

**Sustainability appraisal of the  
Pre-Submission Publication Draft  
Wyre Forest District Local Plan:  
Non-technical summary  
July 2019**

# 1. Introduction

This is the non-technical summary of the sustainability appraisal for the Wyre Forest Local Plan. This summary starts by describing the Local Plan and sustainability appraisal. It then goes through the steps of the sustainability appraisal, and finishes with information about how to comment on the plan and the sustainability appraisal.

## 2. The Wyre Forest Local Plan

Wyre Forest’s Local Plan sets out a long-term vision and objectives for how the Wyre Forest District area will develop in the period up to 2036. It aims to support the economy, provide enough housing and adequate infrastructure, and protect the environment. It aims to provide at least 5,520 homes, 487 care home/institutional spaces, and 29 ha of employment land until 2036, and it sets out where these should go. Table 1 shows the main chapter titles for the plan.

**Table 1. Structure of the Wyre Forest District Local Plan**

Part	Policy
A. Strategic policies	5. Overarching sustainable development principles 6. A sustainable future – Development strategy 7. Strategic Green Belt Review 8. A desirable place to live 9. Health and wellbeing 10. A good place to do business 11. A unique place 12. Strategic infrastructure 13. Transport and accessibility 14. Strategic green infrastructure 15. Water management 16. Pollution, minerals and waste
B. Development management policies	18. A desirable place to live 19. Providing accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople 20. Community facilities 21. Employment land 22. Town centre development and retail 23. Sustainable tourism 24. Telecommunications and renewable energy 25. Safeguarding the Green Belt 26. Safeguarding the historic environment 27. Quality design and local distinctiveness 28. Rural Development
C. Site allocations	30. Kidderminster Town 31. Lea Castle Village 32. Kidderminster Eastern Extension 33. Stourport-on-Severn 34. Bewdley 35. Previously developed sites in the Green Belt 36. Rural Wyre Forest

### 3. Sustainability appraisal

By law, the environmental, social and economic impacts of a plan must be tested in a process called sustainability appraisal (SA). SA aims to promote sustainable development by identifying the Local Plan's impacts, and suggesting measures to reduce any negative impacts and increase the positive ones. SA also allows alternatives to the plan to be considered. Table 2 shows the stages of the SA process.

**Table 2. The sustainability appraisal (SA) process**

*Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope*

Task A1: Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives ('policy context')

Task A2: Collect baseline information ('sustainability context')

Task A3: Identify sustainability issues and problems

Task A4: Develop the SA Framework

Task A5: Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the SA report

*Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects*

Task B1: Test the Local Plan objectives against the SA framework

Task B2: Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives

Task B3: Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives

Task B4: Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects

Task B5: Propose measures to monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

*Stage C: Prepare the SA report*

*Stage D: Seek representations on the SA report from Consultation bodies and the public*

Current state of Wyre Forest Local Plan SA/SEA

*Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring*

Task E1: Prepare and publish post-adoption statement

Task E2: Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

Task E3: Respond to adverse effects

The Local Plan has been drawn up with the community and has been informed by many studies. The SA has been carried out by planners and a consultant. Table 3 shows the consultation stages for the plan, including web-links to the relevant SA/SEA reports.

**Table 3. Consultation stages and reports**

Local Plan stage	SA/SEA stage	Consultation dates	SA/SEA reports
Initial studies, and development of issues and options	SA Scoping Report	18 May – 22 June 2015	<a href="http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/media/1233990/Final-Scoping-Report-May-2015.pdf">www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/media/1233990/Final-Scoping-Report-May-2015.pdf</a>
Issues and Options	SA Revised Scoping Report	1 September – 16 October 2015	<a href="http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/media/1468164/Revised-SA-Scoping-Report-for-web.pdf">www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/media/1468164/Revised-SA-Scoping-Report-for-web.pdf</a>
Preferred Options	SA Preferred Options Report	15 June – 14 August 2017	<a href="http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/media/3012059/PO-Complete-SA.pdf">www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/media/3012059/PO-Complete-SA.pdf</a>
Pre-Submission publication Draft Local Plan (re-opened)	SA Report	2 September – 14 October 2019	This report

The plan does not require so-called ‘appropriate assessment’. The rest of this report goes through the SA stages shown at Table 2.

## 4. Scoping: summary and update

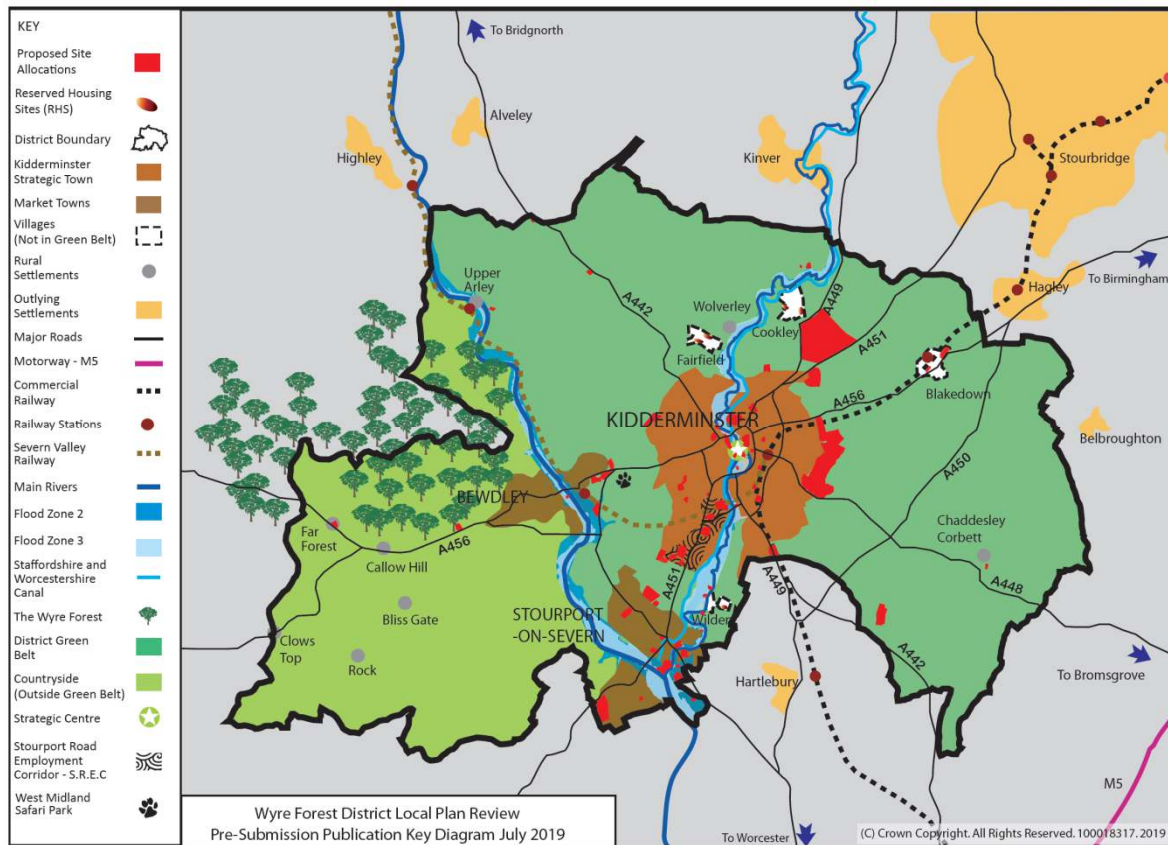
### Policy context

The Local Plan must provide for ‘objectively assessed housing need’. National guidance states how this must be calculated. A study has shown that Wyre Forest District’s need is 276 dwellings per year, or 5,520 over the 20 year plan period. An employment study has shown that 29 hectares of employment land will also be needed over the plan period. The national guidance also encourages the use of small and medium-sized sites for housing; supports new settlements; supports high quality buildings and places; and aims to protect the Green Belt. The Local Plan will not provide housing or employment sites for neighbouring authorities.

### Sustainability context and existing problems

Wyre Forest District is named after one of the largest ancient semi-natural woodlands in the country. The district covers 75 sq. miles and has a population of about 100,715. Figure 1 shows key characteristics of the district, and Table 4 summarises conditions in the district.

**Figure 1. Key characteristics of Wyre Forest District**



**Table 4. Problems and issues in Wyre Forest District**

**Social problems/issues:**

- Low proportion of young people and high proportion of old people. The ageing population means that more care facilities and specialist services are needed.
- Obesity levels are higher than the national average.
- In-migration levels are low.
- Some areas of deprivation in the district – see Figure 2.
- Noticeable variations in health: people in wealthier areas live longer than those in poorer areas
- Low availability of services in the district’s rural areas
- Unaffordability of housing: average house prices are roughly seven times the average income
- Need to provide housing for objectively assessed need, i.e. 276 dwellings per year

**Economic problems/issues:**

- Loss of traditional manufacturing industries.
- Low educational attainment.
- Lower earnings than the West Midlands or Great Britain.
- Low ratio of working people to non-working people, leading to unbalanced communities.
- Pockets of higher unemployment in Foley Park and Hoobrook and Broadwaters

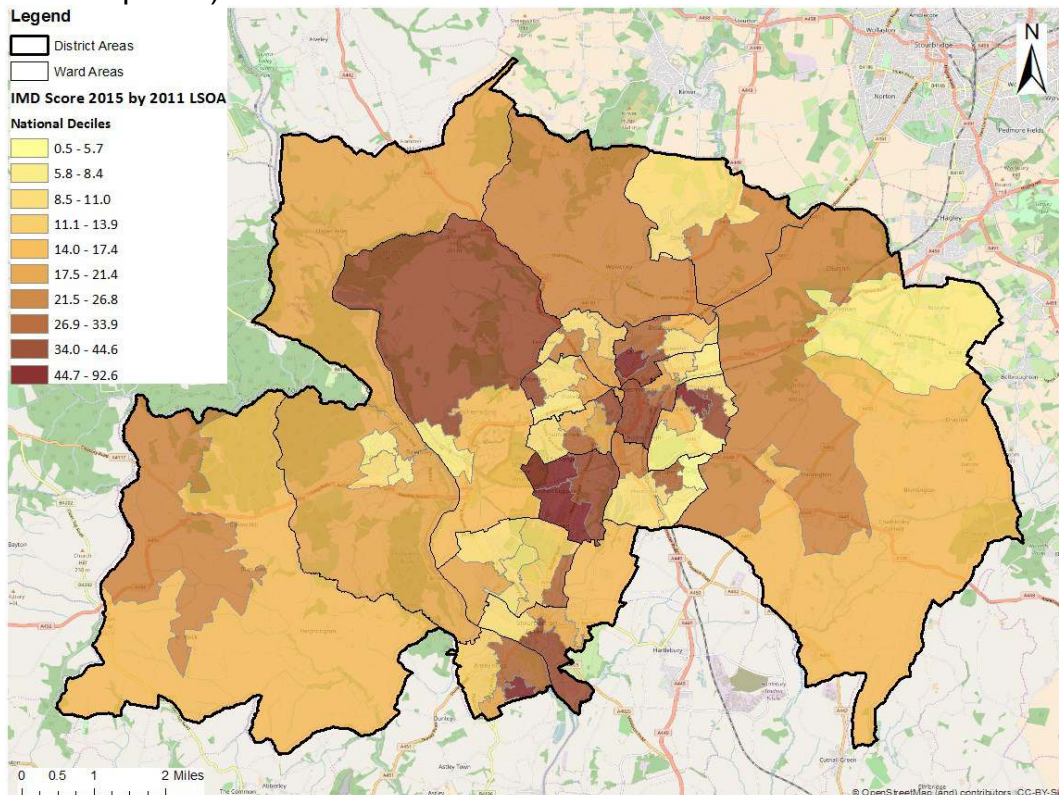
wards.

- About 40% of residents commute to outside the district for work.
- Need to diversify the economy and create more skilled jobs, to reduce commuting and keep young educated residents.
- Need to regenerate the town centres, including the eastern part of Kidderminster town centre.

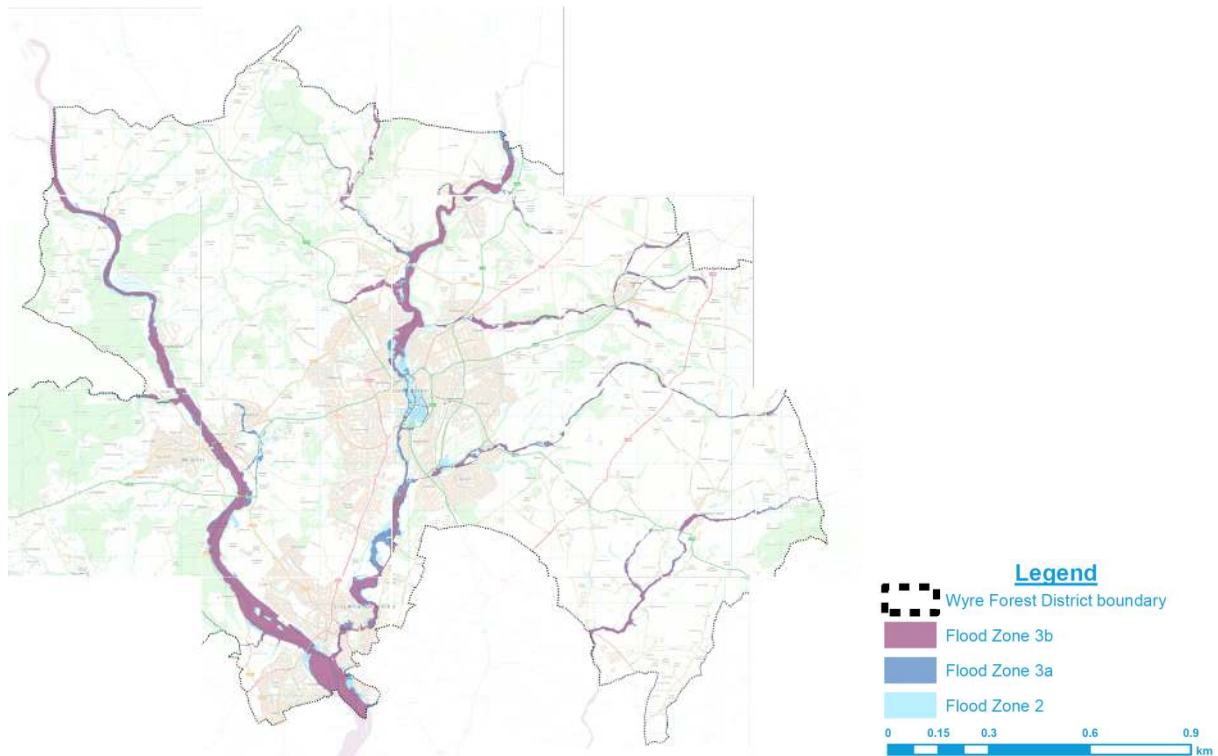
#### Environmental problems/issues:

- Over half of the district falls within the West Midlands Green Belt. There is pressure for development in the Green Belt.
- Flooding within all three towns (see Figure 3), and pressure for development in flood zones.
- Over-abstraction of water from several areas
- Poor air quality (AQMA) at Horsefair, Kidderminster and Welch Gate, Bewdley.
- Poor condition of SSSIs to the north of Kidderminster.
- Large amounts of Grade 1 and Grade 2 agricultural land in the east of the District, which needs to be safeguarded.
- Areas at risk of flooding, including in the centre of Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley.

**Figure 2. Deprivation in the Wyre Forest District (lighter = less deprived, darker = more deprived)**



**Figure 3. Flood risk in Wyre Forest District**



### The SA framework

The sustainability appraisal framework provides a structure for identifying, describing and comparing the sustainability impacts of a plan. Writing the Local Plan involved two types of decisions: on policies (general directions for the plan) and on sites (specific locations for development). Different SA frameworks were used for policies and sites, but they both include the following sustainability topics:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Health and wellbeing                | 7. Water resources/quality and flooding |
| 2. Services and facilities             | 8. Landscape                            |
| 3. Housing                             | 9. Biodiversity                         |
| 4. Energy                              | 10. Economy and employment              |
| 5. Travel, air quality, climate change | 11. Historic environment                |
| 6. Soil and land                       | 12. Green Belt                          |
|  | 13. Communities and settlements         |

The impact of each plan policy or site on each sustainability topic was assessed, using the categories shown at Table 5.

**Table 5. Categories of impact significance: compared to the current situation...**

--	Major negative impact	+	Minor positive impact
-	Minor negative impact	++	Major positive impact
?	Uncertain or unknown impact	0	Neutral impact
+/-	Impact is both positive and negative		

## Consulting on the Scoping Report

A 'Scoping Report' with a draft (full) version of the above information was consulted on for 5 weeks in summer 2015. 46 comments were received. This report has taken those comments into account.

## 5. Appraisal of the plan objectives

The Local Plan originally had eight objectives. These were appraised using the SA framework discussed above. As a result of the appraisal, one plan objective was deleted and five new objectives were added. The new objectives cover topics that were not previously in the plan objectives: green infrastructure, the historic environment, healthy lifestyles, sustainable travel patterns, and water quality and flooding. The new set of objectives has overall positive sustainability effects.

## 6. Development and appraisal of alternatives

A key role of SA is to explain why the plan looks the way it does, and what options (also known as alternatives) to the plan have been considered. The plan considered the following alternatives:

**Amount of housing:** A study of 2016 suggested that the district's objectively assessed housing need was 254 dwellings per year. A 2017 study suggested that it was 300 dwellings per year. A study of September 2018, based on a new consistent national methodology, suggests that it is 276 homes per year or 5,520 homes over the 20 year plan period. This is what the plan must deliver.

**Brownfield v. greenfield land:** Since 2010, almost all development in the district has been on previously developed ('brownfield') land. This is a sustainable approach because it protects green areas, reduces the need to travel, and provides new homes near existing services and infrastructure. However, there is not enough brownfield land in the district to provide for 5,520 homes. More than half of the new homes will need to be built on greenfield land.

The plan aims to put as much development as possible on brownfield sites, which are mostly in Kidderminster and Stourport. Alternatives for the remaining greenfield development included:

- An urban extension to the north east of Kidderminster
- An urban extension to the east or south east of Kidderminster
- Greenfield and Green Belt land around Stourport
- Greenfield and Green Belt land around Bewdley
- Development of the villages and settlements in the district's rural north east
- Development of the villages and settlements in the district's rural north west

These options generally had neutral or uncertain impacts, with negative impacts on heritage, soil and the Green Belt. In practice, the final plan combines all of the alternatives.



**Housing sites in each larger town:** Each of the towns was studied to find out how much housing it could accommodate and where.

In *Kidderminster*, about 820 homes would fit on brownfield sites. Homes England owns Lea Castle, and in 2017 applied for up to 600 homes plus employment uses. More dwellings (about 1400) on a larger site at Lea Castle would allow the site to become a stand-alone community with a school and other services. The alternative would be for a smaller Lea Castle site to rely on existing facilities in Cookley or Kidderminster.

Other large greenfield sites to the east of Kidderminster would have good access to the train station and town centre. However the sites at Spennells host a rare bird and an important woodland habitat. A proposal to develop a relief road to the east of Kidderminster was criticised by the public, would be very expensive, and has not been supported by the county highways department, and so has not been taken forward. The sites between the A456 and A448 face fewer ecological constraints, and have slightly better access to the town centre and train station. As such, these are preferred over Spennells sites.

In *Stourport*, about 600 homes would fit on brownfield land. Development on smaller sites would work, but larger scale development would overload the transport infrastructure. The Pearl Lane site (AKR/14) has been allocated for development in the Local Plan, but any further large scale development on land on the Areley Kings side of the river would be inappropriate because of constrained school capacity, the river crossing is already congested and would get worse with large new development, and additional traffic would exacerbate air pollution issues in the town centre. There is also relatively limited access to employment sites on the west side of the river.

*Bewdley* needs some development but this should not overdevelop the town's heritage or landscape. The Stourport Road Triangle site and land at Catchem's End are sustainable sites with good access to services and facilities. All land in Bewdley is in a drinking water protected/safeguarded zone.

**Specific development sites:** Possible development sites were identified through two 'calls for sites' and other studies. In total, 151 sites were considered for development. Each site was analysed using a consistent format. The sites included in the plan were chosen for many reasons, including their location (town centre or edge of town rather than in the middle of the countryside), constraints such as Green Belt or nature conservation designations, deliverability (would landowners actually apply for planning permission), and whether redeveloping them would improve the neighbourhood. 83 sites were chosen for development. The plan states what is expected from development at each site. The SA process led to several sites being rejected because of their sustainability impacts.

## **7. Appraisal of the proposed plan**

Near the end of the plan-making process, the sustainability impacts of the proposed plan policies and allocated sites were appraised again, using the SA framework from Section 4. Table 6 summarises the impacts of the plan policies, and Table 7 summarises the impacts of the allocated sites. The two tables use slightly different

SA criteria because more detailed information is known about the sites than the policies. Also issues of health and energy are the same for all sites, so those issues are not appraised for sites. Some of the site appraisals were changed in Summer 2019 where there was new information. Table 8 summarises the overall impacts of the plan.

**Table 6. Impacts of the Wyre Forest District Local Plan policies**

Policy	1. Health	2. Services	3. Housing	4. Energy	5. Transport, air	6. Soil, land	7. Water	8. Landscape	9. Biodiversity	10. Economy	11. Heritage	12. Green Belt	13. Communities
5A	Sustainable Development	?	+		?	?	?	?	?	+	?	?	
6A	Development needs 2016–2036	+	?	++	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	0?
6B	Locating new development		0	+	+	0		0		+		0	+
6C	Kidderminster town as centre		+		?					++			?
6E	Role of Stourport and Bewdley	+	+	+	+					+	+	-	
6F/36	Role of villages and rural areas		0	?	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7A	Strategic Green Belt Review		+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	0
7B	Reserved housing sites in G Belt			+	+	-	-	-	-		-	-	0
8A	Housing density and mix	+	?	++	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	0?
8B	Affordable housing provision	+-		+-	+					+			+
8C	Addressing rural housing needs		+	+	-	-?	-?	?	-?	+	-?	-	+
8D	Self build and custom housing			+									+
8E	Housing for older people etc.	?		?									?
8F	Gypsy & Traveller site provision			?									
8G	Site provision for travel. show.	0		0				0	0			0	
9	Health and wellbeing	+	0	+	0	+							0
10A	Diverse local economy	+			+	-?	-?	-?	-?	++	-?	-?	+
10B	Town centre development		+	0	0			?		+			
10C	Sustainable tourism		+		-?	0	0	0	0	+	0	?	
11A	Quality design & distinctiveness							0			0		0
11B	Historic environment							0			0		0
11C	Landscape character							+			+		+
11D	Protecting & enhancing biodiver.	+		-		+	+	+	+	-		+	+
11E	Protecting & enhancing geologic.					0		0	0				
11F	Regenerating the waterways	+						+			+		+
12	Strategic infrastructure	0	0	0						0			
13	Transport and accessibility	0	0		0					0			
14	Strategic green infrastructure	+		-	?	+	0	0	0	0	-		0
15A	Water conservation & efficiency	?		0			+		0	+			
15B	Sewerage & water quality	0	0	0			0		0	0			
15C	Flood risk management	0	0	+-			+		0	+-			
15D	Sustainable Drainage Systems	0	0	+-			+		0	+-			
16A	Pollution and land instability	0	+-	+-		0	0		0	+-			
16B	Minerals	?		+	0	+	0	0	0	+	0		
16C	Waste		+		+			0					
18A	Financial viability			+									+
18B	Residential infill development		0	+	0	0	+-		+-	+-	0?	0	+-
18C	Flat conversions	?		+	0	+							?
18D	Residential caravans & mobile	+-		+-	+								?
19	Site standards for Gypsies etc.	0	0	+				0					
20A	Community facilities	0	+		0						0		0
20B	Open space	+			0	0	0	+	0				0

Policy		1. Health	2. Services	3. Housing	4. Energy	5. Transport, air	6. Soil, land	7. Water	8. Landscape	9. Biodiversity	10. Economy	11. Heritage	12. Green Belt	13. Communities
20C	Provision for open space etc.	+				0	0	0	+	0		+		+
21A	Urban employment land	+				0	-	-	-	-	++	-		+
21B	Rural employment					?	0	0	-	0	+	0	-	+
21C	Live work units & homeworking					+	0	0	0	0	+			+
21D	Offices					0	0	0	0	0	+	0		
22A	Town centre development		+	0		0			?		+			
22B	Out of town development		0			0			0		0			0
22C	Change of use from retail to alt.		0			0								0
22D	Local shops		+			+								+
22E	Specialist retailing		?			?			0				0	+
22F	Food and drink retailing		?											0
22G	Hot food takeaways	0	?											0
23A	Support major tourist attraction		+			-			0	0	+	0	0	
23B	Supporting tourist attractions		+			-?	0	0	0	0	+	0	?	
23C	Tourist accommodation			0		?	0	0	0	0	+		?	
24A	Telecommunicat. & broadband		+			+			-		+			
24B	Renewable & low carbon energy	+		-	++		-?		-?	-?	+	0?		+
25	Safeguarding the Green Belt		+/-	+/-		+	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	++	0
26	Safeguarding the historic environ								0			0		0
27A	Quality design & local distinctive.	0	0						0			0		0
27B	Design of extensions & alteration								0			0		0
27C	Landscaping & boundary treatm	0						?	+	?				+
27D	Advertisements	0							0					
27E	Wyre Forest waterways	+				0		0	+	0		0		0
28A	Reuse & adaptation of rural build			0		-	0	0	-	0	+	0	-	+
28B	Chalets, caravans, mobile home			0		0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
28C	Equestrian development								0	0			0	
28D	Agricultural land quality						0	0			?			
31/6D	Lea Castle Village	+	+	++	0	+/-	-	0?	+/-	+	+	-?	-	+/-
32/6D	Kidderminster Eastern Extension	+	+	++	0	+/-	-	0?	+/-	+	+	-?	-	+/-

**Table 7. Impacts of the Wyre Forest District Local Plan site allocations\***

**Table 6.2 Sustainability impacts of the Wyre Forest District Local Plan site allocations**

Site		Local services	Housing	Travel	Soil & land	Water & flooding	Landscape	Biodiversity	Employment	Historic	Green Belt	Community
<b>Kidderminster Town (Policy 30)</b>												
AS/1	Comberton Place	+	?	+	?	?	+	+	?	-	0	+
AS/3	Chester Road SSS	+	+	-	?	?	+	+	0	0?	0	+
AS/5	Victoria Sports Ground	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	0	0?	0	+
AS/6	Lea St School	+	+	+/-	+	0	-	0	0	-	0	+
AS/20	N of Bernie C. Walk	0	+	0	-	-	-	-	0	0?	0	+
BHS/2	Bromsgrove St	+	?	+/-	+	-	+	+	0	-	0	+
BHS/10	Frank Stone building	+	?	+/-	+	-	-	+	0	-	0	+
BHS/11	Green St Depot	+	?	+	+	-	0	-	?	-	0	+
BHS/16	Timber Yard Park Lane	+	?	+	+	-	+	-	?	-	0	+
BHS/17	Rock Works	+	?	+	+	-	+	-	?	-	0	+
BHS/18	Blakebrook School	+	+	+	+	-	0	-	0	-	0	+/-

Site		Local services	Housing	Travel	Soil & land	Water & flooding	Landscape	Biodiversity	Employment	Historic	Green Belt	Community
BHS/38	Kidderminster Fire Station	+	?	+	+	-	-	-	?	--	0	+
BHS/39	Boucher Building	+	?	+/-	+	-	+	-	?	--	0	+
BW/1	Churchfields	+	?	-	+	0	+/-	+/-	?	--	0	+
BW/2	Limekiln Bridge	+	?	-	+?	0	+	+/-	?	--	0	+
BW/3	Sladen School	+	+	+	0	0	+	-	0	0?	0	+
BW/4	Stourbridge Road ADR	0	+	0	-	0	-	--	0	0	-	0
FHN/11	BT building Mill Street	+	+	+	+?	--	+	-	0	-	0	+
FPH/5	Ambulance Station	+	+	+	+	-	+	+/-	0	0	0	+
FPH/8	SDF and adjacent land	+	0	+	?	0	-	--	+	0	0	+
FPH/10	British Sugar Phase 2	+	?	+	+?	0	0	+/-	?	-	0	+
FPH/15	Severn Gr shops rifle range	+	?	+	+	0	+	-	?	0	0	+
FPH/18	Naylors Field Sutton Park Ri	+	+	+	-	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
FPH/19	164/5 Sutton Park Road	+	+	+	0	-	-	-	0	0	0	+/-
FPH/23	British Sugar Phase 1 remai	+	0	+	+?	?	0	-	+	0	0	+
FPH/24	Romwire Site	0	0	+	+?	--	0	-	+	0	0	+
FPH/27	Adj Easter Park, Worcester	0	0	+	-	?	0	0	+	0	-	+
FPH/28	Hoobrook Site	+	0	0	+?	0	+	-	+	0?	0	+
FPH/29	VOSA Worcester Road	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	0?	0	+
LI/10	Land r/o Zortech Avenue	0	0	+	-	?	+	-	+	0	-	0
LI/12	Frmr Burlish Golf Clubhouse	+	+	+	+	?	+	-	0	0?	-	0
LI/13	Land off Zortech Avenue	+	0	+	-	0	-	--	+	0	-	0
MI/26	Ratio Park, Finepoint	+	0	+	-	-	+	-	+	0	0	+
MI/34	Oakleaf, Finepoint	0	0	+	-	0	0	0	+	0	0	+
OC/11	Stourminster School	0	+	+	+	-?	-	-?	0	0	0	0
WAKF/3	Land at Low Habberley	-	++	-	-	-	-	--	0	0	-	0
WFR/WC/18	Sion Hill School	+	+	+	+	0	?	-	0	0	-	+
<b>Lea Castle Village (Policy 31)</b>												
WFR/WC/15	Lea Castle Hospital	0	++	0	?	-	0	-	0	-	-	0
WFR/WC/32	Lea Castle East A451	-	+	0	-	0	--	-	0	-	-	-
WFR/WC/33	Lea Castle West A449	0	?	0	-	?	-	-	0	-	-	0
WFR/WC/34	Lea Castle North Axbr Ln	-	+	-	-	?	--	0?	0	0?	-	-
<b>Kidderminster Eastern Extension (Policy 32)</b>												
OC/5	Husum Way	0	+	+	-	-	-	-?	0	-	-	0
OC/6	r/o Offmore	+	+	+	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	0
OC/12	Comberton Lodge	0	+	0	+	--	0	--	0	0	-	0
OC/13	Land at Stone Hill North	0	++	0	--	--	-	--	0	0?	-	0
<b>Stourport-on-Severn (Policy 33)</b>												
AKR/2	Cheapside	+	?	+/-	+?	--?	0	-	?	--	0	+
AKR/7	Swan Hotel/Working Mens C	+	?	+/-	+	-	+	0	?	-	0	+
AKR/10	Queens Road shops	+	?	+	+	-	0	0	?	0	0	+/-
AKR/14	Pearl Lane	0	+	+	-	-	-	0	0	-	0	0
AKR/20	Carpets of Worth	+	+	+/-	+?	-	+	+/-	0	-	0	+
LI/11	W of former school, Conisdon	+	+	+	-	-	-/+	0	0	0	-	0
MI/1	County Buildings	+	+	+/-	+	0	+	0	0	-	0	+
MI/3	Parsons Chain	+	?	+/-	+?	-/	0	--	?	-	0	+
MI/5	Baldwin Road	+	+	+/-	+	--	+	-	0	--	0	+
MI/6	Steatite Way	+	?	+	+	?	+	0	0	0	0	+
MI/7	Worcester Rd Car Sales, S	0	?	-	+?	0	+	-	0	0	0	+
MI/10	Four Acres ADR	0	+	-	+	-	+	--	0	0?	0	+
MI/11	3 Sandy Lane Titton	-	+	-	+	0	0	--	0	0?	0	+
MI/24	Adj. Rock Tavern Wilden Ln	+	+	+	-	0	0	-	0	0	-	+
MI/36	Firs Yard Wilden Lane	0	0	0	+	--	-	--	0	?	-	-
MI/38	School site Conisdon Cres	+	+	+	0	?	0	0	0	0	-	0
<b>Bewdley (Policy 34)</b>												
BR/BE/1	Bewdley Fire Station	+	+	+/-	?	--	-	-	0	--	0	-
WA/BE/1	Stourport Road triangle	0	+	+	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-

Site		Local services	Housing	Travel	Soil & land	Water & flooding	Landscape	Biodiversity	Employment	Historic	Green Belt	Community
WA/BE/3	Catchem's End	0	+	+	-	?	+	-	0	--	-	+
WA/BE/5	Land S of Habberley Road	0	+	+	-	-	0	-?	0	0	-	0
<b>Previously developed sites in the Green Belt (Policy 35)</b>												
	Rushock Trading Estate	Continuation of existing planning policies on these sites										
	West Midlands Safari Park	Continuation of existing planning policies on these sites										
WFR/ST/9	Cursley Distribution Park	-	?	-	0	-	0	0	0	-	0	-
<b>Villages and rural areas (Policy 36)</b>												
BR/RO/2	Lem Hill Nurseries	0	+	-	0	?	?	-	0	0	0	-
BR/RO/21	Alton Nurseries	-	+	0	+	0	?	-	0	0	0	-
WA/UA/1	Bellmans Cross Shatterford	-	+	-	+/-	0	-	-	0	-?	-	-
WA/UA/4	Allotments Upper Arley	+	+	+	-	0	-	-	0	--	-	-
WA/UA/6	Red Lion Ct, Bridgnorth Rd	-	+	-	+	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
WFR/CB/2	Station Yard Blakedown	+	+	+	+?	0	0	?	0	-	0	-?
WFR/CB/3	Land off Station Dr, Blakedo.	+	+	+	-	0	-	-?	0	-	-	0
WFR/CC/8	Fold Farm Chaddesley Corb	+	+	0	-	0	-	0	0	-	-	-
WFR/WC/22	Lowe Lane Fairfield ADR*	0	?	+	-	?	-	0	0	-	0	0
WFR/WC/36	Rock Tavern car p Caunsall	0	+	+	+	-	0	0	0	-	-	+
WFR/WC/37	Land at Caunsall Road	0	+	0	-	0	-	0	0	-	-	0
<b>Reserved (Policy 7B)</b>												
WFR/WC/10	Kimberlee Avenue ADR	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-
WFR/WC/12	Lawnswood Cookley	+	+	+	-	?	-	-	0	-	-	-
WFR/WC/22	Lowe Lane Fairfield ADR	0	?	+	-	?	-	0	0	-	0	0
WFR/WC/23	Hayes Road ADR	+	+	+	-	0	-	-	0	0	0	0
MI/21	Wilden Top ADR	-	+	-	-	0	--	-	0	-	-	-

\* These impacts do not consider the impact mitigation measures of Chapters 30-36 of the plan

**Table 8. Overall sustainability impacts of the Wyre Forest Local Plan**

1. Health	+	The plan supports healthy active lifestyles. It aims to deliver green infrastructure, and provide housing and employment sites near existing services. This encourages walking and cycling, and reduces the use of cars which cause air pollution. The policies on open spaces and sports pitches will help to reduce obesity.
2. Services	0	The plan focuses development on the existing towns – especially Kidderminster - which helps to ensure that services will be available to the new residents. The large new sites at Lea Castle and east Kidderminster will provide new primary schools and other services. Only a few of the housing sites in rural areas have poor access to services: they have been included because of the strong need for rural housing.
3. Housing	++	The plan's delivery of at least 5,520 new dwellings will have significant benefits for housing. It will help to provide for the district's objectively assessed housing need, including affordable and specialist housing. The plan seeks to ensure that there is a mix of dwelling type for both market and affordable dwellings to meet the need within the district. It also proposes one new site for travelling showpeople.
4. Energy	+/-	The plan aims to minimise the need to use energy through good design, and to increase the production of renewable energy. It also aims to minimise the need to travel by private car, so

		reducing energy use. Overall the plan is likely to reduce per person energy use but, because of the increase in the population, it is unlikely to reduce overall energy use.
5. Transport, air	+/-	The plan promotes walking, cycling and the use of public transport. Most of the new development is in or near Kidderminster. Few of the development sites are in or near air quality management areas. Again, the plan is likely to reduce per person car use, but not overall car use because of the increase in population.
6. Soil, land	-	Where possible, the plan uses previously developed land for housing and employment sites. Using previously developed land means that less greenfield land is needed for development, less agricultural land is built on, and more of the district remains rural. Still, the plan proposes the development of 33 greenfield sites totalling 202ha. More than half of the greenfield land area is at Kidderminster East and Lea Castle.
7. Water	+/-	The plan aims to provide enough infrastructure to protect water quality and water resources from the impact of new development. It also aims to reduce flooding. Still, 12 sites are likely to have flood-related constraints or problems.
8. Landscape	+/-	The plan policies promote good design and landscaping. Development of some of the district's brownfield sites could improve the way they look. However, seven of the development sites are likely to have significant landscape impacts, including the large Lea Castle sites.
9. Biodiversity	+/-	The plan policies on green infrastructure, reducing the need to travel, and drainage will help to protect existing biodiversity, and the plan also aims to improve biodiversity. However ten development sites are near or on nature conservation sites.
10. Economy/ employment	++	The plan supports a range of types of employment, including rural employment, high quality offices, retail, live-work, small firms, tourism and industrial. It provides 35ha of employment land: this is enough land for existing businesses to expand and to encourage new business into the District.
11. Heritage/ historic	?	The plan aims to protect and make good use of heritage assets. This also helps to protect community identities. Thirteen of the allocated sites could have a significant impact on heritage assets. Some developments could help to improve the areas if they are sensitively designed.
12. Green Belt	+/-	The plan tries to balance the protection of the Green Belt and the provision of enough land for development. It provides for 23 Green Belt sites totalling 246ha, or 2.1% of the Green Belt. Of this, the Lea Castle sites account for 120ha, and the Eastern Extension for 79ha. This approach will help to prevent speculative development in less sustainable locations.
13. Communities	+	The plan's policies on the individual towns and communities in the district aim to maintain and enhance the identities of these communities. The plan provides most of the new housing and employment sites in the district's larger settlements to avoid overwhelming any one location. The rural developments aim to

maintain the vitality of the towns.

## 8. Mitigation

Many of the plan policies avoid or minimise – they mitigate – the negative impacts of other policies. The mitigation policies include:

- For *health*: Policies 9 on health and wellbeing, 20B on open space, and 20C on provision of open space etc.
- For *transport and air*: Policies 13 on transport and accessibility, and 14 on strategic green infrastructure.
- For *soil and land*: Policy 11E on protecting and enhance geodiversity.
- For *water*: Policies 15A on water conservation, 15B on sewerage and water quality, 15C on flood risk, and 15D on sustainable drainage systems.
- For *heritage*: Policies 11B and 26 on the historic environment.
- For *landscape*: Policies 11C on landscape character, and 11A and 27A on quality design and distinctiveness.
- For *biodiversity*: Policies 11D on protecting and enhancing biodiversity, and 14 on strategic green infrastructure.
- For the *Green Belt*: Policy 25 on safeguarding the Green Belt.

Each of the larger site allocations also includes mitigation measures. These include:

- For *health*: Providing green infrastructure corridors and allotments
- For *transport and air*: Providing pedestrian and cycling routes
- For *soil and land*: Cleaning up polluted soil where necessary
- For *water*: Building homes outside the flood zone, providing good drainage
- For *heritage*: Keeping historically important buildings and views, designing new development to fit with listed buildings
- For *landscape*: Providing new landmarks and green areas
- For *biodiversity*: Protecting woodlands, water bodies and mature trees, carrying out bat and otter surveys, limiting access to sensitive sites
- For the *Green Belt*: Limiting building heights to those of existing buildings, planting trees on the boundaries of development sites.

The SA process led to some changes to policy wording to make the plan more sustainable.

## 9. Monitoring

The actual impacts of the plan will be monitored. Monitoring is likely to include:

- The population, by age group
- The number of homes built, including the number of affordable homes
- The number of homes built in the Green Belt and on greenfield sites
- The amount of employment land developed
- The number and extent of Air Quality Management Areas
- The condition of (nature conservation) Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Where and how people travel to work
- Per person use of energy and water
- Areas of deprivation.



## **10. Consultation and next steps**

This SA Report is available for comments alongside the pre-submission Wyre Forest Local Plan from 2 September to 14 October 2019. All responses should use the consultation response forms at [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/localplanreview](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/localplanreview).

The Local Plan will be changed in response to comments. The plan and an updated SA report will then be submitted for Examination in Public. Any changes suggested by the Examiner will be consulted on. The Local Plan will probably be adopted in 2020.