in good stead going into the new plan-making process as it is recognised that progressing a strategy for new housing and employment development is essential.

What we're consulting on in the absence of the new plan-making guidance

1.5 Between now and 2043, in accordance with the revised NPPF, we need to allocate enough land for **12,155 homes** to meet our Local Housing Need (LHN) and **potentially 28 hectares of employment land** for manufacturing and warehousing, as well as identifying opportunities for office space. Alongside which, we need to ensure that provision is made for sufficient services, facilities and other supporting infrastructure.

1.6 This consultation is all about further fact-finding and identifying where we need to prepare or commission additional evidence to inform the preparation of the Local Plan as it progresses. The sites and the draft Development Strategy we are consulting on is our initial draft and we need additional information from you to ensure we get things right going forward. We know a lot of information about the sites submitted to us to date, but we know that local knowledge is invaluable to inform the plan-making process; this makes your local knowledge invaluable.

1.7 We also need detailed and specific guidance from stakeholders such as public utility providers, NHS, Historic England etc. Without putting location-specific sites in the public arena, we get very little meaningful information from them in order to make any progress. This isn't a criticism on their part, they are just unable to engage substantially without the information in this consultation.

1.8 Due to the volume of potential development sites we've had submitted to us since the last consultation stage, and the amount of work we've undertaken to assess them, we're in a position to check that you think our site assessment process is robust and to see whether or not you agree with the assessment outputs we have reached.

1.9 In addition to determining which sites we think have potential to meet our development requirements, we need to firm up our draft Development Strategy and decide where in the district development sites could best be allocated. Once this has been determined, it makes it easier to write the policies for the Local Plan to ensure we deliver on the consultation outcomes. A range of distribution scenarios has been considered for the draft Development Strategy. How these distribution scenarios have been considered can be found in the Sustainability Appraisal that accompanies this consultation.

1.10 We're really keen to make progress, which will give us a firm foundation for entering into the new plan-making process, but we acknowledge that this involves making some difficult decisions. That's why it's really important to get as many views as possible on the site assessments and the potential allocation distribution across the district.

What this consultation won't cover

1.11 We aren't consulting on a fully-fledged draft Local Plan. There aren't any policies to read and comment on, issues such as the Town Centre planning strategy, specific housing policies such as affordable housing and the details of how we look to tackle climate change will all follow in the next version of this plan. In addition to the above, there are other stakeholder initiatives that we will need to take account of, such as the National Trust's 8 Hills Regional Park. The feedback from this consultation should help us to inform initiatives such as this as the Plan progresses. Not all of our evidence base is in place yet. The comments we receive through this public consultation will be part of the evidence and help us as we enter into the new plan-making process. The evidence we have to date is available online for review and comment here [Evidence Base](#). **This will not be your last opportunity to comment, but the earlier you do comment helps to shape the Plan's evolution.**

2. A VISION FOR THE LOCAL PLAN

2.1 In order to set the scene for producing a Local Plan, we need to understand what we're trying to achieve for the district over the length of the Plan period. As part of the Issues and Options consultation, we asked for your views on a Local Plan Vision for Bromsgrove District¹, which would underpin the contents of the Local Plan and contribute towards delivery of the Council's overall Vision and Strategic Purposes at that time². The 2018 proposed Local Plan Vision was:

'By the end of the Plan period Bromsgrove District and its communities will have become more sustainable, prosperous, safe, healthy and vibrant. People from all sections of society will have been provided with better access to homes, jobs and services. The attractiveness of the District in terms of its natural environment, built form and settlements will continue to be preserved and enhanced.'

2.2 Since we last consulted on a draft Local Plan Vision, a revised version of the Council Plan has been published. The Council's Vision therein is as follows:

'We aspire to create a welcoming environment that prioritises quality of life, where residents and businesses feel a deep sense of belonging and connection.'

2.3 The Council Vision is underpinned by four Strategic Purposes, which contribute to delivery of the Vision:

Economic development: Economic development is key for delivering our vision for the district, with the aim of cultivating a thriving and resilient local economy. We will focus on supporting businesses, enabling individuals, and developing communities.

Housing: We want to address the diverse housing needs within our District, ensuring quality homes for our residents and families. The challenges, in particular affordability, presented by the housing market across all tenures, means we need to explore innovative solutions for housing provision. We will ensure that affordable options are available, while striving for a balanced mix of housing types to accommodate different demographics and stages of life.

Environment: We are committed to safeguarding the natural environment, addressing issues ranging from biodiversity conservation to climate change mitigation, supporting recycling to reducing waste production, all with the goal of enhancing the quality of life for current and future generations.

Infrastructure: Prioritising infrastructure is paramount for our District, as it serves as the bedrock of not only our communities but also growth. This priority underpins the other three, as they can only be delivered with the right infrastructure in place. We will focus on delivering key infrastructure projects such as the new Local Plan, utilising our parks and open spaces, and initiatives promoting active travel.

2.4 The Council Vision and its four Strategic Purposes encompass the outcomes we aim to achieve through a Local Plan.

Q1. Do you think we should adopt the Council Vision for the Local Plan or continue to develop a separate Local Plan Vision? Yes / No? unsure

Q2. Please provide any comments on change you would like to see made to the vision

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¹ Consultation responses on the Vision (Question VO1), which can be viewed here: [landO-consultation-responses-table-24-09-19](#)

² Council Plan (2018) Council's Strategic Purposes: ❖ Help me to find somewhere to live in my locality, ❖ Help me to run a successful business, ❖ Keep my place safe and looking good, ❖ Provide good things for me to see, do and visit, ❖ Help me to be financially independent, ❖ Help me to live my life independently

3. A DRAFT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR BROMSGROVE DISTRICT

3.1 As mentioned earlier, we need to allocate enough land for **12,155 homes** to meet our LHN and **potentially 28 hectares of employment land** for manufacturing and warehousing up to 2043. We already have land for around 3,000 homes identified through planning applications and large site allocations that were identified in the current Bromsgrove District Plan, which means we need to find additional land for just over 9,000 homes. How and where we decide to accommodate the above development requirements in the Plan is referred to as our Development Strategy.

3.2 This consultation focuses on where we could allocate housing and employment growth and the process we undertook to arrive at those decisions; namely Housing Distribution, Employment Distribution and Site Assessment & Site Selection. The following paragraphs give a short overview of the three key areas of this consultation and are discussed in more detail later in this document.

Housing Distribution

3.3 We previously consulted on nine broad options for development distribution, which can be found in our Issues and Options document (page 23) [Issues and Options Consultation Document](#)

3.4 Whilst there was no overall favourite option from the consultation responses, it was apparent that some options were more favourable than others, namely: focussing development on Bromsgrove settlements, transport corridors and locations with good transport links. There was some support for locating housing on the edge of the West Midlands conurbation, especially if we are required to allocate land for the unmet housing need of the wider West Midlands area. It was generally accepted that urban intensification would not be able to play a significant enough role to meet housing numbers, although we will try to maximise densities within sites, which is an issue that will be covered in future consultation. Furthermore, there was very little support for a new settlement.

3.5 Moving forward from the broad distribution options described above, a range of distribution scenarios has been considered for the draft Development Strategy drawing on a combination of the original nine broad distribution options.

- A. **Development at Bromsgrove settlements plus edge of West Midlands conurbation;**
- B. **Development at Bromsgrove settlements only;**
- C. **Development along rail corridors only;**
- D. **Development at Bromsgrove settlements plus creation of, and improvements to, motorway junctions to the north and southwest of Bromsgrove town;**
- E. **Development along the edge of the West Midlands conurbation only.**

Employment Distribution

3.6 When the method for calculating LHN was altered in the NPPF, the number of dwellings we needed to accommodate up to 2043 almost doubled. Therefore, we're not quite sure whether a potential 28 hectares of employment land identified in our Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (2022) (HEDNA) will be sufficient as that figure was aligned to the previously lower LHN figure. We will need to undertake an update to our HEDNA but we think it would be better to wait until we know when we can start to proceed through the new plan-making process. This will ensure our evidence documents are as up to date and robust

as possible. We have posed some very general employment related questions later in this document that could help us to decide exactly what we would like the HEDNA update to take into consideration. The current HEDNA is available to read on our website [The Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment \(HEDNA\)](#)

Site Assessment and Site Selection

3.7 We undertook a detailed and rigorous site assessment process of the 400+ sites that were submitted to us. The methodology we used was previously consulted on and amendments made to refine it based on the comments we received. The 'Site Assessment & Site Selection Methodology' is available to read on our website [ADD LINK](#)

3.8 We have selected sites that we think fulfil our LHN requirements and align with our distribution strategy, however, there were more potential development sites than we needed. You might think that some of the sites we have selected are less suitable than others, and this consultation is an opportunity to consider our assessment work and to suggest sites that you think might offer a better alternative to those we have selected. The 'Site Assessment and Site Selection Outcomes' are available on our website [ADD LINK](#)

3.8 Later in this document, we've set out the detail of which sites we've selected by settlement so you can easily read the parts of this document that are of particular interest to you. We've also signposted you to specific parts of the 'Site Assessment and Site Selection Outcomes' work that is relevant to that particular location.

Infrastructure Delivery and Funding

3.10 Development often has an impact on existing services and facilities which requires new and/ or improved infrastructure to be provided. Infrastructure is considered under three service headings and includes, but is not limited to:

- **Social Infrastructure** - Education, Health, Community facilities;
- **Physical Infrastructure** - Transport (road, rail, bus, cycling, walking), Public Utilities (gas, electricity, water), Flood Alleviation and Drainage, Telecommunications, Waste Management; and
- **Natural Infrastructure** - Open Space (parks and gardens, equipped play spaces, allotments, cemeteries, outdoor sports facilities), Green Infrastructure (natural and semi natural open space, green corridors), Blue Infrastructure (canal and river corridors), Biodiversity Net Gain.

3.11 Whilst provision of new homes and places to work are the foundations of plan-making, their opportunity to thrive is compromised without the supporting infrastructure that compliments and completes them. All new development will contribute towards new or improved infrastructure provision within the vicinity of where the development is located. Furthermore, there are other funding and delivery sources available that we can tap into such as: Government funding (Levelling Up, Department for Transport), Worcestershire County Council funding (Transport and Education), Severn Trent Water, Environment Agency, Network Rail, Bus service providers, Rail services providers, Telecommunications providers.

3.12 When a complete version of the Plan is prepared and put out for consultation, the policies will detail what infrastructure should be provided and where; and the Plan will be accompanied by an Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

3.13 Whilst some supporting infrastructure is essential in nearly all locations, such as education and healthcare provision, new or improved transport facilities or flood alleviation and drainage, for example, some infrastructure may be more nuanced to individual settlements such as what would improve the way they function and what they look like as places to live and work in.

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3.14 Later in this document, we have asked some location-specific infrastructure questions. Based on the amount of potential development, we've tried to give an indication of what supporting infrastructure could be provided that would be of benefit to a particular location. You might agree with us, or you might think we've missed something that you think would have a positive impact on that settlement.

Q3. We are really keen to hear your views on what infrastructure should be provided in any location.

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Offline consultees we be asked to provide location details

4. HOUSING DISTRIBUTION

4.1 As stated above, a range of distribution scenarios has been considered for the draft Development Strategy drawing on a combination of the original nine broad distribution options but with specific sites applied to each. How these distribution scenarios have been considered can be found in the Sustainability Appraisal that accompanies this consultation [LINK](#).

4.2 For this consultation period, we have focussed the distribution of potential housing sites across the district's main settlements, taking advantage of locations in close proximity to transport corridors (including public transport). In addition, the district's main settlements benefit from existing services and facilities that are already in place, such as local centres to meet daily needs, education provision and community facilities. This existing infrastructure could benefit from funding that delivers new development to ensure that they continue to improve and thrive.

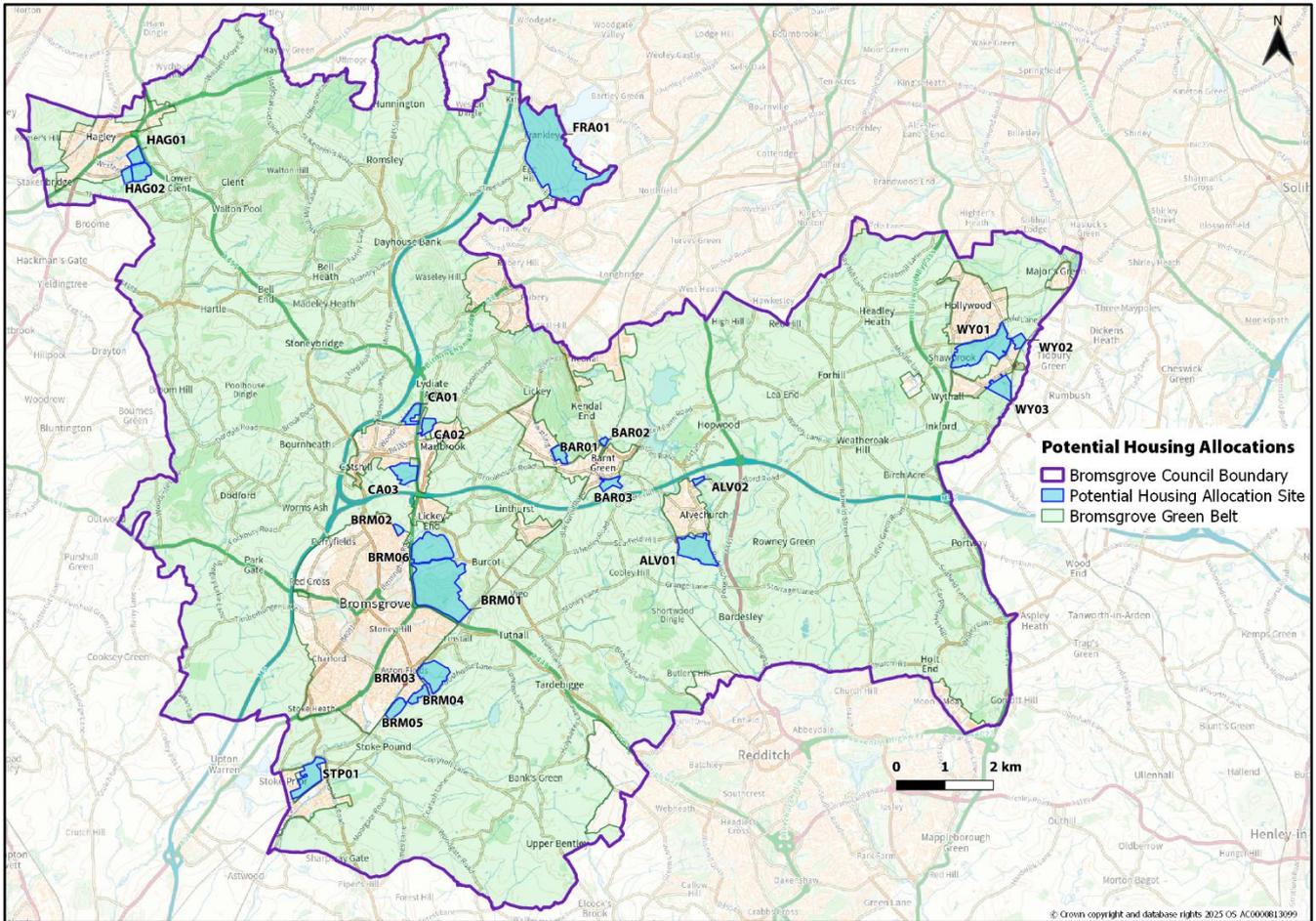
4.3 However, we also think that the level of housing need required over the Plan period, if allocated entirely in Bromsgrove district's main settlements, would potentially lead to disproportionate development that could fundamentally affect the scale and character of the settlements. Therefore, whilst considering distribution options in Bromsgrove district, growth to the north of the district, along the boundary between Bromsgrove and the West Midlands conurbation, is considered as one of the most sustainable and accessible locations for development. This is confirmed by key supporting evidence such as the emerging Strategic Transport Assessment (STA).

4.4 Whilst several locations along the conurbation edge are potentially suitable for large scale urban extensions, it is considered that a site allocation with an indicative capacity of around 3,000 dwellings in the Frankley area provides the most comprehensive option for delivering significant residential development and associated infrastructure.

4.5 These are all settlements that are not in the Green Belt, but Green Belt land around them will be required to accommodate development.

4.6 The map below shows the potential distribution of sites for allocation across Bromsgrove district.

Development at Bromsgrove settlements and at Frankley



4.7 Development in these locations would bring benefits for those that live and work across Bromsgrove district such as retail spending on our High Streets and local centres, providing affordable housing for those settlements and improvements to services, facilities and other infrastructure. It will be a challenge to deliver new housing quickly in the district, as large site allocations typically have longer delivery lead-in times and we would need to prioritise delivery of affordable housing once building gets underway. Allocating a range of different sized sites gives us the opportunity to start delivering new homes early in the Plan period. We would also need to identify and prioritise other infrastructure needs associated with new development, which we would set out in an Infrastructure Delivery Statement at a later date.

4.8 As stated above, we currently have land for around 3,000 homes identified through Plan allocations and approved planning applications. The map above shows only the potential sites that could meet the shortfall of just over 9,000 dwellings. Allocating slightly more than the LHN requirement gives us a little flexibility in case some sites are delayed in coming forward or are not developed at all.

4.9 Later in this document, we've focussed in on the individual settlements so you can see the sites more clearly and concentrate your thoughts on the areas that interest you personally; within these, we have signposted where you can find additional relevant information.

4.10 The table below sets out the sites we've identified for potential allocation. The indicative capacities are just that; they have largely been determined using a density multiplier, which is explained in Addendum One of the Site Assessment & Site Selection Methodology [LINK](#). Sites capacities are likely to alter as more detailed masterplanning is carried out. Again, this may give us a little flexibility for meeting the overall LHN requirement.

Potential housing sites to meet the Local Housing Need shortfall up to 2043		
Site Ref.	Site Name	Indicative Capacity
BROMSGROVE		
BRM01	Land at and adjacent Bromsgrove Golf Centre	1300
BRM02	Land at Norton Farm	80
BRM03	Land off St Godwald's Road	300
BRM04	Bromsgrove Cricket, Hockey & Tennis Club	150
BRM05	Land at Stoke Court Farm	190
BRM06	Land north of Old Burcot Lane	550
SUB TOTAL		2570
ALVECHURCH		
ALV01	Land west of Redditch Road / south of Station Road	400
ALV02	Land to east of Birmingham Road	100
SUB TOTAL		500
BARNT GREEN		
BAR01	Land between Twatling Road and Cherry Hill Road	140
BAR02	Land north of Kendal End Road	50
BAR03	Sandhills Farm	150
SUB TOTAL		340
CATSHILL		
CA01	Land between Woodrow Lane and A38 Halesowen Road	165
CA02	Land to rear of Four Oaks Drive	140
CA03	Land west of Birmingham Road	300
SUB TOTAL		605
HAGLEY		
HAG01	Land North of Western Road	180
HAG02	Land south of Western Road	350
SUB TOTAL		530
WYTHALL		
WY01	Land south of Houndsfield Lane	875
WY02	Land east of Lea Green Lane	60
WY03	Land south of Station Road	300
SUB TOTAL		1235
STOKE PRIOR		
STP01	Land at Ryefields Farm	500
SUB TOTAL		500
FRANKLEY		
FRA01	Land at Frankley	3000
SUB TOTAL		3000
TOTAL		9280

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4.11 In the following pages of this document/ website there is the opportunity to comment on all of the sites listed above, we would also like you views on the overall Strategy.

Q4. Do you agree with the draft Development Strategy we've chosen for Bromsgrove district?

Yes / No / unsure

Q5. Please explain the reason for your answer to Q4

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4.12 As explained in Para 3.7 above we have assessed over 400 sites and at this stage are only suggesting 21 sites for possible inclusion in the next version of the plan. we're keen to hear your views on the other sites all of these sites can be viewed here [LINK](#)

Q6. Do you have any comments to make on any of the other sites we've assessed and not included for potential allocation? (Please quote the site reference number)

Q7. If you think alternative sites should be allocated, which sites do you think we should reconsider and why? (Please quote the site reference number)

Q6/7 online Consultees can drop pin on map

Offline will have to quote reference number

Q8. Do you think we should be allocating some land for employment development within the sites we've selected across Bromsgrove District?

Yes / No / unsure

Q9. Please explain the reason for your answer to Q8

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Q10. With new development comes supporting infrastructure. What supporting infrastructure do you think would benefit Bromsgrove District and should be prioritised when development comes forward?

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5. EMPLOYMENT DISTRIBUTION

5.1 As stated earlier, we're not quite sure whether the potential 28 hectares of employment land identified in our Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (2022) (HEDNA) is now correct as that figure was aligned to the previously lower LHN figure. The HEDNA aligned labour supply (housing need) with labour demand (employment need), and the impact of commuting patterns on these. With almost double the number of homes to provide, our potential 28 hectare employment need figure could fall short of meeting labour supply needs within the district. We will update our HEDNA in the future, however, this is a good opportunity to collect some feedback on employment growth scenarios. There are no sites identified to be allocated for employment uses at this stage, we're really interested to understand what you think would be a benefit for Bromsgrove district and the people who work here or could chose to work here in the future.

5.2 Below, we have set out a few ideas of where we could focus employment growth. This isn't an either/or choice, it could be a combination of various ideas, or something we haven't even thought of yet! The range of scenarios we have put together for your consideration are:

- Extensions to existing industrial estates and business parks, if there is potential expansion land available;
- Reconfiguration of undeveloped land on existing employment allocations, to provide either intensification of floorspace and/or alternative employment use classes and therefore attract different types of occupiers;
- Provide employment development within potential housing sites at existing settlements, giving people the opportunity to live and work in the same location (this could impact the housing numbers at some sites and additional housing allocations may be needed);
- New standalone employment sites at strategic road network (motorway) junctions, likely to be largely dominated by distribution uses but with some space for smaller business uses;
- Either a new M5 motorway junction to the southwest of Bromsgrove town (including a new rail station near to Stoke Prior) or a remodelled/repositioned M42 J1, to offer a solution to existing concerns whilst enabling higher levels of growth on the edge of Bromsgrove urban area.

Q11. We'd welcome your feedback on any of these employment scenarios or any opportunities you think we might have overlooked.

6. FUTURE GROWTH AND LARGE-SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE

6.1 We'd also like to hear your views on a potential long-term growth strategy that would extend beyond the 2043 Plan period. Creation of, and/or improvements to motorway junctions to the north and/or southwest of Bromsgrove town is an aspirational option for longer term growth, providing for large scale housing and employment development, and a potential new railway station near to Stoke Prior.

6.2 A new M5 motorway junction to the southwest of the town and/or a remodelled/repositioned M42 J1, could offer a solution to existing concerns about highways congestion around Bromsgrove town and the A38 whilst enabling higher levels of housing and employment growth on the edge of Bromsgrove's urban area. In addition, a new rail station near to Stoke Prior on the Bromsgrove-Worcester railway line could also be a means of enabling higher levels of growth around Bromsgrove town using a rail corridor approach to delivering sustainable development.

6.3 An aspirational option for longer term growth such as this would require some detailed investigative work to better understand feasibility, viability and deliverability implications in more detail. We would need to understand the levels of housing and employment growth that should be provided to support transport infrastructure of this scale. This would likely tell us when in the plan-making process this could be considered

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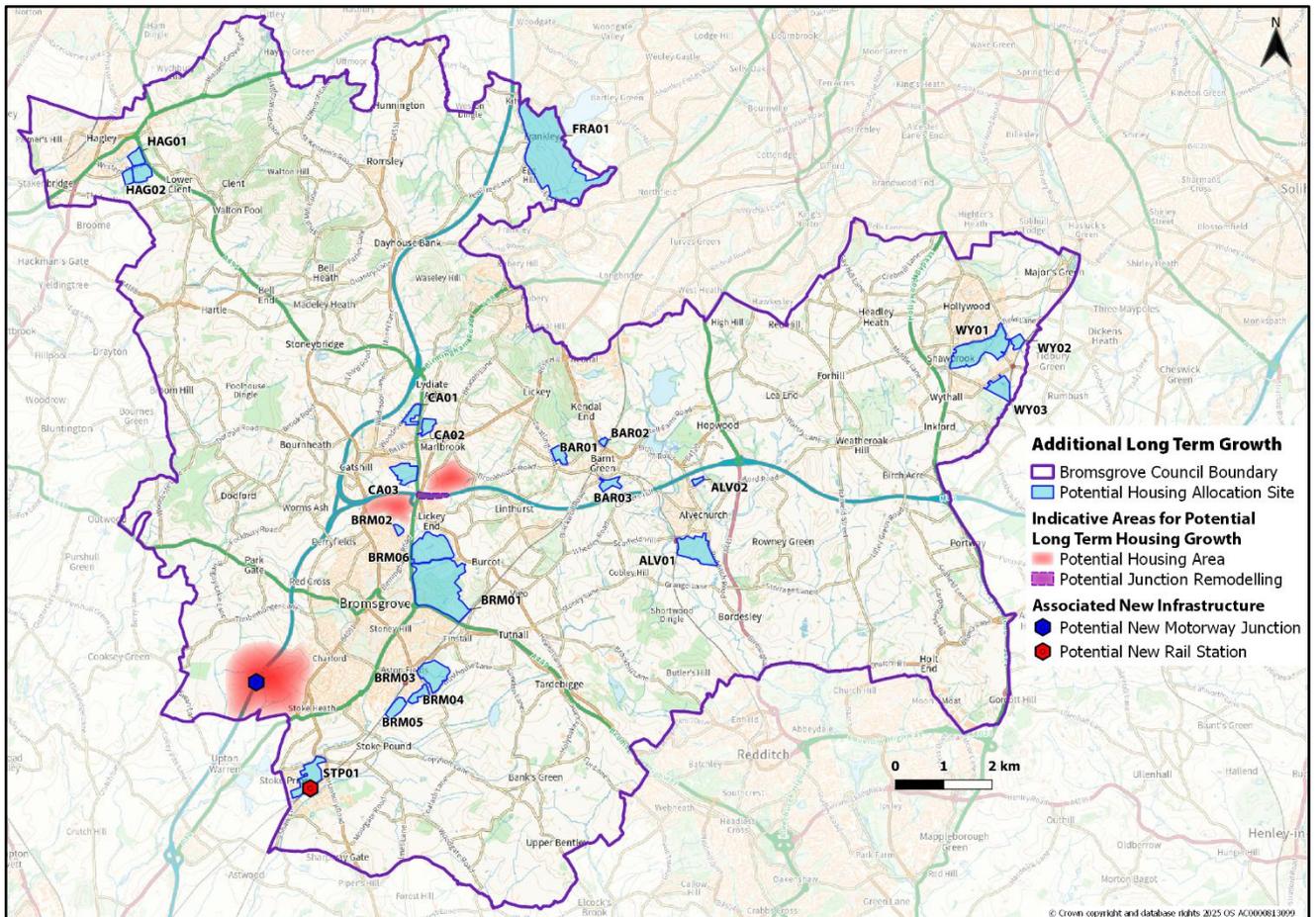
as a serious option for growth and may influence future distribution strategies and potential site allocations elsewhere in the district.

Q12. Do you think it would be a good idea for us to pursue this as a potential longer-term growth option for Bromsgrove?

Yes / No / Unsure

Q13. Please explain your answer for Q12

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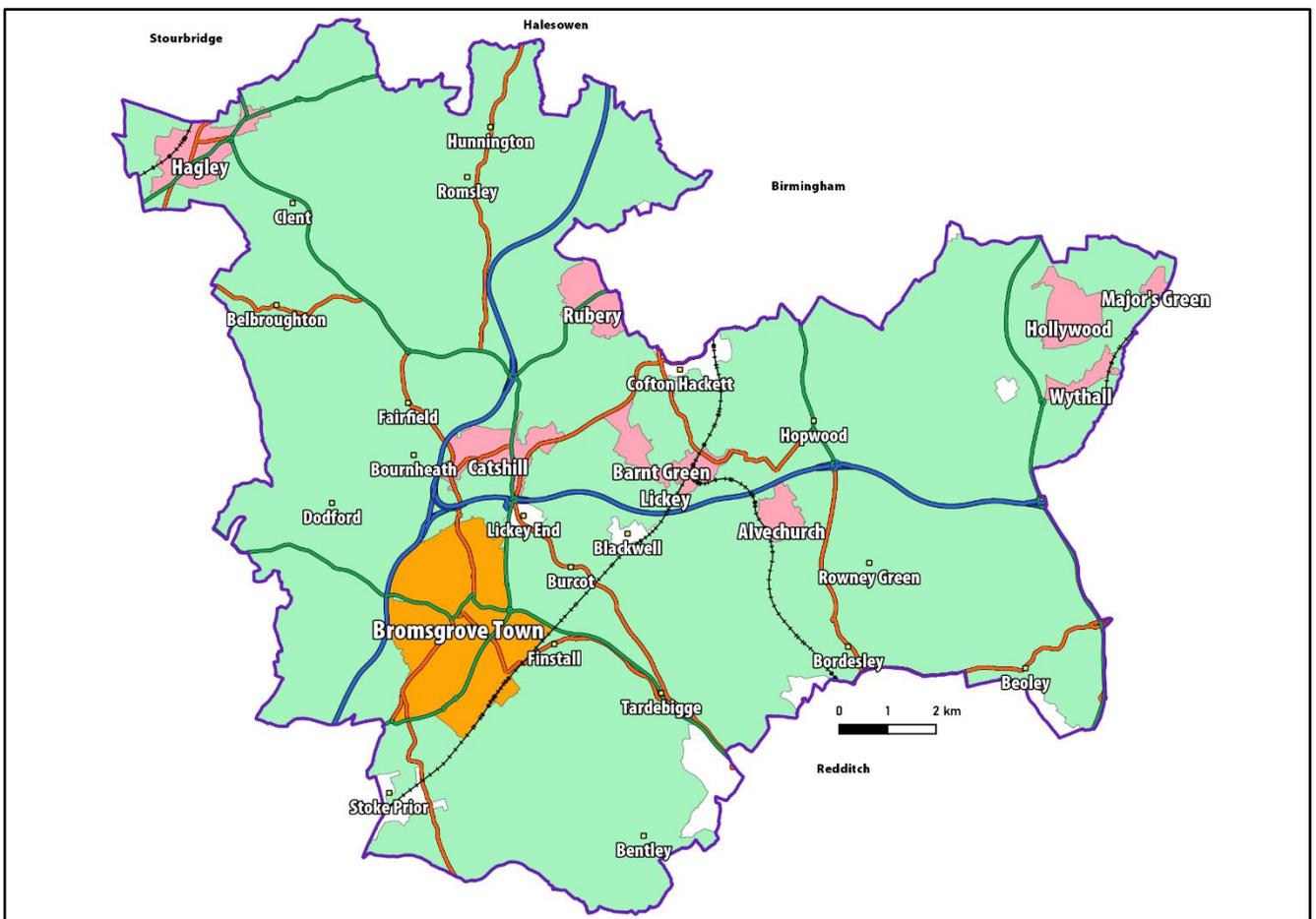


7. SITE ASSESSMENT AND SITE SELECTION

7.1 To help you get your bearings, the map below shows the larger settlements in context with the whole of Bromsgrove district. You may find this useful when sharing your location-specific comments with us in relation to other places in the district.

7.2 A lot of our assessment work is based on a RAG rating (Red, Amber, Green). A full explanation of the RAG ratings applied can be found in the 'Site Assessment & Site Selection Methodology' [LINK](#). Please note that in terms of the RAG ratings, an Amber or Red rating would not necessarily preclude a site from the assessment, rather it gives us an indication of which sites may be capable of earlier release for development due to fewer constraints or later release due to delivery complications, or flag where further information may be required.

7.3 You may agree or disagree with the locations we have selected for potential development and the sites we have identified, and this is why we are consulting you now, so that we can take account of your views. You may think that some locations should have less development than we've identified, but please bear in mind that we would need to make up that shortfall elsewhere in the district, so your thoughts around where we should make up any shortfall would also be welcomed.



Focussing on Bromsgrove Town

WHAT THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COULD MEAN FOR BROMSGROVE TOWN

7.4 Bromsgrove town is the primary urban area and largest settlement within Bromsgrove district, identified as such due to the greatest range of available and accessible services and facilities. Bromsgrove sits towards the southwest of the district, albeit with good accessibility and links to other parts of the district. The Green Belt boundary is drawn tightly around the settlement, which offers limited opportunities for growth within the existing urban area on non-Green Belt land. Bromsgrove has good access to the wider motorway network both to the north and south of the town. The urban area is bisected by the A38 running north to south, to the east of Bromsgrove town. The east of the town is home to Bromsgrove’s railway station on the Cross-City Line which runs from Bromsgrove through Birmingham to Lichfield and also on the mainline between Birmingham and Worcester and beyond, whilst the bus station sits in the heart of the Town Centre.

7.5 In terms of plan-making, we should be looking to our larger, sustainable settlements to take future growth to ensure that the high level of services and facilities continue to improve and thrive, making Bromsgrove town appropriate for future development allocations as identified in our draft Development Strategy.

7.6 All the sites that were submitted around Bromsgrove town were assessed and our conclusions can be found in ‘Appendix 1: Bromsgrove’ of the ‘Site Assessments: An assessment and analysis of submitted development sites – Output Summaries’ document, which can be found here [LINK](#). You will need to have looked at this document if you choose to answer some of the questions we’ve asked later in this section.

7.7 There is a map in the document link above that shows the individual sites that were assessed, some of which we have combined to create an overall allocation site, such as BRM01 depicted on the map below. You will also find the rationale for our site assessments regarding each site’s potential for development.

HOUSING

7.8 The potential allocations we are suggesting that could contribute towards meeting the LHN requirement in Bromsgrove are:

Site Ref.	Site Name	Indicative Capacity
BROMSGROVE		
BRM01	Land at and adjacent Bromsgrove Golf Centre	1300
BRM02	Land at Norton Farm	80
BRM03	Land off St Godwald's Road	300
BRM04	Bromsgrove Cricket, Hockey & Tennis Club	150
BRM05	Land at Stoke Court Farm	190
BRM06	Land north of Old Burcot Lane	550
SUB TOTAL		2570

ACCOMPANYING INFRASTRUCTURE

7.9 Alongside residential development for around 2570 homes, we would expect accompanying infrastructure to be delivered concurrently. We’re aware of the current A38 Bromsgrove Route Enhancement Program (A38 BREP) the challenges that it’s creating in the town at the moment, but that is an example of how infrastructure is provided to help deliver new housing. What future infrastructure provision should consist of has yet to be determined and we are seeking your views to help make sure we get the infrastructure requirements correct. However, the things we have listed below are the likely sorts of improvements that will be required to deliver development. As a starting point, we’ve listed some possible infrastructure provision below that could benefit Bromsgrove, but we’d be really interested to hear what you think. We’ve created two lists below; one relating to sites north of the Bromsgrove Highway (A448) and another for the sites located closer to the railway station.

Sites north of the Bromsgrove Highway (A448)

Social Infrastructure:

- Education: New First, Middle and High school provision (preferred location on site BRM01/06)
- Healthcare: New health facility
- Community: New Local Centre to include health and community facilities, to be well located to school provision.

Physical Infrastructure:

- Highways: BRM01 – new A38 access and spine road potential to alleviate traffic at Oakalls roundabout, i.e. A38S to A448E movement
- Highways: Potential further improvement to A38 and other surrounding routes/junctions
- Public Transport: Extend/divert bus routes along new spine road into BRM01
- Public Transport: Additional bus provision across Bromsgrove town, including Demand Responsive Travel³
- Active Travel: New and enhanced pedestrian route to improve access to railway station and possible inclusion of a footbridge over the A448
- Active Travel: Segregated walking and cycling routes to town centre - School Drive, A38/Stratford Rd
- Active Travel: Connectivity improvements to Town Centre
- Public Realm: Town Centre improvements

Natural Infrastructure:

- Green Infrastructure: Protection of important natural features, such as Flora's Wood
- Green Infrastructure: On site provision of parks and recreation facilities
- Green Infrastructure: Onsite Biodiversity Net Gain⁴
- Green/Blue Infrastructure: Extending remit of 'Bromsgrove Brooks' project – e.g. improving section of Spadesbourne Brook from Burcot Lane to The Strand

Sites close to the railway station

Social Infrastructure:

- Education: New First school on site BRM3 and/or possible expansion of existing school provision
- Healthcare: Reconfiguration of internal space/expansion of existing medical facilities
- Community: New community use building

Physical Infrastructure:

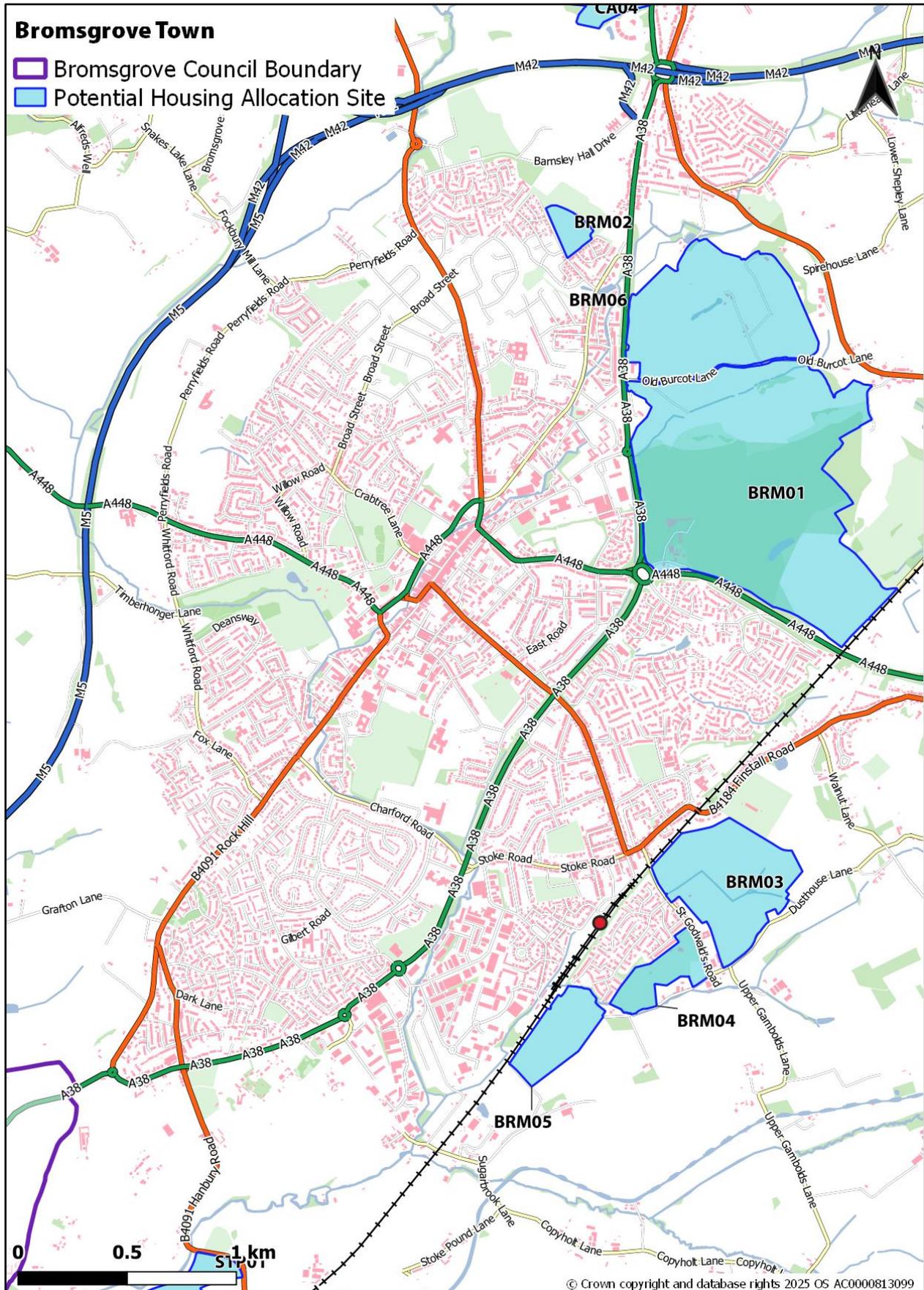
- Highways: Potential further improvement to Finstall Road and other surrounding routes/junctions
- Highways: Consideration of a parking strategy at St Godwald's Road
- Highways: Improvements and enhancements to railway bridge at St Godwald's Road
- Highways: Traffic management enhancements and or Road widening in vicinity of BRM04
- Public Transport: Extend/divert bus route 52(A)/318 to east of railway line to serve BRM03-06
- Active Travel: Higher density/low car use developments at BRM03-06, car clubs, reduced parking standards, bike/e-scooter rental, Demand Responsive Travel
- Active Travel: Segregated active travel routes to town centre - New Rd/Old Station Rd

³ Demand Responsive Travel (DRT) is a flexible service that provides shared transport to users who specify their desired location and time of pick-up and drop-off. DRT can complement fixed route public transport services and improve mobility in low-density areas and at low-demand times of day.

⁴ Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) A policy to ensure the habitats for wildlife are left in a better state after the development. Developers are required to deliver a minimum of 10% BNG under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021).

Natural Infrastructure:

- Green Infrastructure: On site Biodiversity Net Gain
- Green Infrastructure: On site provision of parks and recreation facilities or financial contribution to existing parks



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WHAT WE'D LIKE TO KNOW FROM YOU

7.10 We'd like to know what you think about the sites we have chosen and the possible infrastructure we have identified as likely to be required to deliver them.

7.11 We're very keen to understand the issues and challenges in the communities around the sites. We would like to gain a full understanding of how the local facilities and services operate, local transport issues such as congestion, road safety issues, and public transport provision, how schools and Doctors currently serve the community and anything else you think will help us when deciding if sites can go further to the next stage of the Plan.

7.12 We're also keen to hear your views on the sites themselves and any issues which you may think we need to be aware of on the site such as local wildlife or flooding, and anything else which we need to know about the land.

Online consultees can click on site and submit comments

Offline Consultees will have a site comment form to fill in

Focussing on Alvechurch

WHAT THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COULD MEAN FOR ALVECHURCH

7.13 Alvechurch is classed as one of the large, sustainable settlements in the current Bromsgrove District Plan and benefits from a railway station on the Cross-City Line, with good vehicular access to Bromsgrove, Birmingham, Redditch and the wider Worcestershire area. Alvechurch benefits from a thriving local centre, supported by a range of hospitality venues with good social infrastructure such as school provision and community facilities, making it appropriate for future development allocations as identified in our draft Development Strategy.

7.14 All the sites that were submitted around Alvechurch were assessed and our conclusions can be found in ‘Appendix 2: Alvechurch’ of the ‘Site Assessments: An assessment and analysis of submitted development sites – Output Summaries’ document, which can be found here [LINK](#).

7.15 There is a map in the document link above that shows the individual sites that were assessed, some of which we have combined to create an overall allocation site, such as ALV01 depicted on the map below. You will also find the rationale for our site assessments regarding each site’s potential for development.

HOUSING

7.16 The potential allocations we are suggesting that could contribute towards meeting the LHN requirement in Alvechurch are:

Site Ref.	Site Name	Indicative Capacity
ALVECHURCH		
ALV01	Land west of Redditch Road / south of Station Road	400
ALV02	Land to east of Birmingham Road	100
SUB TOTAL		500

ACCOMPANYING INFRASTRUCTURE

7.17 Alongside residential development for around 500 homes, we would expect accompanying infrastructure to be delivered concurrently. What that infrastructure provision should consist of has yet to be determined we are seeking your views to help make sure we get the infrastructure requirements correct. However, the things we have listed below are the likely sorts of improvements that will be required to deliver development. As a starting point, we’ve listed some possible infrastructure provision below that could benefit Alvechurch, but we’d be really interested to hear what you think.

Social Infrastructure:

- Education: A new First School and Nursery with room for expansion on site ALV01, or an expansion at Crown Meadow First School
- Healthcare: Reconfiguration of internal space at the existing Alvechurch Medical Centre or a new health facility on site ALV01
- Community: Contributions for existing community facilities, such as village hall/ other community spaces
- Community: Existing Local Centre enhancement, such as public realm scheme, new signage, EV charging and cycle storage, pedestrian priorities

Physical Infrastructure:

- Highways: Local highway/junction improvements

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- Public Transport: A Mobility Hub at Alvechurch railway station which could include an expanded and resurfaced car park, reconfigured access, bus services/ Demand Responsive Travel to serve the station, Bike hire, EV charging provision, small convenience store
- Active Travel: Walking and cycling route into and around the village centre, which could include wayfinding information, improved street lighting, pavement widening, cycle lanes/ cycle priority, covered cycle storage, benches

Natural Infrastructure:

- Green Infrastructure: Canal towpath enhancements and connections into longer leisure routes, soft landscaping improvements, climate change adaptation measures and links to biodiversity net gain, allotment improvements, expand green spaces offer
- Green Infrastructure: On site Biodiversity Net Gain
- Green Infrastructure: On site provision of parks and recreation facilities or financial contribution to existing facilities



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7.18 We'd like to know what you think about the sites we have chosen and the possible infrastructure we have identified as likely to be required to deliver them.

7.19 We're very keen to understand the issues and challenges in the communities around the sites. We would like to gain a full understanding of how the local facilities and services operate, local transport issues such as congestion, road safety issues, and public transport provision, how schools and Doctors currently serve the community and anything else you think will help us when deciding if sites can go further to the next stage of the Plan.

7.20 We're also keen to hear your views on the sites themselves and any issues which you may think we need to be aware of on the site such as local wildlife or flooding, and anything else which we need to know about the land.

Online consultees can click on site and submit comments

Offline Consultees will have a site comment form to fill in

Focussing on Barnt Green

WHAT THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COULD MEAN FOR BARNT GREEN

7.21 Barnt Green is classed as one of the large, sustainable settlements in the current Bromsgrove District Plan and benefits from a railway station on the Cotswold and Cross-City Lines, with good vehicular access to Bromsgrove, Birmingham, Redditch and the wider Worcestershire area. Barnt Green benefits from a thriving local centre, supported by a range of hospitality venues with good social infrastructure such as school provision and community facilities, making it appropriate for future development allocations as identified in our draft Development Strategy.

7.22 All the sites that were submitted around Barnt Green were assessed and our conclusions can be found in 'Appendix 3: Barnt Green' of the 'Site Assessments: An assessment and analysis of submitted development sites – Output Summaries' document, which can be found here [LINK](#).

7.23 There is a map in the document link above that shows the individual sites that were assessed. You will also find the rationale for our site assessments regarding each site's potential for development.

HOUSING

7.24 The potential allocations we are suggesting that could contribute towards meeting the LHN requirement in Barnt Green are:

Site Ref.	Site Name	Indicative Capacity
BARNT GREEN		
BAR01	Land between Twatling Road and Cherry Hill Road	140
BAR02	Land north of Kendal End Road	50
BAR03	Sandhills Farm	150
SUB TOTAL		340

ACCOMPANYING INFRASTRUCTURE

7.25 Alongside residential development for around 340 homes, we would expect accompanying infrastructure to be delivered concurrently. What that infrastructure provision should consist of has yet to be determined we are seeking your views to help make sure we get the infrastructure requirements correct. However, the things we have listed below are the likely sorts of improvements that will be required to deliver development. As a starting point, we've listed some possible infrastructure provision below that could benefit Barnt Green, but we'd be really interested to hear what you think.

Social Infrastructure:

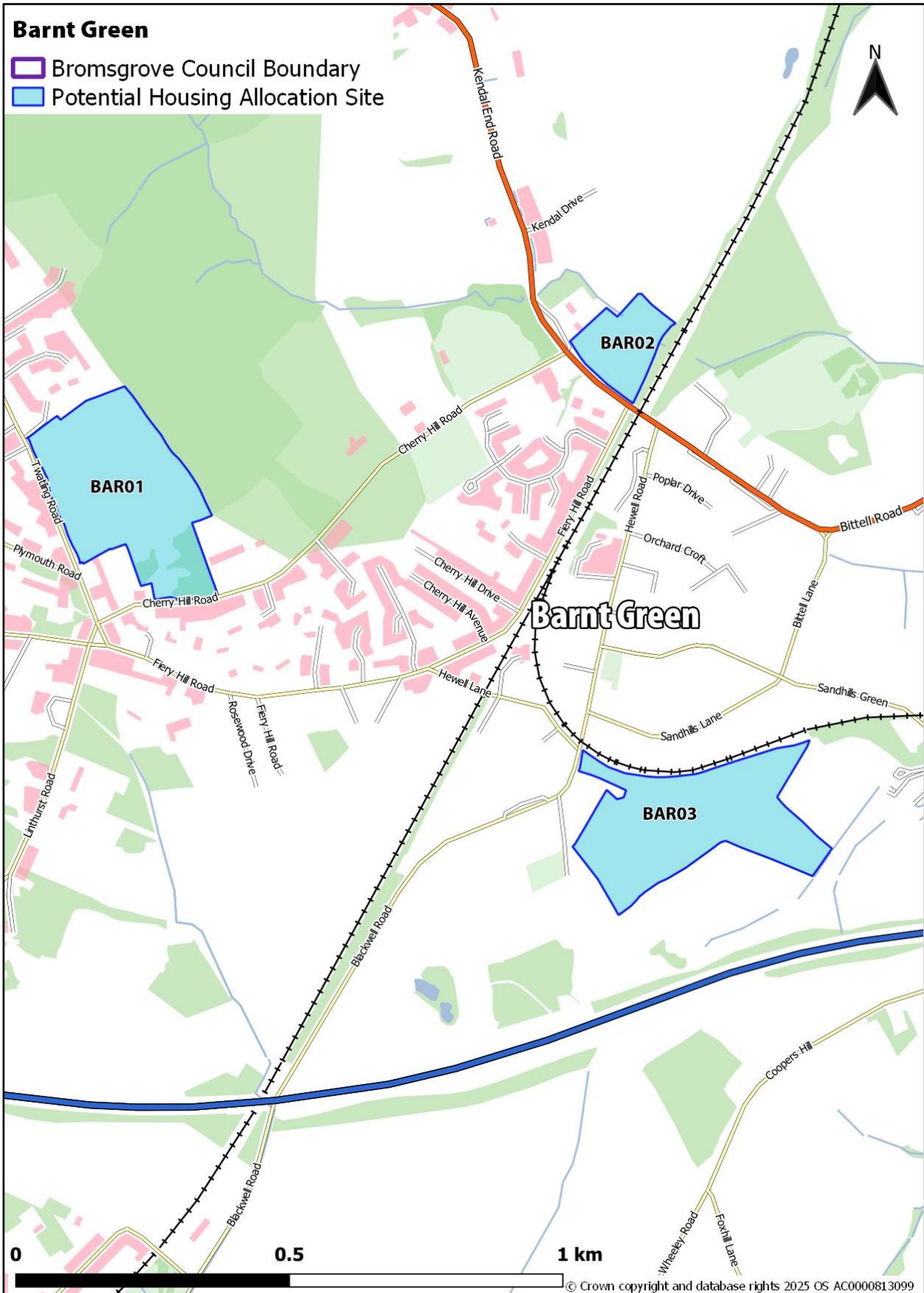
- Education: Expansion at Lickey Hills Primary School or St. Andrews CE First School
- Healthcare: Potential new and enlarged health facility possibly located on potential development sites
- Community: Contributions for existing community facilities, such as village hall/ other community spaces
- Community: Existing Local Centre enhancement, such as public realm scheme, new signage, EV charging and cycle storage, pedestrian priorities
- Community: A replacement social club

Physical Infrastructure:

- Highways: Local highway/junction improvements
- Highways: New car park to serve village centre
- Active Travel: Segregated walking and cycling route between Cherry Hill and Barnt Green railway station/ village centre

Natural Infrastructure:

- Green Infrastructure: On site Biodiversity Net Gain
- Green Infrastructure: On site provision of parks and recreation facilities or financial contribution to existing facilities



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WHAT WE'D LIKE TO KNOW FROM YOU

7.26 We'd like to know what you think about the sites we have chosen and the possible infrastructure we have identified as likely to be required to deliver them.

7.27 We're very keen to understand the issues and challenges in the communities around the sites. We would like to gain a full understanding of how the local facilities and services operate, local transport issues such as congestion, road safety issues, and public transport provision, how schools and Doctors currently serve the community and anything else you think will help us when deciding if sites can go further to the next stage of the Plan.

7.28 We're also keen to hear your views on the sites themselves and any issues which you may think we need to be aware of on the site such as local wildlife or flooding, and anything else which we need to know about the land.

Online consultees can click on site and submit comments

Offline Consultees will have a site comment form to fill in

Focussing on Catshill

WHAT THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COULD MEAN FOR CATSHILL

7.29 Catshill is classed as one of the large, sustainable settlements in the current Bromsgrove District Plan and benefits from good access to the strategic road network, with good vehicular access to Bromsgrove, Birmingham, Redditch and the wider Worcestershire area. Catshill benefits from a thriving local centre, supported by a range of hospitality venues with good social infrastructure such as school provision and community facilities, making it appropriate for future development allocations as identified in our draft Development Strategy.

7.30 All the sites that were submitted around Catshill were assessed and our conclusions can be found in ‘Appendix 4: Catshill’ of the ‘Site Assessments: An assessment and analysis of submitted development sites – Output Summaries’ document, which can be found here [LINK](#).

7.31 There is a map in the document link above that shows the individual sites that were assessed, some of which we have combined to create an overall allocation site, such as CA01 depicted on the map below. You will also find the rationale for our site assessments regarding each site’s potential for development.

HOUSING

7.32 The potential allocations we are suggesting that could contribute towards meeting the LHN requirement in Catshill are:

Site Ref.	Site Name	Indicative Capacity
CATSHILL		
CA01	Land between Woodrow Lane and A38 Halesowen Road	165
CA02	Land to rear of Four Oaks Drive	140
CA03	Land west of Birmingham Road	300
SUB TOTAL		605

ACCOMPANYING INFRASTRUCTURE

7.33 Alongside residential development for around 605 homes, we would expect accompanying infrastructure to be delivered concurrently. What that infrastructure provision should consist of has yet to be determined we are seeking your views to help make sure we get the infrastructure requirements correct. However, the things we have listed below are the likely sorts of improvements that will be required to deliver development. As a starting point, we’ve listed some possible infrastructure provision below that could benefit Catshill, but we’d be really interested to hear what you think.

Social Infrastructure:

- Education: A new First School with room for expansion on site CA03 and expansion at Catshill Middle School, or an expansion at Catshill First and Middle Schools
- Healthcare: Expansion of existing health facility or provision of a new health facility
- Community: Contributions for existing community facilities, such as village hall/ other community spaces
- Community: Existing Local Centre enhancement, such as public realm scheme, new signage, EV charging and cycle storage, pedestrian priorities

Physical Infrastructure:

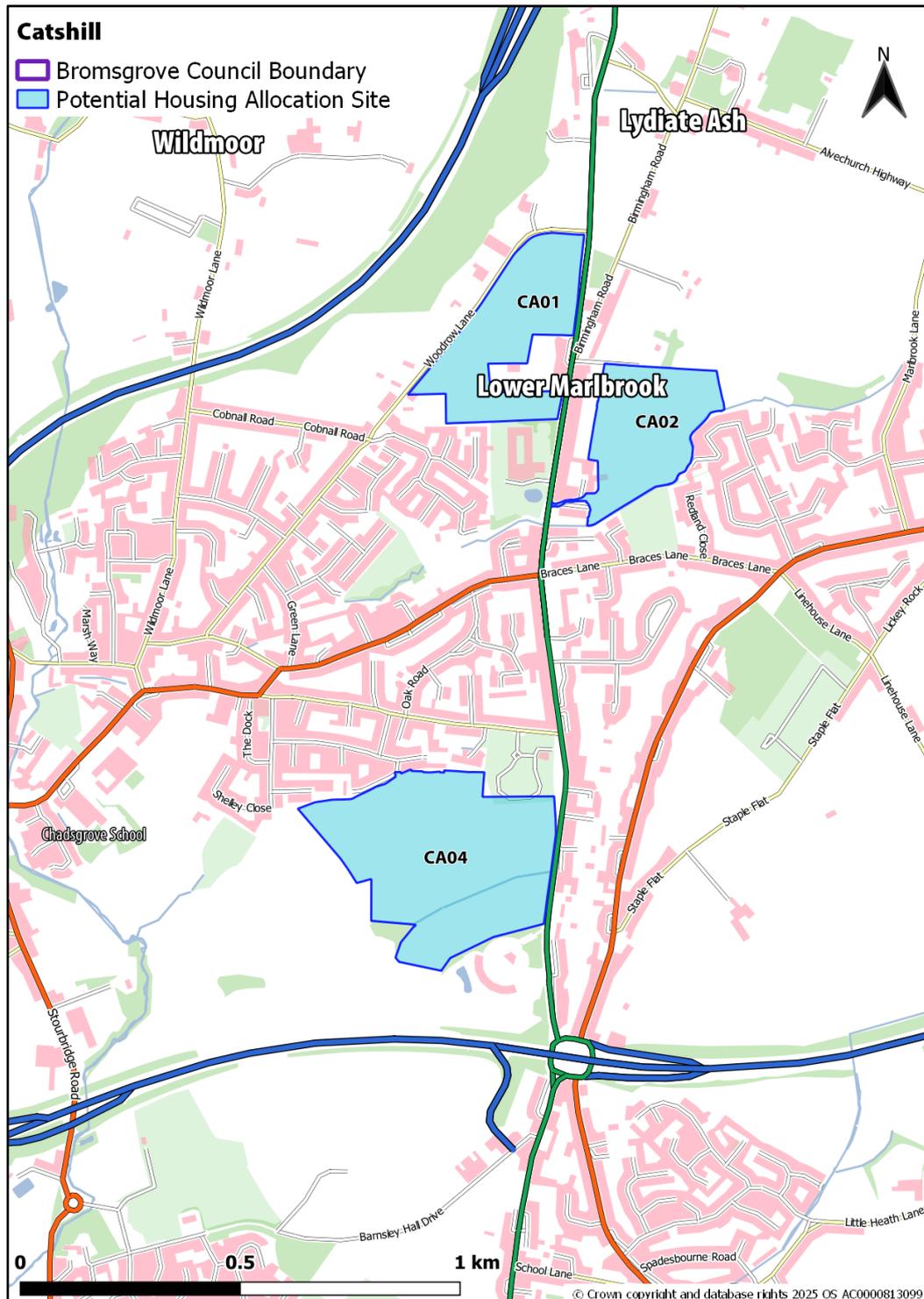
- Highways: Local highway/junction improvements to compliment the improvement already made on the A38
- Highways: Traffic management on Woodrow Lane

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- Active Travel: Segregated cycle provision along Woodrow Lane
- Active Travel: Improvements to existing Public Rights of Way
- Local Centre Enhancement: Public realm scheme, new signage, EV charging and cycle storage, pedestrian priorities

Natural Infrastructure:

- Green Infrastructure: Open spaces linked by green corridors to benefit both wildlife and pedestrians, making use of the Battlefield Brook corridor.
- Green Infrastructure: On site Biodiversity Net Gain
- Green Infrastructure: On site provision of parks and recreation facilities or financial contribution to existing facilities



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WHAT WE'D LIKE TO KNOW FROM YOU

7.34 We'd like to know what you think about the sites we have chosen and the possible infrastructure we have identified as likely to be required to deliver them.

7.35 We're very keen to understand the issues and challenges in the communities around the sites. We would like to gain a full understanding of how the local facilities and services operate, local transport issues such as congestion, road safety issues, and public transport provision, how schools and Doctors currently serve the community and anything else you think will help us when deciding if sites can go further to the next stage of the Plan.

7.36 We're also keen to hear your views on the sites themselves and any issues which you may think we need to be aware of on the site such as local wildlife or flooding, and anything else which we need to know about the land.

Online consultees can click on site and submit comments

Offline Consultees will have a site comment form to fill in

Focussing on Hagley

WHAT THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COULD MEAN FOR HAGLEY

7.37 Hagley is classed as one of the large, sustainable settlements in the current Bromsgrove District Plan and benefits from a railway station on the Wyre Valley and Leamington-Worcester Lines, with good vehicular access to Bromsgrove, The Black Country Birmingham, the wider Worcestershire area and the West Midlands conurbation. Hagley benefits from a thriving local centre, supported by a range of hospitality venues with good social infrastructure such as school provision and community facilities, making it appropriate for future development allocations as identified in our draft Development Strategy.

7.38 All the sites that were submitted around Hagley were assessed and our conclusions can be found in 'Appendix 5: Hagley' of the 'Site Assessments: An assessment and analysis of submitted development sites – Output Summaries' document, which can be found here [LINK](#).

7.39 There is a map in the document link above that shows the individual sites that were assessed, some of which we have combined to create an overall allocation site, such as HAG01 depicted on the map below. You will also find the rationale for our site assessments regarding each site's potential for development.

HOUSING

7.40 The potential allocations we are suggesting that could contribute towards meeting the LHN requirement in Hagley are:

Site Ref.	Site Name	Indicative Capacity
HAGLEY		
HAG01	Land North of Western Road	180
HAG02	Land south of Western Road	350
SUB TOTAL		530

ACCOMPANYING INFRASTRUCTURE

7.41 Alongside residential development for around 530 homes, we would expect accompanying infrastructure to be delivered concurrently. What that infrastructure provision should consist of has yet to be determined we are seeking your views to help make sure we get the infrastructure requirements correct. However, the things we have listed below are the likely sorts of improvements that will be required to deliver development. As a starting point, we've listed some possible infrastructure provision below that could benefit Hagley, but we'd be really interested to hear what you think.

Social Infrastructure:

- Education: An expansion at Hagley Primary School or provision of new Primary School on proposed site
- Healthcare: Expansion of existing health facility
- Community: Contributions for existing community facilities, such as village hall/ other community spaces
- Community: Existing Local Centre enhancement, such as public realm scheme, new signage, EV charging and cycle storage, pedestrian priorities

Physical Infrastructure:

- Highways: Local highway/junction improvements, including at Western Road
- Highways: A456 major improvement scheme
- Active Travel: Walking and cycling route into and around the village centre, which could include wayfinding information, improved street lighting, pavement widening, cycle lanes/ cycle priority, covered cycle storage, benches

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7.42 We'd like to know what you think about the sites we have chosen and the possible infrastructure we have identified as likely to be required to deliver them.

7.43 We're very keen to understand the issues and challenges in the communities around the sites. We would like to gain a full understanding of how the local facilities and services operate, local transport issues such as congestion, road safety issues, and public transport provision, how schools and Doctors currently serve the community and anything else you think will help us when deciding if sites can go further to the next stage of the Plan.

7.44 We're also keen to hear your views on the sites themselves and any issues which you may think we need to be aware of on the site such as local wildlife or flooding, and anything else which we need to know about the land.

Online consultees can click on site and submit comments

Offline Consultees will have a site comment form to fill in

Focussing on Wythall

WHAT THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COULD MEAN FOR WYTHALL

7.42 Wythall is classed as one of the large, sustainable settlements in the current Bromsgrove District Plan and benefits from a railway station on the North Warwickshire Line, with good vehicular access to Redditch, Birmingham, Solihull, the wider Worcestershire area and the West Midlands conurbation. Wythall benefits from thriving local centres, supported by a range of hospitality venues with good social infrastructure such as school provision and community facilities, making it appropriate for future development allocations as identified in our draft Development Strategy.

7.43 All the sites that were submitted around Wythall were assessed and our conclusions can be found in ‘Appendix 7: Wythall’ of the ‘Site Assessments: An assessment and analysis of submitted development sites – Output Summaries’ document, which can be found here [LINK](#).

7.44 There is a map in the document link above that shows the individual sites that were assessed, some of which we have combined to create an overall allocation site, such as WY01 depicted on the map below. You will also find the rationale for our site assessments regarding each site’s potential for development.

HOUSING

7.45 The potential allocations we are suggesting that could contribute towards meeting the LHN requirement in Wythall are:

Site Ref.	Site Name	Indicative Capacity
WYTHALL		
WY01	Land south of Houndsfield Lane	875
WY02	Land east of Lea Green Lane	60
WY03	Land south of Station Road	300
SUB TOTAL		1235

ACCOMPANYING INFRASTRUCTURE

7.46 Alongside residential development for around 1235 homes, we would expect accompanying infrastructure to be delivered concurrently. What that infrastructure provision should consist of has yet to be determined we are seeking your views to help make sure we get the infrastructure requirements correct. However, the things we have listed below are the likely sorts of improvements that will be required to deliver development. As a starting point, we’ve listed some possible infrastructure provision below that could benefit Wythall, but we’d be really interested to hear what you think.

Social Infrastructure:

- Education: A new Primary School and Nursery with room for expansion on site WY01
- Healthcare: New health facility on site WY01
- Community: New Local Centre on site WY01 to include health and community facilities, well located to school provision, public realm scheme, new signage, EV charging and cycle storage, pedestrian priorities
- Community: Existing Local Centre enhancement, such as public realm scheme, new signage, EV charging and cycle storage, pedestrian priorities
- Recreation & Leisure: Improvements at Wythall Park

Physical Infrastructure:

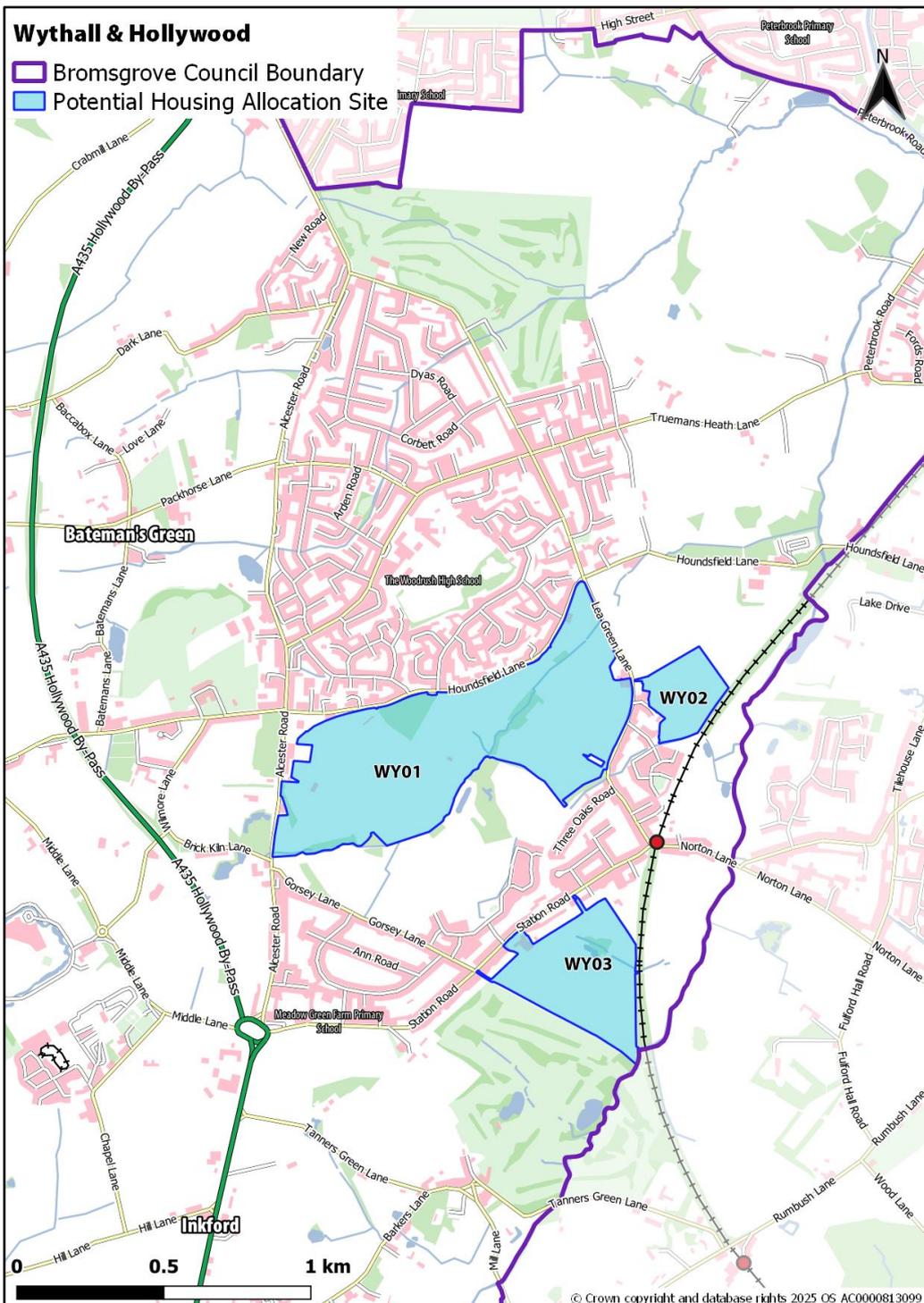
- Highways: Local highway/junction improvements at Alcester Road/ Houndsfield Lane

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- Highways: Carriageway and public realm improvements along Alcester Road, Houndsfield Lane, May Lane, Haslucks Green Road, Gorsey Lane, Lea Green Lane and Station Road
- Active Travel: Improved pedestrian connectivity across Alcester Road to Wythall Park
- Active Travel: Improved walking and cycling routes to Wythall railway station
- Active Travel: Bus loop connecting key services and facilities
- Active Travel: Additional car parking facility for rail users on development sites

Natural Infrastructure:

- Green Infrastructure: Open spaces linked by green corridors to benefit both wildlife and pedestrians
- Green Infrastructure: On site Biodiversity Net Gain
- Green Infrastructure: On site provision of parks and recreation facilities or financial contribution to existing facilities



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WHAT WE'D LIKE TO KNOW FROM YOU

7.47 We'd like to know what you think about the sites we have chosen and the possible infrastructure we have identified as likely to be required to deliver them.

7.48 We're very keen to understand the issues and challenges in the communities around the sites. We would like to gain a full understanding of how the local facilities and services operate, local transport issues such as congestion, road safety issues, and public transport provision, how schools and Doctors currently serve the community and anything else you think will help us when deciding if sites can go further to the next stage of the Plan.

7.49 We're also keen to hear your views on the sites themselves and any issues which you may think we need to be aware of on the site such as local wildlife or flooding, and anything else which we need to know about the land.

Online consultees can click on site and submit comments

Offline Consultees will have a site comment form to fill in

Focussing on Stoke Prior

WHAT THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COULD MEAN FOR STOKE PRIOR

7.50 Whilst Stoke Prior isn't classed as one of the large, sustainable settlements in the current Bromsgrove District Plan, it is the highest ranked non-Green Belt 'small' settlement in the district in terms of access to local services and facilities. There is a range of local job opportunities in proximity to the settlement at Corbett and Harris Business Parks in the Stoke Prior area itself, at Upton Warren and Wychbold in Wychavon District, and on the southern edge of Bromsgrove town/urban area. Stoke Prior is supported by essential social infrastructure such as school provision, GP surgery and community facilities, and is in close proximity to Bromsgrove town with its easy access to town centre services and facilities and the wider transport network. This makes it appropriate to consider for future development allocations as identified in our draft Development Strategy.

7.51 All the sites that were submitted around Stoke Prior were assessed and our conclusions can be found in 'Appendix 17: Stoke Prior' of the 'Site Assessments: An assessment and analysis of submitted development sites – Output Summaries' document, which can be found here [LINK](#).

7.52 There is a map in the document link above that shows the individual sites that were assessed, some of which we have combined to create an overall allocation site STP01 depicted on the map below. You will also find the rationale for our site assessments regarding each site's potential for development.

HOUSING

7.53 The potential allocation we are suggesting that could contribute towards meeting the LHN requirement in Stoke Prior is:

Site Ref.	Site Name	Indicative Capacity
STOKE PRIOR		
STP01	Land at Ryefields Farm	500
SUB TOTAL		500

ACCOMPANYING INFRASTRUCTURE

7.54 Alongside residential development for around 500 homes, we would expect accompanying infrastructure to be delivered concurrently. What that infrastructure provision should consist of has yet to be determined we are seeking your views to help make sure we get the infrastructure requirements correct. However, the things we have listed below are the likely sorts of improvements that will be required to deliver development. As a starting point, we've listed some possible infrastructure provision below that could benefit Stoke Prior, but we'd be really interested to hear what you think.

Social Infrastructure:

- Education: Expansion at Stoke Prior First School
- Healthcare: Expansion of existing health facility
- Community: New Local Centre ensuring connectivity routes to the existing settlement and existing services such as health and education provision
- Community: Contributions for existing community facilities, such as village hall/ other community spaces
- Recreation & Leisure: Potential to secure funding for improvements at the existing recreation ground

Physical Infrastructure:

- Highways: Local highway/junction improvements
- Highways: Improvements to railway bridges on Shaw Lane and Hanbury Road
- Active Travel: Increased bus services and frequencies, including Demand Responsive Travel

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WHAT WE'D LIKE TO KNOW FROM YOU

7.55 We'd like to know what you think about the sites we have chosen and the possible infrastructure we have identified as likely to be required to deliver them.

7.56 We're very keen to understand the issues and challenges in the communities around the sites. We would like to gain a full understanding of how the local facilities and services operate, local transport issues such as congestion, road safety issues, and public transport provision, how schools and Doctors currently serve the community and anything else you think will help us when deciding if sites can go further to the next stage of the Plan.

7.57 We're also keen to hear your views on the sites themselves and any issues which you may think we need to be aware of on the site such as local wildlife or flooding, and anything else which we need to know about the land.

Online consultees can click on site and submit comments

Offline Consultees will have a site comment form to fill in

Focussing on Frankley

WHAT THE DRAFT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COULD MEAN FOR FRANKLEY

7.58 The level of housing need required over the Plan period, if allocated entirely in Bromsgrove district's higher tier settlements, would potentially lead to disproportionate development that could fundamentally affect the scale and character of the settlements. In considering options for the LHN distribution in Bromsgrove district, growth to the north of the district, along the boundary between Bromsgrove and the West Midlands conurbation, is considered as one of the most sustainable and accessible locations for development, as confirmed by key supporting evidence such as the Strategic Transport Assessment (STA). Whilst several locations along the conurbation edge are potentially suitable for large scale urban extensions, it is considered that a site allocation with an indicative capacity of around 3,000 dwellings in the Frankley area provides the most comprehensive option for delivering significant residential development and associated infrastructure.

7.59 This location could offer connectivity between Bartley Green and the Egghill area, extending access to existing and new supporting infrastructure, with a focus on enhanced recreation provision by tapping into the potential offered by existing natural resources in the area such as the reservoirs and green spaces.

7.60 All the sites that were submitted around Frankley were assessed and our conclusions can be found in 'Appendix 24: Edge of Conurbation' of the 'Site Assessments: An assessment and analysis of submitted development sites – Output Summaries' document, which can be found here [LINK](#).

7.61 There is a map in the document link above that shows the individual sites that were assessed, some of which we have combined to create an overall allocation site FRA01, depicted on the map below. You will also find the rationale for our site assessments regarding each site's potential for development.

HOUSING

7.62 The potential allocation we are suggesting that could contribute towards meeting the LHN requirement in Frankley is:

Site Ref.	Site Name	Indicative Capacity
FRANKLEY		
FRA01	Land at Frankley	3000
SUB TOTAL		3000

ACCOMPANYING INFRASTRUCTURE

7.63 Alongside residential development for around 3000 homes, we would expect accompanying infrastructure to be delivered concurrently. What that infrastructure provision should consist of has yet to be determined we are seeking your views to help make sure we get the infrastructure requirements correct. However, the things we have listed below are the likely sorts of improvements that will be required to deliver development. As a starting point, we've listed some possible infrastructure provision below that could benefit Frankley, but we'd be really interested to hear what you think.

Social Infrastructure:

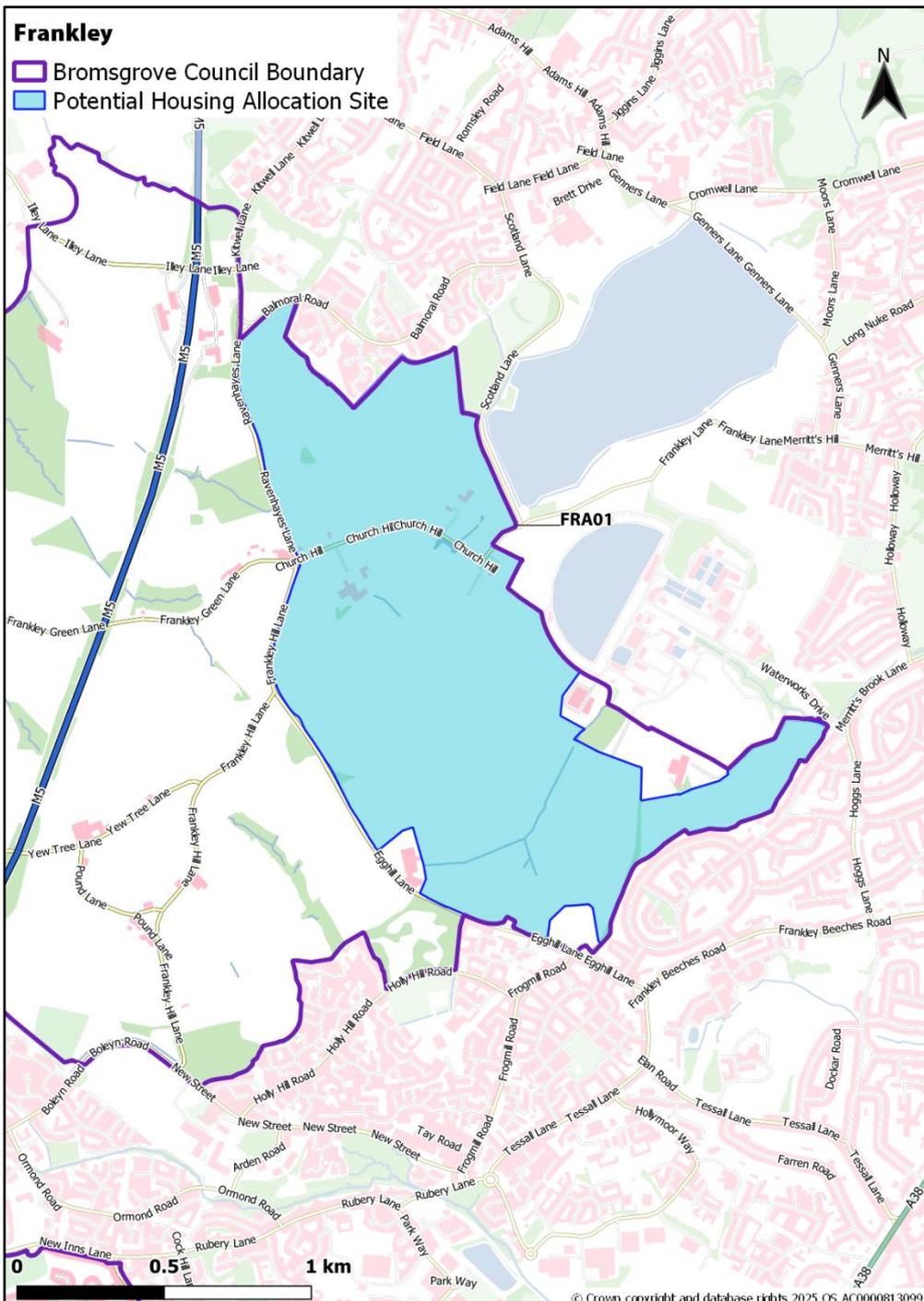
- Education: New Primary and Secondary school provision
- Healthcare: New health facility
- Community: New Local Centre to include health facilities, community facilities, and a business hub, which gives pedestrians priority, EV charging, cycle hub, which is well located to school provision
- Community: A Country Park with visitor facilities, walking and cycling leisure route around reservoir

Physical Infrastructure:

- Highways: Highway/junction improvements
- Active Travel: Higher density/low car use developments, car clubs, reduced parking standards, bike/e-scooter rental, including Demand Responsive Travel
- Active Travel: New/extended bus route(s) linking to wider public transport network, including Longbridge railway station
- Active Travel: Connectivity improvements to wider services and facilities beyond the development site

Natural Infrastructure:

- Green/ Blue Infrastructure: Recreation opportunities at Bartley Green Reservoir
- Green Infrastructure: On site Biodiversity Net Gain
- Green Infrastructure: On site provision of parks and recreation facilities or financial contribution to existing facilities



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WHAT WE'D LIKE TO KNOW FROM YOU

7.64 We'd like to know what you think about the sites we have chosen and the possible infrastructure we have identified as likely to be required to deliver them.

7.65 We're very keen to understand the issues and challenges in the communities around the sites. We would like to gain a full understanding of how the local facilities and services operate, local transport issues such as congestion, road safety issues, and public transport provision, how schools and Doctors currently serve the community and anything else you think will help us when deciding if sites can go further to the next stage of the Plan.

7.66 We're also keen to hear your views on the sites themselves and any issues which you may think we need to be aware of on the site such as local wildlife or flooding, and anything else which we need to know about the land.

Online consultees can click on site and submit comments

Offline Consultees will have a site comment form to fill in

8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Why we're reviewing the District Plan

8.1 The adopted Bromsgrove District Plan runs until 2030 but is caveated with the need to carry out an early review in order to sufficiently meet the district's housing needs for the whole of the Plan period. At the time of adoption, we were only able to find a portion of our housing requirement on land not classified as Green Belt. As Bromsgrove District is predominantly rural with approximately 90% of the land designated as Green Belt, it meant we needed to undertake a lengthy and rigorous review of our Green Belt, which wasn't something that could be dealt with during the last plan-making period. Furthermore, since we adopted the Plan, it has become a requirement of the NPPF that Councils review their Plans at least once every five years. This is to ensure that they are relevant and based on up-to-date information, and to update them if this is not the case. It is also a requirement that Plans look ahead for a minimum of 15 years from adoption, therefore we need to consider development requirements beyond the 2030 Plan period. At this point in time a Plan review is no longer adequate, and as such, we will need to consider development requirements beyond 2040. Therefore, we are now preparing a new Plan rather than just reviewing the adopted version.

Local Housing Need and the Standard Methodology for calculating it

8.2 Local Housing Need (LHN) is an assessment of the number of homes needed in an area. Assessing housing need is the first step in the process of deciding how many homes need to be planned for.

8.3 The Government has set out a Standard Methodology for Councils to use to calculate their LHN. The calculation uses a formula to identify the minimum number of homes expected to be planned for, making use of existing housing stock, which is then adjusted upwards to reflect local affordability pressures and wages earned. Further details about the Standard Methodology can be found here [Housing and economic needs assessment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/housing-and-economic-needs-assessment)

Green Belt impact on plan-making

8.4 Green Belt is a policy designation to prevent urban sprawl rather than a physical designation such as National Landscapes like the Malvern Hills (an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), for example or a Special Area of Conservation (Bredon Hill, Pershore as an example). National planning policy has always allowed for changes to the Green Belt where exceptional circumstances exist, and they can be justified⁵. The settlements in Bromsgrove district have such tightly drawn Green Belt boundaries and there is limited non-Green Belt land available to meet our LHN. To further demonstrate that exceptional circumstances exist, based on the criteria in the footnote below, our Exceptional Circumstances Paper can be found here [LINK](#).

8.5 In order to inform our site assessment process, a Green Belt Assessment was undertaken in 2022 and can be found here [LINK](#). Since this Assessment was produced, the Government has introduced the concept of Grey Belt⁶. This does weaken the opportunity to protect Green Belt land from inappropriate

⁵ NPPF states: 146. Exceptional circumstances in this context include, but are not limited to, instances where an authority cannot meet its identified need for homes...

147. Before concluding that exceptional circumstances exist to justify changes to Green Belt boundaries, the strategic policy-making authority should be able to demonstrate that it has examined fully all other reasonable options for meeting its identified need for development... a) makes as much use as possible of suitable brownfield sites and underutilised land; b) optimises the density of development in line with the policies in chapter 11 of this Framework... and c) has been informed by discussions with neighbouring authorities about whether they could accommodate some of the identified need for development, as demonstrated through the statement of common ground.

⁶ NPPF Annex 2 Glossary: Grey belt: For the purposes of plan-making and decision-making, 'grey belt' is defined as land in the Green Belt comprising previously developed land and/or any other land that, in either case, does not strongly contribute to any of purposes (a), (b), or (d) in paragraph 143. 'Grey belt' excludes land where the application of the policies relating to the areas or assets in footnote 7 (other than Green Belt) would provide a strong case for reusing or restricting development.

development if that land meets all the Green Belt criteria in the NPPF. We will need to carry out additional Green/Grey Belt Assessment work to fully understand the status of Green/Grey Belt land in our district.

Q14. Do you have any thoughts as to what the additional Green/Grey Belt Assessment should consider and how the information could best be presented?

Supporting Evidence

8.6 Alongside producing Consultation Documents such as this, and full draft Local Plans, we publish an evidence base that supports how we have reached the decisions we have made. Some evidence we prepare ourselves, such as the Site Assessment and Analysis process, other assessments and studies are prepared specifically to help us by specialist consultants, such as Green Belt and Landscape Assessments and Strategic Transport Assessments. We also use other evidence and studies prepared for the Council for other purposes, such as the Bromsgrove Town Centre 2040 Vision. This is to make sure that the policies we are trying to put in place also support other Council initiatives.

8.7 Another important element of our supporting evidence is a Sustainability Appraisal, which helps inform the choices we make within the Plan, such as which sites are allocated and which are not, in relation to delivering sustainable development. The Sustainability Appraisal is a process that we must carry out at every stage of our plan-making journey. The process is an opportunity to consider ways that the Plan and its policies can contribute to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as identifying where a policy or development allocation might have a negative effect if alternative sites or mitigation measures are not considered.

8.8 The Sustainability Appraisal supporting this consultation document assesses reasonable alternative Development Strategy Scenarios, which has led us to the draft Development Strategy we're now promoting. Following the outcomes of this consultation and the alternative sites for inclusion in the Development Strategy that might be suggested to us, we will undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of all the considered sites. This process will scrutinise the performance of sites to ensure that the final selection of sites for potential allocation meets the Sustainability Objectives.

Q15. Our evidence documents to date are published on the website, and you are welcome to comment on these as part of this consultation process.

What will happen next

8.9 The Consultation period will run from **30 June to 22 September 2025**. Following the close of consultation, we will analyse all consultation responses, the outcome of which will be published on our website in the future. Once we've analysed the consultation responses, we may need to hold a series of Focus Groups with specific groups of stakeholders to tease out additional information to address points raised during the Consultation. We will use this and other information to decide on the best approach to the Development Strategy, which will in turn inform the first draft of the Local Plan.

8.10 We fully expect that the first draft Local Plan will form the basis of the next consultation period, once we understand the new plan-making process. At that time, we will consult on a full Local Plan document containing our strategic objectives, policies, and maps, which are explained in a little more detail below. You can find the Local Plan timetable here **LINK**.

Strategic Objectives: This is a list of the key things we want the Plan to deliver, such as providing a range of housing types, supporting economic growth, supporting the vitality and viability of our retail centres, and safeguarding our natural and historic environments.

Agenda Item 4

Policies: The policies will provide the detail of how we meet the Strategic Objectives and basically set out the rules that people need to follow when they submit planning applications, guiding what can be built and where. We will also include our reasons for the policy wording, what has influenced it, and the evidence that supports it. Policies will cover topics such as:

- *Housing:* size, type, tenure of homes, amount of affordable homes, rural exceptions housing, homes for certain population groups such as the elderly and gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople.
- *Employment:* size and type of employment and office uses, protecting existing employment areas, employment uses in the countryside.
- *Transport:* setting out transport requirements for new developments, promoting sustainable travel modes, improving accessibility.
- *Natural and Historic Environments:* protecting and enhancing natural and historic environments.
- *Retail:* protection of our retail centres, regeneration opportunities, controlling inappropriate uses.
- *Health and Wellbeing:* open spaces, climate change, water management.
- *Design Coding:* how we want new development to look in context of any existing development already there.

Policy Maps: The Policy Maps will show areas of land allocated for the different development uses and will also show areas we want to protect such as Green Belt, Conservation Areas, wildlife sites and open spaces.

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION AND HOW TO RESPOND

8.11 More information about this consultation is available on the Council’s website:

<https://www.bromsgroveplan.commonplace.is>

[Bromsgrove District Plan Review - bromsgrove.gov.uk](https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)

You are welcome to come along to drop-in sessions where you can speak to planning officers at the following times and locations:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

We would appreciate responses to be submitted electronically; however, paper copies of the response form will be available at the drop-in sessions.

You can send us your views in the following ways:

Online:

By email: bromsgroveplan@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

By post: Bromsgrove District Council, Strategic Planning and Conservation, Parkside, Market Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B61 8DA

You can also use the above email address to leave us your name and contact details if you’d like to discuss anything in this Consultation Document in more detail, and we’ll call you back.

Please let us have your responses by no later than **22 September 2025**.

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