

**The Birmingham Development Plan  
Sustainability Appraisal  
Post Adoption Statement**

**January 2017**

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## **1. Introduction**

1. This document is the Sustainability Appraisal Post Adoption Statement for the Birmingham Development Plan (BDP) which was adopted on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 by Birmingham City Council.
2. The BDP forms part of the statutory development plan for Birmingham and sets out a spatial vision and a strategy for the sustainable growth of the city over the period 2011- 2030. Td [(per)-6(i)-9(od h.69

- ii. action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with regulation 13(4), have been taken into account; (Section 4, Appendix B of this Statement)
- how the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account;
- the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; (Section 5 of this Statement) and
- the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme (regulation 16) (Section 6 of this Statement).

**2. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Birmingham Development Plan**

1. Sustainability Appraisal entails the assessment of the performance of a plan or programme against a series of sustainability objectives to determine whether there are likely to be significant environmental, social or economic effects.
2. The sustainability objectives were developed as part of the Scoping Stage of the Sustainability Appraisal taking into account the following matters:
  - a. The objectives of other plans and programmes at local, national and international scales.
  - b. The environmental, social and economic characteristics of Birmingham and its regional context.
  - c. The key environmental issues identified relating to Birmingham (Table 2.1).

**Table 2.1: Key Sustainability Issues Identified in Relation to the BDP**

SA Theme	SA Objectives	
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SA Theme	SA Objectives	Key sustainability issues
	<p>4. Energy Efficiency: Reduce overall energy use through energy efficiency.</p>	<p>Recent developments have shown evidence of energy efficiency, but the large number of old properties in the City will need</p>



SA Theme	SA Objectives	Key sustainability issues
	biodiversity, and promote local distinctiveness and sense of place.	environment, natural landscape, housing, health, biodiversity, culture, sport and recreation and crime.
	19. Social and Environmental Responsibility: Encourage corporate social and environmental responsibility, with local organisations and agencies leading by example.	Social and Environmental Responsibility is linked to issues related to equality, community involvement, learning and skills, economy and equality, waste reduction and minimisation.
	22. Community Involvement: Enable communities to influence the decisions that affect their neighbourhoods and quality of life.	Birmingham experiences varied election turnouts from constituency to constituency, typically ranging from a 45% in Ladywood, to 60% in Sutton Coldfield. The Sustainable Community Strategy indicates that in 2006, 40% of people agreed that they can influence decisions that affect their local area, an improvement of 22% from 2004. Community Involvement is linked to issues related to economy and equality, learning and skills, poverty, sense of place and housing.

23. Equality: Ensure easy and equitable access to services, facilities and opportunities, including jobs and learning.

Birmingham has a relatively youthful population composed of people from a wide variety of national, ethnic and religious backgrounds. There are inequalities relating to access to services such as to jobs and health services, which is partly to do with geographical location, but also related to

SA Theme	SA Objectives	Key sustainability issues
		sustainable design, construction and maintenance.

- The sustainability appraisal framework for the BDP (Table 2.2) considers each of the topics set out in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004), ensuring that the full range of considerations are considered as part of the preparation of the BDP.
- The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England (formerly English Heritage) were consulted as part of the development of the sustainability appraisal framework in the Scoping Report. This ensured that the sustainability framework addressed the key interests of other organisations.

**Table 2.2: The Sustainability Appraisal Framework Used to Assess the BDP**

SA Theme	SA Objectives	Guide Questions for the SA Will the Birmingham Development Plan help to...	Principal SEA Directive Topic
1. Natural resources and waste	<b>1. Resource Use:</b> Use natural resources such as water and minerals efficiently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate energy efficiency measures into new land use and developments, redevelopment and refurbishment?</li> <li>Promote and support resource efficient technologies?</li> <li>Reward efficient resource use?</li> <li>Reduce water consumption?</li> </ul>	Material assets
	<b>7. Waste Reduction and Minimisation:</b> Encourage and enable waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Divert resources away from the waste stream, including the use of recycled materials where possible?</li> </ul>	Material assets
	<b>8. Efficient use of land:</b> Encourage land use and development that optimises the use of previously developed land and buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the efficient use of land and minimise the loss of greenfield land?</li> <li>Value and protect the biodiversity/geodiversity (of previously developed land and buildings)?</li> </ul>	Material assets
2. CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	<b>2. Sustainable design, construction and maintenance:</b> Promote and ensure high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design, construction and maintenance of buildings, where possible exceeding the requirements of the Building Regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce dependence on fossil fuels?</li> <li>Increase the number of buildings which meet recognised standards for sustainability?</li> </ul>	Material assets
	<b>3. Renewable Energy:</b> Encourage development of alternative and renewable resources.		

SA Theme	SA Objectives	Guide Questions for the SA Will the Birmingham Development Plan help to...	Principal SEA Directive Topic
	<b>5. Sustainable Transport:</b> Increase use of public transport, cycling and walking as a proportion of total travel and ensure development is primarily focused in the major urban areas, making efficient use of existing physical transport infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce road traffic congestion, pollution and accidents?</li> <li>• Encourage walking and cycling?</li> <li>• Reduce travel by private car?</li> <li>• Promote accessibility for disabled people?</li> </ul>	Material assets
	<b>6. Reduce the need to travel:</b> Ensure development reduces the need to travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce traffic volumes?</li> <li>• Reduce average journey length?</li> </ul>	Material assets
	<b>9. Reduce climate change:</b> Minimise Birmingham's contribution to the causes of climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing energy consumption?</li> </ul>	Climatic factors

3. Clima

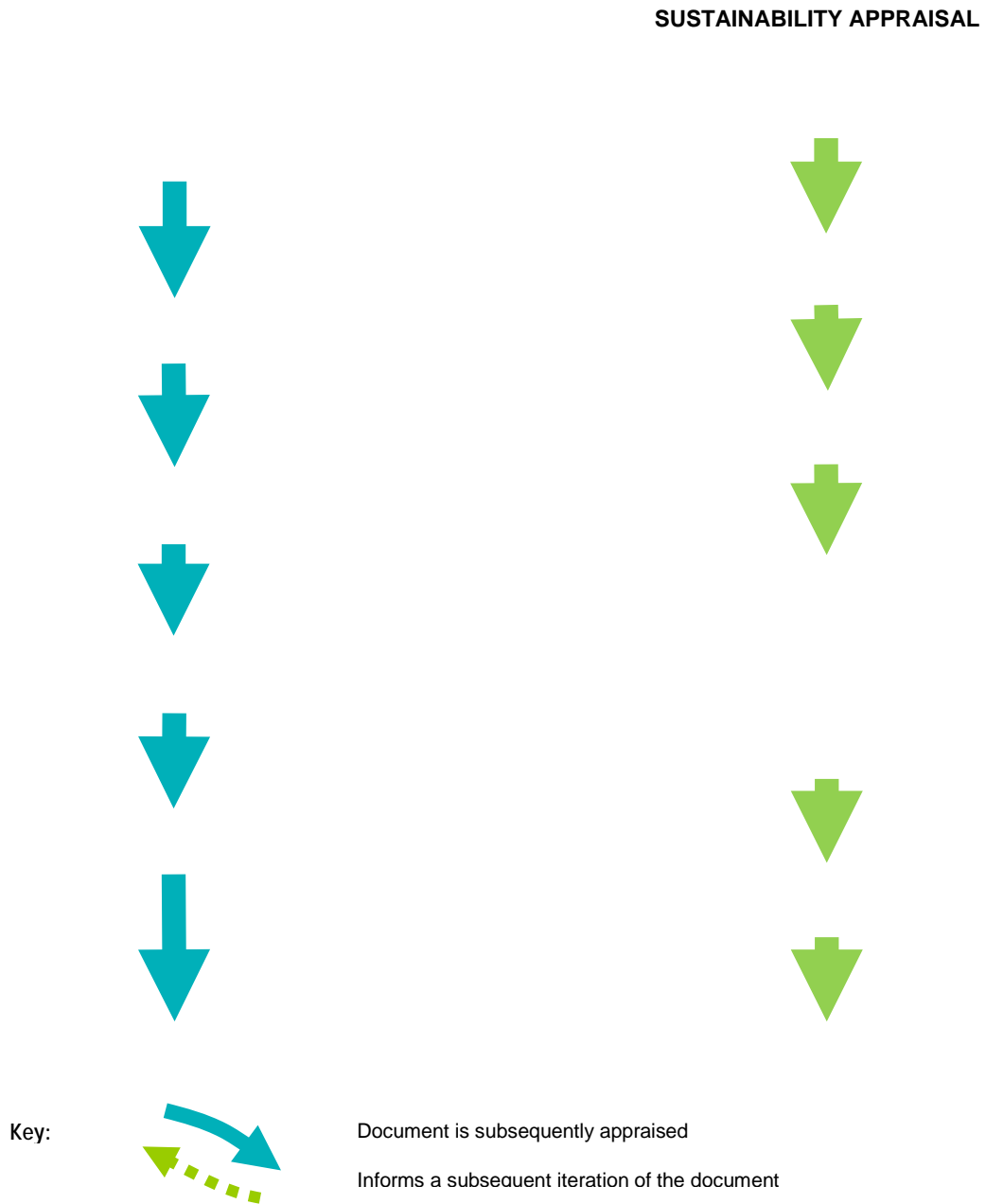






3. **Appendix B** sets out the main points raised by consultees and shows how these were responded to as part of the evolution of the BDP and the Sustainability Appraisal.

**Figure 4.1: The Evolution of the BDP and its Sustainability Appraisal**



## **5. Reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted, in light of other alternatives dealt with**

1. The BDP is a growth and regeneration-led strategy focusing on the transformation of a number of growth areas throughout the City, complemented by strategic allocations which meet specific needs. The housing need of approximately 89,000 dwellings over the plan period is to be delivered through provision for 51,000 dwellings within the City boundary and the remainder through agreement with adjacent authorities. Employment growth, retail development and other supporting uses are also to be provided for.
2. Proposed development sites have come forward through the periodically reviewed SHLAA<sup>2</sup>, have existing planning permission or are allocations, and are of varying character, being principally brownfield but also using greenfield land to meet specific needs. Green Belt options have been tested in the Options Consultation (October 2012) and again through the Green Belt Assessment (October 2013) which has been prepared in light of additional survey work to test their relative merits, as well as analysis in the Sustainability Appraisal. Only those sites within Birmingham's administrative boundary are appraised, notwithstanding the likely need to provide for additional development in the wider City Region to accommodate Birmingham's growth needs.
3. The approach to the distribution of new development seeks to provide a reasonable balance between accommodating growth within the existing urban area (accounting for the majority of the housing and employment requirement), and providing for additional growth requirements through the allocation of greenfield land, using the principles of a sustainable urban extension to guide residential-led development, whilst also allocating land for employment purposes.
4. The Sustainable Appraisal of Options<sup>3</sup> concluded that: "*The various effects associated with*



13. Inevitably, additional development compromises some sustainability objectives, notably atmospheric and noise pollution which are typically associated with traffic generation. However, any disbenefits are outweighed by re-use of brownfield land in the case of the majority of proposed sites, the aspirations for the creation of sustainable neighbourhoods as







SA Theme	SA Objectives	Likely Significant Effects	Recommended Monitoring Indicator	Applicable BDP/AMR Indicator
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**13. Natural Landscape:** Value, protect, enhance and restore Birmingham's natural landscape.

Landscape: New development is likely have an impact on the City's landscapes both within the existing urban area (parks, gardens and other greenspace) and outside of urban area where greenfield development is required. Within the main urban area the impacts could relate to development pressures on landscape features including

**SA Theme**

**SA Objectives**

**Likely Significant Effects**

**Recommended Monitoring Indicator**

SA Theme	SA Objectives	Likely Significant Effects	Recommended Monitoring Indicator	Applicable BDP/AMR Indicator
		neighbourhoods and quality of life.		
	<b>23. Equality:</b> Ensure easy and equitable access to services, facilities and opportunities, including jobs and learning.	See above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of major developments meeting specified accessibility standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TP45</li> </ul>
	<b>24. Poverty:</b> Address poverty and disadvantage, taking into account the particular difficulties of those facing multiple disadvantage.	See above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IMD</li> <li>Employment levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reported in AMR</li> </ul>
	<b>25. Health:</b> Improve health and reduce health inequalities by encouraging and enabling healthy active lifestyles and protecting health.	See above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wards falling within the lowest 20% IMD Health Domain.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reported in AMR</li> </ul>
	<b>26. Crime:</b> Reduce crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour.	See above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recorded crime levels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reported in AMR</li> </ul>
	<b>28. Culture/Sport/Recreation:</b> Improve opportunities to participate in diverse cultural, sporting and recreational activities.	See above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of population within distance thresholds to open space</li> <li>Open space/playing fields/allotments/sports facilities lost to development</li> <li>New open space/playing fields/allotments/sports facilities created</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TP9</li> </ul>
8. Housing	<b>27. Housing:</b> Provide decent and affordable housing for all, of the right quantity, type, tenure and affordability to meet local needs.	The key effects relate to whether or not the Birmingham Development Plan will provide enough housing, in the right locations and of the right type. There will need to be a suitable supply of both market and affordable housing to meet the needs of existing and new residents. The availability of housing also has significant linkages with economic growth, in terms of providing local housing to house the labour force. A failure to provide sufficient housing within the City to support economic growth could lead to unsustainable travel patterns with high levels of 'in-commuting' and undermining self-containment or, as a worst case, the decline of the City's economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual net dwelling completions</li> <li>Completions by dwelling types (apartment/house)</li> <li>Affordable housing completions by tenure and delivery mechanism</li> <li>Net/gross completions within housing regeneration areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TP29</li> <li>TP30</li> <li>TP31</li> <li>TP32</li> </ul>

## Appendix A: Recommendations made as part of the Sustainability Appraisals

### Recommendations from the Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report [Issues and Options] (November 2009) and the BCC response

Topic	Recommendations	BCC Response
<b>Spatial Vision</b>	Amend the spatial vision to more explicitly identify the need to deliver both adaptation to, and mitigation of, future climate change. This will help to substantiate the overarching context for responding to climate change.	The Vision contains the statement that: <i>“The City will have achieved high sustainability credentials with resilient, adaptive environments with all new developments built to high standards of design.”</i>

Topic	Recommendations	BCC Response
<b>Landscape capacity</b>	Consider landscape capacity within and on the edge of the City to accommodate new development.	Policies: PG3 Place making GA5 Langley Sustainable Urban Extension GA6 Peddimore
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Consider how biodiversity could be enhanced at a strategic level.	Policies: TP7 Green infrastructure network TP8 Biodiversity and geodiversity

Topic	Recommendation	BCC Response
	<p>Policy SP11 (GI Network) contributes positively to a number of objectives, however given that it is set within the Climate Change policy section within the Plan, it's role in delivering climate change benefits could be strengthened. Indeed, the supporting text only makes specific mention of climate change mitigation as the penultimate point in the list of GI benefits. The supporting text could be made stronger by setting out the benefits of GI in</p>	



Topic	Recommendation	BCC Response
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not clear on what basis the preferred policy options have been selected.

It is therefore recommended that a more detailed appraisal of the



Topic/BDP Section	Recommendation	BCC Response
	use), or can be mitigated through the implementation of policies throughout the plan (for example in relation to the promotion of sustainable neighbourhoods as part of housing growth).	

**Strategy**

No recommendations, apart from close monitoring of the impacts of policy implementation in order to ensure that this is effective and meeting the aspirations s (t)-10t2p11(t)5(s)4(f545TD [(par10(ht)-1)-11(np11(t)5(sg )15(



Topic/BDP Section	Recommendation	BCC Response
	enhanced through reference to the promotion of sustainable neighbourhoods.	
HOMES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS		

**TP26: Sustainable Neighbourhoods**

**TP27: The Location of New Housing**

**TP28: The Housing Trajectory**

Reference to Sustainable neighbourhoods in all related policies would be helpful in demonstrating an integrated approach to housing strategy across the City, anticipating future approaches to its spatial character. n



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Summary Issue	BCC Response
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on a comparable basis in order to determine the appropriate split of housing within and outside the city boundary. There is insufficient detail in respect

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