

Appendix A

Consultation Responses Received in Relation to the SA Scoping Report (March 2023)

A.1 A six-week consultation was carried out on the SA Scoping Report for the Draft Herefordshire (Regulation 18) Local Plan from 20th March 2023 until 24th April 2023.

A.2 A summary of the comments received and the response to these comments is set out below.

Natural England

Chapter 2 – Relevant Plans and Programmes

- Consideration should be given to the following plans and strategies as they relate to Herefordshire:
 - Green infrastructure strategies
 - Biodiversity plans
 - Rights of Way Improvement Plans
 - River basin management plans
 - AONB and National Park management plans
 - Relevant landscape plans and strategies.

Response/Action Taken

- These documents have been referenced at relevant parts of the baseline review (Chapter 3). They have also been added to the review of relevant plans, policies and programmes, where relevant (see Appendix B of this report).

Chapter 3 – Baseline information

- Annex A to the consultation response provides sources of local plan evidence relating to the natural environment.

Response/Action Taken

- Noted. Additional titles have been added to the review of relevant plans, policies and programmes (see Appendix B of this report).

SA Objective 1

- Support is given to the current objective: To mitigate climate change by actively reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is suggested that the objective be extended to cover climate change adaptation.

Response/Action Taken

- The comment is noted and SA Objective 1 has been amended from:
 - To mitigate climate change by actively reducing greenhouse gas emissions.To:
 - To mitigate climate change by actively reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to support climate adaptation.

SA Objective 10

- Support is given to the current objective: To improve air quality. The response suggests an expansion so that the objective can also cover air quality impacts on the natural environment, “particularly designated sites, many of which are over their critical loads and levels”.

Response/Action Taken

- SA Objective 10 is un-changed but additional text has been inserted to acknowledge that the SA objective is applicable to both urban and natural contexts in paragraph 7.3.2 of this report and in paragraph C110.
- It should also be noted that the impact of air quality on Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites will be investigated separately through the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and that the HRA findings will feed into the SA in relation to SA objective 10 where relevant.

SA Objective 11

- Support is given to SA Objective 11: To conserve and enhance Herefordshire’s biodiversity and geodiversity. The response suggests three indicators that could be used to support the objective, with these relating to the:
 - Number of planning approvals that generate any adverse impacts on sites of acknowledged biodiversity importance.
 - Percentage of major developments generating overall biodiversity enhancement.
 - Number of hectares of biodiversity habitat delivered through strategic site allocations.

Response/Action Taken

- The comment is helpful and the suggested indicators are noted. They have been suggested as possible monitoring indicators in Chapter 8 of this report.

SA Objective 12

- Support is given to the inclusion of SA Objective 12: To conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes.

Response/Action Taken

- The comment is welcomed; no action is considered necessary.

SA Objective 14

- Support is given to the focus of SA Objective 14: To manage and reduce flood risk from all sources and to protect the quality and quantity of water resources. However, the response expresses a preference for the objective to be split into two, with one focusing on flood risk and another focusing on water quality.

Response/Action Taken

- The comment is accepted and SA Objective 14 has been split into two parts:
 - SA Objective 14A: To manage and reduce flood risk from all sources.
 - SA Objective 14B: To protect the quality and quantity of water resources.

SA Objective 15

- Support is given to the inclusion of SA Objective 15: To support efficient use of resources, including land and minerals.

Response/Action Taken

- The comment is welcomed; no action is considered necessary.

Additional SA objective

- The suggestion is made for a further objective linked to Natural England's GI Framework and Standards.

Response/Action Taken

- Green Infrastructure (GI) is a cross-cutting theme that links to a number of the SA objectives. Examples include SA Objective 1, that relates to the mitigation of, and the adaptation of environments to climate change, and SA Objective 9, relating to the promotion of active travel. GI is also an important element of SA Objective 11 that seeks to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Notwithstanding these links, GI is already considered in the context of SA Objective 6 that seeks to “improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of residents and reduce health inequalities”. Specifically, the objective is supported by two sub-questions:
 - Will the policy/option improve access to range of high quality open spaces and green infrastructure that will promote health and well-being by connecting people with nature?
 - Will the policy/option avoid impacts on existing green infrastructure assets?

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- While the importance of Green Infrastructure is recognised, it is not considered that a stand-alone objective relating to GI is required.

Paragraph 2.19

- The identified potential of the Local Plan to help support the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change is supported. The plan is encouraged to facilitate the delivery of climate resilient places.

Response/Action Taken

- The text, which is now provided through paragraph 3.19, has been revised to recognise the importance for creating climate resilient places.

Text on biodiversity and geodiversity

- Support is given to the acknowledgement given to biodiversity net gain and to the pursuit of net gain more broadly. Scope for improving both the River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and River Clun (SAC) is identified.

Response/Action Taken

- Comments are welcomed; no action is considered necessary given the importance that the scoping report gives to these issues.

Environment Agency

Key Sustainability Issues

- Support is given to the acknowledgement of two key issues, namely:
 - The need to mitigate and adapt to climate change including protecting communities from extreme weather events
 - The associated risk of flooding' and 'need to protect and enhance water quality, in particular in the catchment of the River Wye.

Response/Action Taken

- Comments are welcomed; no action necessary.

SA Objective 14

- Support is given to the inclusion of SA Objective 14: To manage and reduce flood risk from all sources and to protect the quality and quantity of water resources. It is noted that flood risk can also be generated from groundwater and reservoir flooding. A suggestion is made that a further indicator could be added to the objective, with this focusing on water quality levels within the county's main watercourses.

Response/Action Taken

- The suggested points have been incorporated into the text in paragraph 3.64.

Climate change theme

- Reference is given to the direction provided via National Planning Policy Guidance on how climate change should be considered in planning decisions. Links are also made to the document 'Climate Change Allowances for Planning', that the Environment Agency published for the West Midlands in March 2023.

Response/Action Taken

- These additional texts have been inserted into the list of relevant plans, policies and programmes included in Appendix B.

Indicative Flood Risk Map

- It is pointed out that the indicative flood risk maps do not include climate change allowances and primarily shows potential flooding from main rivers. In addition, the flood risk maps do not show un-modelled or ordinary watercourses (catchments smaller than 3 km² are not represented). Accordingly, the Scoping Report acknowledges the limitations associated with the mapping data.

Response/Action Taken

- The point is accepted and the corresponding text in paragraph C152, which supports Figure 3.13 [now Figure C.13], has been updated to acknowledge the limitations associated with the mapping data.

Waste water and water quality

- Reference is made to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and to the duty bound direction to ensure all watercourses in the Plan area reach

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Good Ecological Status or Potential (GES/GEP) by 2027 or as amended. A link is made to the Catchment Data Explorer Tool, as provided by the Environment Agency. Support is given to inclusion of nutrient neutrality within the scope of SA objective 14. The importance of grey water recycling is also identified. Groundwater vulnerability is highlighted as a matter of concern, and a link is made to the guidance and mapping associated with the Environment Agency's Abstraction Licensing Strategies. Reference is also made to the Environment Agency's Groundwater Position Statements (formally Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice (GP3) guidance).

Response/Action Taken

- The text relating to waste water and water quality has been updated accordingly to capture the additional documents cited. The suggested documents have also been inserted into the list of relevant plans, policies and programmes included through Appendix B.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA)

- It is noted how the SA Scoping Report refers to an existing suite of evidence documents, including a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). The Environment Agency outline their expectation for this document to be updated and replaced as part of the review of the Local Plan. A revised Water Cycle Study is also identified as being necessary.

Response/Action Taken

- References to the need for an updated evidence base have been inserted as suggested. Both of the requested studies are being progressed as requested.

Historic England

Paragraph 2.27

- It is recommended that paragraph 2.27 be updated to recognise the role of the historic environment in the context of countryside character and the planning and management of valued landscapes.

Response/Action Taken

- The text, which is now in Chapter 3 of this report, has been updated as suggested.

Paragraph 2.29

- The inclusion of paragraph 2.29 is supported. It is recommended that a further sentence be added to state how heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource, with the assertion that harm against these resources should be wholly exceptional.

Response/Action Taken

- The text, which is now in Chapter 3 of this report, has been updated as suggested.

Paragraph 2.45

- Including the list of documents under paragraph 2.45 is supported, but the suggestion is made that the full list be inserted from Historic England's Good Practice Advice Notes and Historic Environment Advice Notes.

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Encouragement is also given to link with additional titles available from Historic England's website, including those associated with archaeology, water resource management and climate change.

Response/Action Taken

- Further titles have been inserted as suggested, although a weblink to the full suite of documents has also been provided.

Green text box after page 48

- Support is given to the emphasis provided through the text. It is suggested that consideration should be given to pursuing an approach similar to Heritage Impact Assessment, since this would help to ensure that harm to the historic environment is avoided/ mitigated.

Response/Action Taken

- The value that Heritage Impact Assessment can give to site planning and development is recognised. The text, which is included in the green box in Chapter 3 of this report, has therefore been revised to highlight the potential of the approach.

Paragraph 2.50

- The importance of considering the plans and development proposals of adjoining areas is identified, particularly in the context of considering cumulative impact.

Response/Action Taken

- The potential for cumulative impact can be identified in broad terms, but a thorough assessment will only be possible once the form of a development proposal is fully articulated.

Paragraph 3.87

- It is recommended that the phrase ‘registered historic parks and gardens’ be replaced with the phrase ‘registered parks and gardens’ and the phrase ‘scheduled ancient monuments’ be replaced with the phrase ‘scheduled monuments’. It is noted how reference should be given to non-designated heritage assets within the Council area and how the Local Plan can help to identify and protect these assets.

Response/Action Taken

- The text, which is now in Appendix C, has been updated as suggested.

Paragraph 3.93 to 3.97

- The inclusion of a section dedicated to the landscape is supported but it is felt that additional links can be made to the role of the historic environment in helping to shape these landscapes.

Response/Action Taken

- Links to the historic environment have been made in Appendix C as suggested.

Paragraph 4.4

- It is recommended that the text be revised to recognise the importance of the historic environment. Encouragement is also given for the text to be revised to ensure that appropriate consideration is given in assessment of development proposals with respect to protecting and enhancing the historic environment.

Response/Action Taken

- The text, now at paragraph 3.63, has been updated as suggested.

SA Objective 15

- Although the sentiments of the objective are supported, it is recommended that the objective be revised to ensure that it reflects the significance of heritage assets including their setting, as well as the wider historic environment and the relationships between assets and within landscapes. The response identifies how the appraisal questions should consider the relationship between heritage assets and the wider historic landscape, and consider the cumulative impact of development on a heritage asset/ group of assets/ heritage landscape etc.

Response/Action Taken

- The first two appraisal questions have been revised from:
 - Will the policy/option help to conserve and enhance Herefordshire's designated heritage assets, including their setting and their contribution to wider local character and distinctiveness?'
 - Will the policy/option help to conserve and enhance Herefordshire's non-designated heritage assets, including their setting and their contribution to wider local character and distinctiveness?

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- To these, as alternatives:
 - Will the policy/option allow for Herefordshire's designated heritage assets, and their settings, to either individually or cumulatively conserve and enhance the landscape and the character and distinctiveness of the local environment?'
 - Will the policy/option allow for Herefordshire's non-designated heritage assets, and their settings, to either individually or cumulatively conserve and enhance the landscape and the character and distinctiveness of the local environment?'

Natural Resource Wales

- No comments were received due to reported resource constraints.

Appendix B

Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

National plans and programmes (beyond the NPPF) of most relevance for the Local Plan

Climate change adaption and mitigation

B.1 The British energy security strategy (2022) sets out how the UK will enhance its energy security, setting out plans for future deployment of wind, new nuclear, solar and hydrogen, and for supporting the production of domestic oil and gas in the nearer term. The strategy builds on the Prime Minister's 'Ten point plan for a green industrial revolution', and the 'Net zero strategy'. Key aims and commitments include:

- New commitments to supercharge clean energy and accelerate deployment, which could see 95% of Great Britain's electricity set to be low carbon by 2030.
- Supporting over 40,000 more jobs in clean industries, totalling 480,000 jobs by 2030.
- Accelerated expansion of nuclear, wind, solar, hydrogen, oil and gas, including delivering the equivalent to one nuclear reactor a year instead of one a decade.

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- Offshore wind – Aim of providing up to 50GW by 2030, of which 5GW is planned to be from floating offshore wind in deeper seas. This is aimed to be underpinned by new planning reforms to cut the approval times for new offshore wind farms from 4 years to 1 year and an overall streamlining which will aim to reduce the time it takes for new projects to reach construction stages while improving the environment.
- Oil and gas – A licensing round for new North Sea oil and gas projects is planned to launch in Autumn, with a new taskforce providing bespoke support to new developments.
- Onshore wind – The Government plan to consult on developing partnerships with a limited number of supportive communities who wish to host new onshore wind infrastructure in return for guaranteed lower energy bills.
- Heat pump manufacturing – The Government aim to run a Heat Pump Investment Accelerator Competition in 2022 worth up to £30 million to make British heat pumps, with hopes to reduce demand for gas.

B.2 The Environment Act 2021 sets statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. Biodiversity elements in the Act include:

- Strengthened biodiversity duty. Both onsite and offsite enhancements must be maintained for at least 30 years after completion of a development.
- Biodiversity net gain to ensure developments deliver at least 10% increase in biodiversity.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies to support a Nature Recovery Network.
- Duty upon Local Authorities to consult on street tree felling.
- Strengthen woodland protection enforcement measures.
- Conservation Covenants.

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- Protected Site Strategies and Species Conservation Strategies to support the design and delivery of strategic approaches to deliver better outcomes for nature.
- Prohibit larger UK businesses from using commodities associated with wide-scale deforestation.
- Requires regulated businesses to establish a system of due diligence for each regulated commodity used in their supply chain, requires regulated businesses to report on their due diligence, introduces a due diligence enforcement system.

B.3 The Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021) - Sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet net zero targets by 2050. It sets out strategies to keep the UK on track with carbon budgets, outlines the National Determined Contribution (NDC) and sets out the vision for a decarbonised economy in 2050. Its focus includes:

- Policies and proposals for reducing emissions across the economy in key sectors (power, fuel supply and hydrogen, industry, heat and buildings, transport, natural gas and waste); and,
- Policies and proposals for supporting transition across the economy through innovation, green investment, green jobs, embedding net-zero in government, local climate action, empowering people and businesses, and international leadership and collaboration.

B.4 Department for Transport, Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge (2020) – Sets out the strategic priorities for a new Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP), to be published later in 2020, will set out in detail what government, business and society will need to do to deliver the significant emissions reduction needed across all modes of transport, putting us on a pathway to achieving carbon budgets and net zero emissions across every single mode of transport by 2050. This document acknowledges that while there have been recently published strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in individual transport modes, transport as a whole sector needs to go further and

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more quickly, therefore the TDP will take a coordinated, cross-modal approach to deliver the transport sector's contribution to both carbon budgets and net zero.

B.5 Defra, The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting: Making the country resilient to a changing climate (2018) – Sets out the strategy for adapting both to the climate change that is already evident, and that which we might see in the future.

B.6 The 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) - Sets out policy priorities with respect to responding to climate change, are using and managing land sustainably; and protecting and improving our global environment. Actions that will be taken as part of these two key areas are as follows:

- Using and managing land sustainably:
 - Take action to reduce the risk of harm from flooding and coastal erosion including greater use of natural flood management solutions.
- Protecting and improving our global environment:
 - Provide international leadership and lead by example in tackling climate change and protecting and improving international biodiversity.

B.7 The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting (2018) - Sets out visions for the following sectors:

- People and the Built Environment – “to promote the development of a healthy, equitable and resilient population, well placed to reduce the harmful health impacts of climate change...buildings and places (including built heritage) and the people who live and work in them are resilient and organisations in the built environment sector have an increased capacity to address the risks and make the most of the opportunities of a changing climate.

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- Infrastructure – *“an infrastructure network that is resilient to today’s natural hazards and prepared for the future changing climate”.*
- Natural Environment – *“the natural environment, with diverse and healthy ecosystems, is resilient to climate change, able to accommodate change and valued for the adaptation services it provides.”*
- Business and Industry – *“UK businesses are resilient to extreme weather and prepared for future risks and opportunities from climate change.”*
- Local Government – *“Local government plays a central in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risks and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate.*

B.8 HM Government, The Clean Growth Strategy (2017) – Sets out the approach of the government to secure growth of the national income while cutting greenhouse gas emissions. The key policies and proposals of the Strategy sit below a number of overarching principles: acceleration of clean growth including through recommendations for private and public investment to meet carbon budgets; providing support to improve business and industry energy efficiency; improving energy efficiency in the housing stock including through low carbon heating; accelerating the shift to low carbon transport; delivering clean, smart, flexible power; enhancing the benefits and value of our natural resources; leading in the public sector to meet emissions targets; and ensure Government leadership to drive clean growth.

B.9 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2017) - Sets out six priority areas needing urgent further action over the next five years. These include:

- flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure,
- health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures,
- shortages in public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry with impacts on freshwater ecology,

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- natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity,
- domestic and international food production and trade and
- new and emerging pests and diseases and invasive non-native species affecting people, plants and animals.

B.10 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) (2014) – Sets out a number of key planning objectives. It requires that local planning authorities help deliver sustainable development through measures including driving waste management up the waste hierarchy; ensuring that waste management is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns; and providing a framework in which communities can take more responsibility for their own waste.

B.11 Defra, Waste Management Plan for England (2013) – Sets out the measures for England to work towards a zero waste economy.

B.12 Defra and the Environment Agency, Understanding the risks, empowering communities, building resilience: The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2011) - Sets out the national framework for managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. It sets out the roles for risk management authorities and communities to help them understand their responsibilities. An update to the document (Draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England, 2019) was published for consultation up to July 2019.

B.13 The Energy Efficiency Strategy (2012) - Aims to realise the wider energy efficiency potential that is available in the UK economy by maximising the potential of existing dwellings by implementing 21st century energy management initiatives on 19th century homes.

B.14 The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National Strategy for Climate and Energy (2009) – Sets out a five-point plan to tackle climate change. The points are as follows: protecting the public from immediate risk, preparing for the future, limiting the severity of future climate change through a new international climate agreement, building a low carbon UK and supporting individuals, communities and businesses to play their part.

B.15 The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009) - Describes the ways in which the UK will tackle climate change by reducing CO₂ emissions through the generation of a renewable electricity, heat and transport technologies.

Health and well-being

B.16 National Model Design Code (2021) - The National Model Design Code sets a baseline standard of quality and practice which local planning authorities are expected to take into account when developing local design codes and guides and when determining planning applications, including the layout of new development, including street pattern; how landscaping should be approached; the factors to be considered when determining whether buildings are of sufficiently high quality; and the environmental performance of place and buildings, ensuring they contribute to net zero targets.

B.17 National Design Guide (2021) - Sets out the Government's priorities for well-designed places in the form of ten characteristics: context, identity, built form, movement, nature, public spaces, uses, homes and buildings, resources and lifespan.

B.18 Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care (2021) - Sets out the government's new plan for health and social care. It provides an overview of how this plan will tackle the elective backlog in the NHS and put the NHS on a sustainable footing. It sets out details of the plan for adult social care in England, including a cap on social care costs and how financial

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assistance will work for those without substantial assets. It covers wider support that the government will provide for the social care system, and how the government will improve the integration of health and social care. It explains the government's plan to introduce a new Health and Social Care Levy.

B.19 Using the planning system to promote healthy weight environments (2020), Addendum (2021)

- Provides a framework and starting point for local authorities to clearly set out in local planning guidance how best to achieve healthy weight environments based on local evidence and needs, by focusing on environments that enable healthier eating and help promote more physical activity as the default. The Addendum provides updates on the implications for planning for a healthier food environment, specifically on the hot food takeaways retail uses, and sets out recommended actions in light of changes to the Use Class Order (UCO) in England from 1 September 2020.

B.20 Covid-19 mental health and wellbeing recovery action plan (2021)

- Sets out the government's plan to prevent, mitigate and respond to the mental health impacts of the pandemic during 2021 and 2022. Its main objectives are to support the general population to take action and look after their own mental wellbeing, to take action to address factors which play a crucial role in shaping mental health and wellbeing outcomes, and to support services to meet the need for specialist support.

B.21 The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper (2020)

- Sets out the Government's actions to ensure residents in social housing are safe, listened to, live in good quality homes and have access to redress when things go wrong.

B.22 Planning for the Future White Paper (2020) - Sets out a series of potential reforms to the English planning system, to deliver growth faster. The White Paper focuses on the following:

- Simplifying the role of Local Plans and the process of producing them.
- Digitising plan-making and development management processes.

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- Focus on design, sustainability and infrastructure delivery.
- Nationally determined, binding housing requirements for local planning authorities to deliver through Local Plans.

B.23 Public Health England (2020) - PHE Strategy 2020-25 - Identifies PHE's priorities upon which to focus over this five-year period to protect people and help people to live longer in good health.

B.24 Homes England Strategic Plan 2018 to 2023 (2018) - Sets out a vision to ensure more homes are built in areas of greatest need, to improve affordability, and make a more resilient and diverse housing market.

B.25 Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015) - Sets out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites. The Government's overarching aim is to ensure fair and equal treatment for travellers, in a way that facilitates the traditional and nomadic way of life of travellers while respecting the interests of the settled community.

B.26 Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change report Ready for Ageing? (2013) - Warns that society is underprepared for the ageing population. The report states "longer lives can be a great benefit, but there has been a collective failure to address the implications and without urgent action this great boon could turn into a series of miserable crises". The report highlights the under provision of specialist housing for older people and the need to plan for the housing needs of the older population as well as younger people.

B.27 Fair Society, Healthy Lives (2011) - Investigates health inequalities in England and the actions needed in order to tackle them. Subsequently, a supplementary report was prepared providing additional evidence relating to spatial planning and health on the basis that there is "overwhelming evidence that health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities".

B.28 HM Government, Laying the foundations: a housing strategy for England (2011) – Aims to provide support to the delivery of new homes and to improve social mobility.

Environment (biodiversity/geodiversity, landscape and soils)

B.29 Natural England, Green Infrastructure Framework (2023) - Outlines 15 key principles for the planning and delivery of successful Green and Blue Infrastructure is necessary (GBI). These principles relate to why GBI is important, the type of outcomes being envisaged, and the steps for successfully delivering GBI. The framework also integrates green infrastructure tools, principles, standards and design guidance.

B.30 The Environment Act (2021) - Sets out the UK's framework for environmental protection. It includes the creation of Conservation Covenant agreements between a landowner and a responsible body for the purposes of conservation of the natural environment of the land or its natural resources, or to conserve the place or setting of the land for its 'archaeological, architectural, artistic, cultural or historic interest.'

B.31 Defra, England Trees Action Plan 2021 to 2024 (2021) – Sets out the government's long-term vision for trees, woodlands and forests in England. The plan provides a strategic framework for implementing the Nature for Climate Fund and outlines over 80 policy actions for the period 2021 to 2024.

B.32 Defra, A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018) - Sets out goals for improving the environment over the next 25 years. It details how the Government will work with communities and businesses to leave the environment in a better state than it is presently. The gov.uk website notes that the 25 Year Plan sits alongside two other important government strategies: the Industrial Strategy and Clean Growth Strategy (the former

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summarised in the Economic growth section below, the latter under Climate Change above).

B.33 Natural England, Climate Change Adaptation Manual - Evidence to support nature conservation in a changing climate (NE546) (2014) – Seeks to support practical and pragmatic decision-making, by bringing together recent science, experience and case studies, and is intended to be an accessible entry point to a range of available resources and tools.

B.34 Defra, Biodiversity offsetting in England Green Paper (2013) - Sets out a framework for biodiversity offsetting. Offsets are conservation activities designed to compensate for residual losses.

B.35 Defra, Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011) - Guides conservation efforts in England up to 2020 by requiring a national halt to biodiversity loss, supporting healthy ecosystems and establishing ecological networks.

B.36 Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011) – This document guides conservation efforts in England up to 2020 by requiring a national halt to biodiversity loss, supporting healthy ecosystems and establishing ecological networks. The Strategy includes 22 priorities which include actions for the following sectors: Agriculture, Forestry, Planning & Development, Water Management, Marine Management, Fisheries, Air Pollution and Invasive Non-Native Species.

B.37 UKGAP, UK Geodiversity Action Plan: A framework for enhancing the importance and role of geodiversity (2011) - The action plan provides an agreed framework for geodiversity action across the UK. The UKGAP provides a shared context and direction for geodiversity action through a common aim, themes, objectives and targets which link national, regional and local activities. The UKGAP is a mechanism for encouraging partnership, influencing decision makers, policy makers and funding bodies, and promoting good practice.

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B.38 Defra, Safeguarding our Soils – A Strategy for England (2009) - Sets out how England's soils will be managed sustainably. It highlights those areas which Defra will prioritise and focus attention in tackling degradation threats, including: better protection for agricultural soils; protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon; building the resilience of soils to a changing climate; preventing soil pollution; effective soil protection during construction and; dealing with contaminated land.

B.39 Natural England, Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land (TIN049) (2009) – Explains the Government Policy to protect agricultural land and the Agricultural Land Classification system and uses.

B.40 England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Principles (2008) - Sets out principles to guide adaptation to climate change. The principles are: take practical action now, maintain and increase ecological resilience, accommodate change, integrate action across all sectors and develop knowledge and plan strategically. The precautionary principle underpin all of these.

Historic environment

B.41 Historic England, Corporate Plan 2018-2021 (2018) - Contains the action plan which sets out how the aims of the corporate plan will be delivered. The plan includes priorities to demonstrate how Historic England will continue to work towards delivering the heritage sector's priorities for the historic environment.

B.42 Historic England, Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment: Historic England Advice Note 8 (2016) - Sets out Historic England's guidance and expectations for the consideration and

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appraisal of effects on the historic environment as part of the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment processes.

B.43 Historic England, Heritage 2020 (2015) – Sets out the historic environment sector’s plan for its priorities between 2015 and 2020.

Water and air

B.44 Defra, Air Quality Strategy: Framework for Local Authority Delivery (2023) – Presents a strategic framework for local authorities and other partners in order to achieve the government’s goals with respect to air quality. The paper outlines powers, responsibilities, and the kind of actions that government expects local authorities to take.

B.45 Defra, Plan for Water: Our Integrated Plan for Delivering Clean and Plentiful Water (2023) – Concerns both water quality and supply. Actions are presented with respect to transforming the management of the water system; cleaning up the water environment; and creating a sustainable supply of water for people, businesses and nature.

B.46 The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (2020) - Amends a range of legislation to prevent waste generation and to monitor and assess the implementation of measures included in waste prevention programmes. They set out requirements to justify not separating waste streams close to source for re-use, recycling or other recovery operations, prohibit incineration and landfilling of waste unless such treatment process represent the best environmental outcome in accordance with the waste hierarchy. The Regulations set out when waste management plans and in waste prevention programmes are required. The Regulations focus on the circular economy as a means for businesses to maximise the value of waste and waste treatment.

B.47 Environment Agency, Flood Risk Assessments: Climate Change Allowances (2022) – Identifies how and when local planning authorities, developers and their agents should use climate change allowances in flood risk assessments.

B.48 Environment Agency, National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2020) - Sets out a vision and associated requirements for developing greater resilience to flooding and coastal change.

B.49 Defra, Clean Air Strategy (2019) - Sets out the comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of government and society to meet goals relating to ensuring cleaner air. This is to be underpinned by new England-wide powers to control major sources of air pollution, in line with the risk they pose to public health and the environment, plus new local powers to take action in areas with an air pollution problem. The UK has set stringent targets to cut emissions by 2020 and 2030.

B.50 Defra, Our Waste, Our Resources: A strategy for England (2018) - Aims to increase resource productivity and eliminate avoidable waste by 2050. The Strategy sets out key targets which include: a 50% recycling rate for household waste by 2020, a 75% recycling rate for packaging by 2030, 65% recycling rate for municipal solid waste by 2035 and municipal waste to landfill 10% or less by 2035.

B.51 HM Government, The Road to Zero (2018) - Sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

B.52 Defra and Department of Transport (DoT), The UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations (2017) - Provides the

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Government's ambition and actions for delivering a better environment and cleaner air, including £1 billion investment in ultra-low emission vehicles (ULESVs), a £290 million National Productivity Investment Fund, a £11 million Air Quality Grant Fund and £255 million Implementation Fund to help local authorities to prepare Air Quality Action Plans and improve air quality, an £89 million Green Bus Fund, £1.2 billion Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy and £100 million to help improve air quality on the National road network.

B.53 Environment Agency, Managing Water Abstraction (2016) - Is the overarching document for managing water resources in England and Wales and links together the abstraction licensing strategies.

B.54 Defra, Water White Paper (2012) - Sets out the Government's vision for the water sector including proposals on protecting water resources and reforming the water supply industry. It states outlines the measures that will be taken to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystem, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.

B.55 The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007) - Sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues by setting out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved. It introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. The objectives of the Strategy are to:

- Further improve air quality in the UK from today and long term.
- Provide benefits to health quality of life and the environment.

Economic growth

B.56 Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth (2021) - Sets out a plan to 'build back better' tackling long-term problems to deliver growth that delivers high-quality jobs across the UK while supporting the transition to net zero. This will build on three core pillars of growth: infrastructure, skills and innovation.

B.57 UK Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future (2018) - Lays down a vision and foundations for a transformed economy. Areas including artificial intelligence and big data; clean growth; the future of mobility; and meeting the needs of an ageing society are identified as the four 'Grand Challenges' of the future.

B.58 HM Government, Industrial Strategy: building a Britain fit for the future (2017) – Sets out a long-term policy framework for how Britain will be built to be fit for the future in terms of creating successful, competitive and open economy. It is shaped around five 'foundations of productivity' – the essential attributes of every successful economy: Ideas (the world's most innovative economy); People (good jobs and greater earning power for all; Infrastructure (a major upgrade to the UK's infrastructure); Business Environment (the best place to start and grow a business); Places (prosperous communities across the UK).

B.59 LEP Network, LEP Network Response to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper Consultation (2017) – Seeks to ensure that all relevant local action and investment is used in a way that maximises the impact it has across the Government's strategy. Consultation responses set out how the 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships will work with Government using existing and additional resources to develop and implement a long-term Industrial Strategy.

B.60 HM Treasury and Infrastructure and Projects Authority, National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016-2021 (2016) - Sets out the government's plans for economic infrastructure over a five-year period with those to support delivery of housing and social infrastructure.

Transport

B.61 Decarbonising Transport: A Better, Greener Britain (2021) - The Decarbonisation Transport Plan (DTP) sets out the Government's commitments and the actions needed to decarbonise the entire transport system in the UK. It follows on from the Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge report published in 2020. The DTP commits the UK to phasing out the sale of new diesel and petrol heavy goods vehicles by 2040, subject to consultation, in addition to phasing out the sale of polluting cars and vans by 2035. The DTP also sets out how the government will improve public transport and increase support for active travel, as well as creating a net zero rail network by 2050, ensuring net zero domestic aviation emissions by 2040, and a transition to green shipping.

B.62 Department for Transport, The Road to Zero (2018) - Sets out new measures towards cleaner road transport, aiming to put the UK at the forefront of the design and manufacturing of zero emission vehicles. It explains how cleaner air, a better environment, zero emission vehicles and a strong, clean economy will be achieved. One of the main aims of the document is for all new cars and vans to be effectively zero emission by 2040.

B.63 Department for Transport, Transport Investment Strategy (2017) - Sets out four objectives that the strategy aims to achieve:

- Create a more reliable, less congested, and better connected transport network that works for the users who rely on it;
- Build a stronger, more balanced economy by enhancing productivity and responding to local growth priorities;
- Enhance our global competitiveness by making Britain a more attractive place to trade and invest; and
- Support the creation of new housing.

B.64 Highways England, Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan (2017) - This strategy is designed to communicate the company's approach and priorities for sustainable development to its key stakeholders. Highways England aims to ensure its action in the future will further reduce the impact of its activities seeking a long-term and sustainable benefit to the environment and the communities it serves. The action plan describes how Highways England will progress the aspirations of their Sustainable Development and Environment Strategies. It describes actions that will enable the company to deliver sustainable development and to help protect and improve the environment.

Sub-national plans and programmes of most relevance for the Local Plan

B.65 Herefordshire Council, Hereford Masterplan (in preparation) - The masterplan seeks to enhance the character of the city, and provide improved links to connect Hereford's central areas with adjoining neighbourhoods and the market towns and villages of Herefordshire. Specifically, the masterplan is seeking to make streets more people-friendly; enhance the historic centre; maximise green space; identify potential housing opportunities; reduce carbon emissions; and adapt the city for a changing climate. Consultation on the masterplan began from autumn 2022. A draft master plan is expected in Spring 2023. Beyond the involvement of Herefordshire Council, the masterplan team also comprises LUC, Westco, Element Urbanism, SQW, and PJA Transport.

B.66 Herefordshire Council, Minerals and Waste Local Plan (in preparation) - This plan, that will form part of the development plan once adopted, covers the period to 2041. Issues and options were published in 2017 with a Draft Minerals and Waste Plan following in 2019. A further version was published for consultation in January 2021. The plan was submitted for examination in March 2022 and examined during November 2022. A report was presented to Herefordshire Council by the examining Inspector in December

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2022 and consultation on Main Modifications is expected to take place early in 2023. The vision supporting the plan identifies the need for the sustainable provision of minerals supply and waste management through the balancing of development needs, whilst protecting and enhancing environmental, heritage and cultural assets and strengthening the local economy. The plan also identifies how sustainable provision within Herefordshire will be achieved through:

- the efficient use and effective protection of mineral resources.
- efficient waste management infrastructure including delivery of the circular economy; and
- taking a strategic approach to achieving high quality reclamation that provides site betterment, and optimising self-sufficiency and resilience.

B.67 Environment Agency, Flood Risk and Coastal Change: Climate Change allowances for planning (West Midlands area) (2023) – Aims to help implement the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)'s policies and practice guidance on flood risk. The guidance is intended to help inform Flood Risk Assessments (FRA's) for planning applications, local plans, neighbourhood plans and other projects.

B.68 Environment Agency, Severn River Basin Management Plan summary and cross border catchments (England and Wales) (2022) - This document provides an overview of river basin planning in England and Wales for the Severn River Basin District. It focuses on how the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales coordinate the work on catchments that are close to or are part of the border between England and Wales.

B.69 Herefordshire Council, Integrated Waste Management Strategy 2021-2035 (2022) - The strategy outlines the policy context surrounding waste, describes existing provision, and considers future infrastructure demands. In terms of future investment, specific outcomes are identified for kerbside collection, the use and management of Household Waste Recycling Centres, and the processing of commercial waste.

B.70 Herefordshire Council, Market Town Investment Plans (2022) - Market Town Economic Development Investment Plans have been produced for the towns of Bromyard, Kington, Ledbury, Leominster and Ross-on-Wye. Each plan includes a vision for growth; presents opportunities for economic development; and identifies potential investment projects to deliver the plan. Each plan also gives indicative investment figures with respect to potential funding that could come from Herefordshire Council; grant opportunities; and external institutions. Each plan prioritises the activity needed for economic growth.

B.71 Herefordshire Council, Respecting our past, shaping our future. A Delivery Plan for 2022-23 (2022) - This delivery plan seeks to support the achievement of the goals set out in the above corporate plan. It identifies key projects that are underway and outlines supportive actions through 22-23.

B.72 Herefordshire Council, Annual Monitoring Report (2022) - Under the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Order Act 2004 (as amended by the 2011 Localism Act) and The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, Herefordshire Council is required to produce an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR is expected to monitor the implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS), and monitor the implementation of the policies set out in the Local Plan (including the Core Strategy of 2012). The AMR comprises a number of sections, with each part being produced at a different time. The first section provides an update on local plan production, the second on the general performance of the Local Plan's policies, and section three on neighbourhood plans. Section four of the AMR discusses the Council's collaborations with respect to the Duty to Cooperate, while six and seven relate to self and custom house-building and housing completions more generally.

B.73 Herefordshire Council, Carbon Management Action Plan (2021) - This document supports the ambitions of the above document and presents key areas for targeting reductions. Measures are identified for the Council's estate, including schools and academies. Carbon reductions are also outlined with respect to contracts, council projects, and through better ways of working.

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B.74 Herefordshire Council, Local Housing Strategy 2021-2026 (2021) -

The document provides a summary of housing issues in Herefordshire and presents a vision for the sector. The vision seeks to effectively meet the housing needs of people living in Herefordshire, to promote independence, and create healthy and sustainable communities. Four supportive priorities are outlined, including the need to:

- Eliminate the negative impact that our homes have on the environment.
- Increase the number of affordable homes available to rent and buy.
- Improve the quality and accessibility of housing in Herefordshire and bring long term empty properties back into use
- Work in partnership to assess and deliver solutions to identified housing need.

B.75 Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2021-2026 (2021) - This document sets out the vision for the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (now National Landscape) and sets priorities for its future management.

B.76 Herefordshire Council, Pathway to Carbon Neutral Carbon

Management Plan 2020/21-2025/26 (2020) - The plan seeks to support the Council's ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030/31 and responds to the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration of March 2019. The Management Plan outlines the Council's journey towards carbon neutrality and introduces a series of initiatives, challenges and solutions. The role and importance of policy, behaviour change, leadership, engagement and appropriate resourcing is outlined. Energy efficiency and the need to generate renewable energy are also identified as important areas of work. The plan seeks a 75% reduction in carbon emissions from the baseline level recorded in 2008/09, by the end of the financial year 2025/26.

B.77 Herefordshire Council, Hereford City Strategic Flood Risk

Assessment - Level 2 (2020) - This assessment builds upon the study referenced above and provides a more detailed assessment of flood risk at a

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number of strategic and emerging development sites within the city of Hereford. These include Three Elms and Lower Bullingham (that are introduced through the Core Strategy), alongside seven further sites that were considered through the Hereford Area Action Plan (although this proposed development plan document has not been progressed).

B.78 Herefordshire Council, County Plan (2020) - This document sets out the council's ambitions for the period 2020 to 2024. Three ambitions are presented, namely to support goals for improving the sustainability, connectivity and wellbeing of Herefordshire by strengthening its communities; creating a thriving local economy; and protecting and enhancing the county's environment. Success measures are outlined for each ambition. For example, with respect to the environment, the plan identifies how the Council will take steps to:

- Increase flood resilience and reduce levels of phosphate pollution in the county's river.
- Reduce the Council's carbon emissions.
- Work in partnership with others to reduce county carbon emissions
- Improve the air quality within Herefordshire.
- Improve residents' access to green space in Herefordshire, and
- Improve energy efficiency of homes and build standards for new housing

B.79 Herefordshire Council, Travellers' Sites Development Plan Document (2019) - This document, which forms part of the adopted Herefordshire Local Plan, supplements Policy H4 on Traveller Sites. The document outlines the need for pitches, considers current supply, and presents a series of policies to support delivery. Policies cover the need for Residential Traveller pitches and sites, and plots for Travelling Showpeople Plots. The document also identifies temporary stopping places.

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B.80 Malvern Hill AONB Management Plan 2019-2024 (2019) – This document sets out the vision for the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (now National Landscape) and sets priorities for its future management.

B.81 Herefordshire Council, Contaminated Land Strategy (2019) - This strategy provides a framework for ensuring that unacceptable risks to human health and the environment are identified and removed. The strategy also seeks to provide measures for ensuring that contaminated land is made suitable for its current use, and to ensure that any potential burden arising from contaminated land is proportionate, manageable and compatible with the principles of sustainable development.

B.82 Herefordshire, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Level 1 (2019) - The assessment outlines the relevant policy context, and brings different strands of flooding data together. It makes an assessment of flood risk across the county by summarising the main catchment areas, reporting on flood events, and assessing flood risk schemes. The impact of climate change, and strategies surrounding emergency planning, are also considered as part of the risk assessment. The assessment makes recommendations with respect to the management of development and outlines policy expectations with respect to different flood zones.

B.83 Herefordshire Council, The Herefordshire Sustainable Destination Management Plan 2018 – 2022 (2018) - This document is grounded on four priorities, namely to grow Herefordshire as a visitor destination; to grow the share of visitor markets; to help facilitate great experiences and memories; and to develop staff. The plan outlines the relevant policy context and also summaries key tourism trends relating to Herefordshire.

B.84 Herefordshire Council, Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-2028 (2018) – The plan provides an assessment of demand and provides an assessment of the county's existing network. Different user experiences are considered, as are different ways for promoting greater understanding and use of the network.

B.85 Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2016) - This strategy provides an overview of the health needs of Herefordshire and presents a vision for how health outcomes can be significantly enhanced. It identifies the type of change that is needed and outlines seven overarching priorities. These relate to improving mental health and wellbeing; improving the health outcomes of children and older people; and tackling the health consequences of poor housing. Other priorities focus on the need to tackle long term condition and unhealthy lifestyles (such as smoking); responding to hidden issues (such as alcohol abuse); and targeting the health needs of specific groups (such as travellers, or those with learning disabilities).

B.86 Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Council Local Transport Plan Strategy 2016 – 2031 (2016) - The strategy outlines a vision and emphasises the importance of public transport and active travel. The strategy provides a baseline account of existing infrastructure and offers a summary of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that this infrastructure gives rise to. A strategy of measures is presented for Hereford, including High Town, the city centre, and South Wye. Transport measures are also presented for Herefordshire's market towns and rural areas.

B.87 Herefordshire Council, Invest Herefordshire. Herefordshire's Economic Vision (2016) - The plan seeks to realise the full economic potential of Herefordshire through a coordinated plan that can 'ambitious, persuasive, achievable and sustainable'. The vision seeks to support the growth of Herefordshire by identifying priority projects, and to raise the profile of Herefordshire. The vision also seeks to provide Herefordshire with clear priorities for negotiations surrounding future development. The timescale of the vision is set over fifteen years, split into three blocks each of five years.

B.88 Herefordshire Council, Local Plan: Playing Pitch Strategy (2012) - The strategy offers a quantitative and qualitative assessment of current provision, and considers relevant factors linked to playing pitch demand. The strategy presents a playing pitch standard that is linked to local context, and makes recommendations, and identifies future actions, for the Hereford area.

B.89 Herefordshire Council, Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010) - This document explains what green infrastructure (GI) entails and outlines the wide-ranging benefits that a strategic and multi-functional GI network can generate. It presents a vision for GI across Herefordshire, and presents a framework through which there are actions to protect, enhance and provide additional GI. In presenting these, the strategy makes a distinction between county and local-level priorities. At a county level, the document outlines strategic corridors and areas of strategic importance. Corridors, and enhancement zones, are also identified for local scales.

B.90 Herefordshire and Worcestershire Councils, Air Quality, A Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire (2009) - The strategy presents analysis concerning air quality across the two county areas and outlines key commitments with respect to air quality management. These commitments extend to cover the relationship between planning and air quality; transport; climate change and energy management; health and education; and industry and domestic sources.

B.91 Herefordshire Council, Landscape Character Assessment (2004) - This assessment is adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document. The document identifies 17 different types of landscape character, with the document listing both primary and secondary landscape characteristics for each. Potential forces for changing the landscape are considered, with a range of objectives being set for each to support both conservation and enhancement.

B.92 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plans - A Management Plan for the Malvern Hills AONB (now National Landscape) was published in 2019 and covers the period to 2024. A Management Plan for the Wye Valley National Landscape was published in 2021 and covers the period to 2026. Both of the plans present a vision, and a supporting set of priorities, for managing each of the National Landscapes, which in turn, is intended to inform the policies of the relevant Local Authority. The documents also provide guidance to the local communities and the many landowners, residents and visitors living across the areas.

Surrounding Development Plans

B.93 Shropshire Council - The adopted development plan comprises a Core Strategy, that was adopted in February 2011, together with a Site Allocations and Management of Development document, which was adopted in December 2015. A review of the Local Plan is underway and this will cover the period 2016 to 2038. A draft of the plan was submitted for examination in September 2001 and a copy of the Inspector's Report is awaited. The plan is expected to be adopted in 2024.

B.94 Malvern Hills - The South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) encompasses the local authority areas of Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon. The adopted plan dates to February 2016 and covers the period to the year 2030. The plan allocates a range of small sites, together with larger 'strategic' sites across South Worcestershire, and provides policies to ensure that any development is sustainable. A review of the SWDP is underway with the resulting plan covering the period to 2041. A draft of the plan was published in November 2022. The south Worcestershire Councils formally submitted the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) and associated evidence base documents to the Secretary of State for independent examination in September 2023. In January 2024 the examination team advised the Councils that further evidence was needed to support certain parts of the plan.

B.95 Forest of Dean - The development plan comprises a Core Strategy and an Allocations Plan which collectively cover the period to 2026. The Core Strategy was adopted in 2012, while the Allocations Plan was adopted in 2018. The Allocations Plan updates the housing requirement from the Core Strategy, shows how the policies of the Core Strategy are to be implemented, allocates sites for development, and details protective designations. The development plan also includes the Cinderford Northern Quarter Area Action Plan that was adopted in 2012. Work is underway to create a new Local Plan to cover the period to 2041. Issues and options were published in 2019, with preferred

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options being published in 2020. Consultation on second preferred options ran from August to October 2022. A revised Local Plan strategy has been formulated and is expected to be consulted on through 2024.

B.96 Monmouthshire - The Monmouthshire County Council Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in 2014 and covered the period to 2021. A replacement LDP is being prepared for the period 2018 to 2033, with consultation on a Preferred Strategy being undertaken through December 2022 and January 2023. The strategy identifies the key issues, challenges and opportunities for the County, presents a vision and a supporting set of objectives, sets out the preferred level of growth, and outlines where this growth is to be spatially distributed. It also includes site allocations and strategic policies to help deliver and implement the strategy. A revised Local Plan is expected to be published through 2024.

B.97 Powys- The Powys LDP, that covers the period from 2011 to 2026, was adopted in April 2018. It extends across the whole of Powys, except the area of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. The plan provides for 4,500 dwellings and 45 hectares of employment land. Work on a replacement LDP is underway and this will cover the period 2022 to 2037. A call for sites was published in November 2022 and key issues, objectives and a vision were published for consultation in January 2024. It is envisaged that consultation on a Preferred Strategy will take place in late Spring 2024.

B.98 Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority - The Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Local Plan, for the period 2007 to 2022, was adopted in December 2013. The plan states the purposes for the National Park and identifies priorities relating to a range of themes, including landscape, biodiversity and water quality. With respect to development, the plan presents a settlement hierarchy with Brecon being identified as the primary settlement. The plan has a requirement for 2,045 dwellings homes in the plan period. Although work started on a replacement plan in 2017, the Local Development Plan (LDP) 2 is currently on pause as a result of the phosphate constraint. Following

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confirmation from Welsh Government, the Park Authority advise that the adopted Local Development Plan (2007-2022) remains in place and material.