



Sustainability Appraisal of the Black Country Core Strategy

Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement

January 2011





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Client:	Black Country Authorities
Report No.:	TESS-0007_SA Adoption Statement_7_310111_NCB
Status:	Final Version
Date:	31 st January 2011
Author:	NCB
Checked:	NJD
Approved:	NEJP

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement

This Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement has been prepared for the Black Country Authorities¹ as part of the sustainability appraisal (SA) of the Black Country Core Strategy (referred to throughout this document as the Core Strategy). It represents the final stage of the SA process for the Core Strategy.

The SA Adoption Statement has been produced in compliance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 SI No. 2204 and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 SI No. 1633. The statement incorporates the requirement to produce an Adoption Statement as required by the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC.

This SA Adoption Statement accompanies the Adopted Core Strategy, which can be accessed at: <http://blackcountrycorestrategy.dudley.gov.uk/>.

1.2 The Black Country Core Strategy: Background

The Black Country Authorities are currently preparing a set of new planning documents to replace their Unitary Development Plans. These Local Development Frameworks will guide future planning decisions in their areas.

As part of this process, the Black Country Authorities have been developing a Black Country Core Strategy. The Core Strategy is a Development Plan Document and sets out the spatial vision, objectives and strategy for future development in the Black Country up to 2026. In this context it sets the framework for the respective Local Development Frameworks for Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

The key spatial planning objectives for the area as set out in the Core Strategy have regard to national guidance in Planning Policy Statements (produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government) and are in accord with the priorities of the four Black Country Authorities' Sustainable Community Strategies². The Core Strategy therefore seeks to deliver the spatial elements of the four Black Country Authorities' Sustainable Community Strategies and of other relevant strategies. All other documents within the Local Development Frameworks will need to be in conformity with the Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy details how residential, employment and retail growth will be accommodated within the Black Country from 2006 – 2026. Although some of this has already

¹ Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Walsall Council and Wolverhampton City Council
² Sandwell's Sustainable Community Strategy was adopted in March 2008, Walsall's SCS was launched in April 2008 and Wolverhampton's 2008 SCS is currently being updated. Dudley's Sustainable Community Strategy was adopted in March 2010.

been met since 2006, a development strategy is required to enable a plan-led approach to its delivery. The development strategy will seek to direct the sustainable growth of the sub-region whilst ensuring the aspirations of the spatial vision and objectives are achieved.

The key facts related to the Core Strategy are presented in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the Black Country Core Strategy

Name of Responsible Authorities	The Black Country Authorities: Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council; Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council; Walsall Council; and Wolverhampton City Council.
Title of plan	Black Country Core Strategy.
What prompted the plan (e.g. legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	The Core Strategy is one of a suite of Development Plan Documents currently being prepared by the Black Country Authorities (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Walsall Council and Wolverhampton City Council) as part of their Local Development Frameworks. The four Black Country Authorities' Local Development Frameworks are being developed following the implementation of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act in 2004, which requires local authorities to replace their Local Plans with Local Development Frameworks. They will replace the respective Authorities' Unitary Development Plans.
Subject	Spatial plan.
Period covered by the plan	The period to 2026.
Frequency of updates	Not specified.
Area covered by plan	The area covered by Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Walsall Council and Wolverhampton City Council.
Purpose and/or objectives of plan	The Core Strategy is the key document for the Black Country Authorities' Local Development Frameworks. Delivering the spatial elements of the Authorities' Sustainable Community Strategies and other relevant strategies in the sub-region, it sets out a detailed spatial strategy for the area and the policies and mechanisms to deliver housing, employment and other strategic development needs.
Plan contact point	Annette Roberts, Planning Policy Manager, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council. Telephone number: 01384 816967.

1.3 Content of this SA Adoption Statement

SEA Regulations 16.3c(iii) and 16.4 require that a 'statement' be made available to accompany the plan, as soon as possible after the adoption of the plan or programme.

The SEA Regulations highlight that the statement should contain the following information:

- ▶ The reasons for choosing the preferred strategy for the Core Strategy as adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with;
- ▶ How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Core Strategy;
- ▶ How consultation responses have been taken into account; and
- ▶ Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the Core Strategy.

The Town and Country Planning Regulations (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 36a(ii) similarly require that a SA Statement be produced at Adoption. This serves a very similar purpose to the SEA Adoption Statement. This document, the Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement therefore refers to both processes and addresses the requirements of both.

This combined approach is reflected by the Planning Advisory Service Guidance on SA (PAS, 2009), which states that the SA Adoption Statement should incorporate:

- ▶ Sustainability considerations - how these have been integrated into the development plan document;
- ▶ Options and consultation responses - how any received on the development plan document and sustainability appraisal reports (at all stages) have been taken into account;
- ▶ Reasons for of the choice of alternatives in light of other reasonable alternatives considered; and
- ▶ A programme for monitoring sustainability effects - measures to be taken to monitor the significant sustainability effects of implementing the development plan document.

In this context, the purpose of the SA Adoption Statement is to outline how the SA process has influenced and informed the Core Strategy's development process and demonstrate how consultation on the SA has been taken into account.

Chapter 2 of this SA Adoption Statement summarises how the SA has informed and influenced the Core Strategy, including in light of the other alternatives dealt with. **Chapter 3** highlights how sustainability considerations (including environmental considerations) have been integrated into the Core Strategy. **Chapter 4** discusses how consultation has been carried out and taken into account by the SA. The final chapter, **Chapter 5** sets out the proposed monitoring regime for the SA, which it is proposed will be carried out alongside monitoring for the four Black Country Authorities' Local Development Frameworks.

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2 How the Sustainability Appraisal process has informed and influenced the Core Strategy

2.1 The SA process and the Core Strategy

The main aim of SA is to inform and influence the plan making process to maximise the Core Strategy’s sustainability value. In this context the SA process has fed into the Core Strategy through providing information at each stage of its development process.

Table 2.1 highlights the main outputs of the SA process in conjunction with those of the Core Strategy. A more detailed description of how the respective stages of the Core Strategy and SA have interlinked is presented in **Sections 2.2 to 2.6**.

Table 2.1: Stages of the development of the Core Strategy and accompanying SA process

Stage of the Core Strategy	Stage of the SA process
Initial information and data gathering for the Core Strategy (2006-2007)	SA Scoping Report (March 2007)
	
Issues and Options Consultation Paper (July 2007)	Issues and Options SA Report (July 2007)
	
Core Strategy Preferred Options Report (March 2008)	Preferred Options SA Report (March 2008)
	
Publication Core Strategy (November 2009)	Publication SA Report (November 2009)
	
Adopted Core Strategy (March 2011)	SA Adoption Statement (March 2011)

2.2 Scoping

The Scoping Report for the Core Strategy was published for consultation for a period of six weeks between March and April 2007. Its purpose was to establish the scope of and methodology for the SA, to provide the basis for consultation related to the range and level of detail of reporting for the SA, and the evidence base on which it is established. Responses were received from eight organisations and individuals. Following the receipt of responses, the SA information, including the SA's evidence base, policy and plan review, and SA Framework of objectives and indicators against which the Core Strategy would be assessed was updated and the information was included in subsequent SA Reports.

Scoping for the SA process complemented initial evidence gathering for the Core Strategy.

2.3 Issues and Options, including the assessment of reasonable alternatives for the Core Strategy

In July 2007, a Core Strategy Issues and Options Report was released for consultation. The first main output of the Core Strategy, the document sought to identify the key issues for the Black Country, and set out a number of Regeneration Corridors within which the majority of land use transformation will take place in the sub-region. It also presented two broad alternative options for development in the Black Country.

To accompany the Issues and Options consultation paper, and to inform this stage of the Core Strategy's development, an Issues and Options SA Report was also prepared and released for consultation. The Issues and Options SA Report presented an appraisal of the two broad alternative options, and set out a number of sustainability considerations which it was advised should be considered through subsequent stages of the Core Strategy's development³.

The two broad alternative options presented in the Issues and Options Report were designed to provide alternative scenarios for the spatial development of the Regeneration Corridors and surrounding areas relating to the density and layout of proposed development. The options were as follows:

Option 1: Concentrated Development within the Centres and Regeneration Corridors – Safeguarding Local Employment Opportunities

- ▶ Protection of 1500ha up to 2026 for local employment use – including a reservoir of 550ha;
- ▶ Release of the remaining 800ha of existing local employment land for housing, on a range of sites;
- ▶ New housing would be concentrated at high densities in the most sustainable locations - close to public transport nodes and existing strategic and town centres.

³ The Issues and Options SA Report can be accessed at the web link presented in **Section 2.7**.

A limited range of new residential environments would be provided, focused on meeting local housing needs;

- ▶ Development for shopping, leisure, offices and services would be focused towards centres within and adjoining Regeneration Corridors that best relate to the concentrations on new housing development; and
- ▶ New development would help to support existing public transport services and public transport improvements would be focussed on strengthening the existing network.

Option 2: Dispersed Development within the Centres and Regeneration Corridors - Providing Greater Housing Choice

- ▶ Protection of 1,300ha up to 2026 for local employment use – including a reservoir of 350ha;
- ▶ Release of the remaining 1,000ha of existing local employment land for housing, on a range of sites;
- ▶ New housing in Regeneration Corridors would be spread out at medium densities, making use of a range of sustainable locations, including canal corridors. A wide range of new residential environments would be provided, focused on retaining and attracting professional, entrepreneurial and managerial households; and
- ▶ Development for shopping, leisure, offices and services would be concentrated less towards centres within and adjoining Regeneration Corridors and distributed across a greater number of centres.

The two alternative options were assessed by the SA process to help determine which aspects of the options should be taken forward by the Core Strategy. As the assessment highlighted, Option 1 performed better against a wider range of the SA Objectives due to the option's increased emphasis on promoting community cohesion, supporting existing centres, reducing deprivation, and improving accessibility and reducing the need to travel. It was acknowledged however that Option 1 may not be appropriate for all areas of the Black Country, in particular areas at some distance from centres and associated services, facilities and amenities, and areas with poor public transport connections.

The findings of the assessment were accompanied by a series of recommendations which it was suggested should be taken forward by the ongoing development of the Core Strategy. In this context, both the findings of the assessment of alternative options, and the recommendations provided a further input into the development of the Preferred Options, the next stage of development for the Core Strategy.

2.4 Preferred Options

Following the receipt of representations on the Core Strategy Issues and Options Report, and input from stakeholders at various stages, the Preferred Options for the Core Strategy were developed. As part of this process, the preferred spatial strategy for the Core Strategy was prepared taking into account the assessment of the two strategic alternatives carried out by

the SA process. Likewise, the sustainability considerations highlighted to plan makers at Issues and Options were fed into the development of the policies included in the Preferred Options version of the Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy Preferred Options Report was released for consultation in March 2008. This set out a number of preliminary policies and proposals for the Black Country. In particular it:

- ▶ Presented the Black Country Authorities' preferred spatial strategy for shaping the development of the Black Country to 2026;
- ▶ Proposed potential 'policy areas' to help inform decision-making regarding development proposals; and
- ▶ Identified broad locations for new development, particularly housing and employment, within the Regeneration Corridors and Strategic Centres, along with potential infrastructure requirements.

To accompany consultation on this document, a Preferred Options SA Report was prepared. This set out the stages of the SA process that had been carried out to date, and presented an appraisal of preliminary policy areas and proposals included in the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report. It also discussed how the SA process had informed and influenced the development of early versions of the policy areas and proposals included in the Preferred Options Report.

2.5 Publication version of the Core Strategy

The Publication version of the Core Strategy was released for consultation in November 2009. This was informed by the Issues and Options consultation, the Preferred Options consultation, further technical studies, consideration of local initiatives and, as described above, the SA process.

In mid 2009, initial drafts of the policies and proposals to be included in the Publication version of the Core Strategy were assessed by the SA team. The purpose of this assessment was to help highlight the potential sustainability strengths and weaknesses of the draft policies and proposals for the Publication Core Strategy at an early stage of development and to provide an opportunity to discuss potential sustainability issues. This process was designed to help ensure that the sustainability performance of the emergent Core Strategy policies and proposals for the Strategic Centres and Regeneration Corridors were maximised.

In July 2009 the first set of Core Strategy policies and proposals were assessed. The SA results were then fed back to the Core Strategy development team. Following this early iteration, a number of revised and additional draft Core Strategy policies and proposals were then provided to the SA team to appraise. The results of the assessment of these draft policies and a set of recommendations were then again fed back to the Core Strategy development team. In this respect, the SA was provided with two opportunities to inform and influence the finalisation of the Publication version of the Core Strategy's policies and proposals.

2.6 Examination and Adoption

Following the conclusion of consultation on the Publication version of the Core Strategy in mid January 2010, the Core Strategy was submitted to the Secretary of State on the 26th February 2010. This was accompanied by a List of Proposed Changes, a List of Evidence, and a Consultation Report and Statement. Due to the limited scope of the updates and additions made to the Core Strategy at this stage, it was considered that no revisions were required to bring up to date the SA Report prepared at Publication.

The Core Strategy was then subject to independent scrutiny by way of Examination in Summer 2010. The Inspectors' Report, which was the outcome of the process, was subsequently published in October 2010. This presented the Inspectors' conclusions that the Black Country Core Strategy is sound, underwent a robust and influential SA process, and provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the Black Country to 2026.

The Authorities are presently preparing to adopt the Core Strategy early in 2011.

2.7 Where documents linked to the Core Strategy and accompanying SA process can be found

All documents and background information associated with the Core Strategy, including those linked to the SA process, can be accessed on the Black Country Core Strategy website at:

<http://blackcountrycorestrategy.dudley.gov.uk/> .

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3 How sustainability considerations have been taken into account

3.1 How sustainability considerations have been taken into account by the Core Strategy

As discussed in **Chapter 2**, the SA process has informed and influenced the Core Strategy throughout its development process. The SA process therefore highlighted at different stages the sustainability issues which had the potential to arise as a result of the implementation of earlier and later versions of the Core Strategy policies and proposals.

The Adopted Core Strategy has addressed many of these potential sustainability issues through taking into account of the findings of the SA process. In this context most minor impacts relating to specific or groups of policies and proposals have been addressed by other components of the Core Strategy. Where this has taken place, this has been noted in the analysis undertaken during the SA.

Besides the various SA Reports that were prepared as part of the SA process, the SA team attended regular Core Strategy project meetings. This served to keep abreast of proposals and provide direct input to the plan making process.

3.2 Residual sustainability effects of the Adopted Core Strategy

Whilst most sustainability issues have been addressed through the relevant policies and proposals in the Adopted Core Strategy, a number of residual sustainability effects are likely to remain through taking forward the Core Strategy. **Table 3.1** highlights these potential sustainability effects, and discusses how these effects may be offset through the ongoing implementation of the Core Strategy and the forward planning process.

Table 3.1: Residual sustainability effects highlighted through the SA process and how they can be addressed through the implementation of the Core Strategy

Residual sustainability effects of the Adopted Core Strategy	How these can be addressed through the implementation of the Core Strategy
<p>Increase in traffic flows stimulated by population growth and regeneration in the sub-region, and associated impacts on air and noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, the quality of the townscape and the public realm, health and wellbeing and other aspects.</p>	<p>The Adopted Core Strategy policies and the Growth Network proposals have a strong focus on sustainable transport improvements. As well as supporting rail, metro and bus improvements across the sub-region, the policies and proposals promote the growth of local and sub-regional walking and cycling networks. This will be supported by improvements to the sub-region's green infrastructure network and enhancements to the built environment promoted by the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Potential traffic growth will be further limited by the development hierarchy proposed by the Core Strategy, which will locate the majority of development within areas with the easiest accessibility to services and facilities and sustainable transport networks. This will reduce the need to travel and limit the need to use a car.</p> <p>It will however be important to monitor these potential effects in order to ensure adverse effects are minimised and that the desired intentions of improved and expanded public transport and walking and cycling initiatives are delivering results.</p>
<p>Pressures on biodiversity assets from regeneration and new development areas in the Black Country.</p>	<p>Biodiversity and geodiversity have been given a high priority by the Core Strategy, and the Core Strategy policies and the proposals for the Growth Network seek to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity in the sub region. There is also recognition of the need to provide robust ecological connectivity of biodiversity sites across the Black Country through an improvement of green infrastructure and other means.</p> <p>It will nevertheless be important to monitor effects on biodiversity to ensure that potential effects have been minimised and opportunities for enhancement have been realised. Likewise the Black Country Authorities should seek to revisit and update the register of non-designated nature conservation sites. The difference between SINC and SLINC designations should be reviewed and the number of qualifying sites should also be considered. Full habitat surveys should also take place in areas of biodiversity value likely to be affected by redevelopment.</p>
<p>Impact of highway improvements on longer term traffic growth, and associated impacts on air and noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, the quality of the townscape and the public realm, health and other issues.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy has a strong focus on improvements to public transport and walking and cycling networks, and on enabling accessibility to services, facilities and opportunities by non-car modes. However it also promotes highway improvements at a number of locations in the sub-region to support access to employment land and new residential areas.</p> <p>Whilst Smarter Routes and other local initiatives in the sub-region will help address some of these issues, highway improvements should focus on improving public transport linkages, such as through bus priority measures, bus lanes and red routes. They should also incorporate provision for walking and cycling routes, and aim to improve these networks to help facilitate modal shift.</p>

As suggested above, it will be important to monitor these potential effects in order to ensure adverse effects are minimised and that the desired intentions of other policies and proposals included in the Adopted Core Strategy are delivering results. **Chapter 5** outlines how these potential effects will be monitored.

4 How consultation on the SA has been taken into account

4.1 Consultation on the SA

The SEA Directive requires responses to consultation to be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme and before its adoption or submission to a legislative procedure.

Consultation has been an integral part of the SA of the Core Strategy. In addition to enabling the opinions of the statutory environmental bodies and other stakeholders to be taken into account, it has provided an opportunity for the public to be informed as to how decisions are made.

4.2 Consultation on the Scoping Report

The SA Scoping Report for the Core Strategy was published for consultation for a period of six weeks between March and April 2007 to the three statutory SEA/SA consultation bodies: English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England. It was also released to a range of other stakeholders. Its purpose was to establish the scope of and methodology for the SA, to provide the basis for consultation related to the range and level of detail of the Sustainability Appraisal Report, and the evidence base on which it is established. Responses were received from eight organisations and individuals. Following the receipt of responses, the SA information, including the baseline and policy and plan review, was updated. This information was included in subsequent SA Reports.

Consultation responses on the Scoping Report were received from:

- ▶ English Heritage;
- ▶ Environment Agency;
- ▶ Natural England;
- ▶ Forestry Commission;
- ▶ Sport England;
- ▶ Birmingham City Council;
- ▶ Walsall MBC; and
- ▶ Wolverhampton Conservation and Urban Design Section and Black Country Archaeology Service.

A detailed analysis of the consultation responses, and how the comments have been taken into account is included in the Publication SA Report.

4.3 Consultation during subsequent stages of the SA

As described in **Chapter 2** there were three main further SA outputs linked to the SA process following the Scoping Report. Each of these documents were released for consultation alongside the relevant parts the Core Strategy (**Table 2.1**). The documents, and the period in which they underwent consultation are as follows:

- ▶ Issues and Options SA Report (consultation June 2007 to August 2007);
- ▶ Preferred Options SA Report (consultation March 2008 to April 2008); and
- ▶ Publication SA Report (consultation November 2009 to January 2010)

Consultation responses received on the three SA Reports were taken into account and addressed through the ongoing development of the SA process. Likewise, consultation responses received on the main Core Strategy documents were considered by the SA.

In addition to the SA Reports released for consultation highlighted above, a range of further SA inputs were provided to the Core Strategy team throughout its development process. These included appraisals of initial and early versions of the Issues and Options, Preferred Options and Publication Core Strategy policies and proposals. Although these were not subject to consultation, they provided an ongoing and iterative contribution to the development of the Core Strategy.

5 Monitoring

5.1 Monitoring

The SEA Directive states that 'member states shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes.....in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action' (Article 10.1). In addition, the Environmental Report (or SA Report) should provide information on a 'description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring' (Annex I (i)).

The monitoring requirements typically associated with the SA process are recognised as placing heavy demands on authorities with SA responsibilities. For this reason, the proposed monitoring framework should focus on those aspects of the environment that are likely to be negatively impacted upon, where the impact is uncertain or where particular opportunities for improvement might arise.

Table 5.1 outlines proposals for a monitoring programme for measuring the Core Strategy's implementation in relation to the areas where the SA has identified potential significant effects, and where significant opportunities for an improvement in sustainability performance may arise. It also seeks to monitor where uncertainties relating to the appraisal findings arose and suggests where monitoring is required to help ensure that the benefits of the Core Strategy are achieved through the forward planning process.

Monitoring is particularly useful in answering the following questions:

- ▶ Were the assessment's predictions of environmental effects accurate?
- ▶ Is the Core Strategy contributing to the achievement of desired sustainability objectives?
- ▶ Are mitigation measures performing as well as expected?
- ▶ Are there any unforeseen adverse effects? Are these within acceptable limits, or is remedial action required?

The purpose of monitoring is to measure the sustainability effects of a plan, as well as to measure success against the plan's objectives. It is therefore beneficial if the monitoring strategy builds on monitoring systems which are already in place. To this end, many of the indicators of progress chosen for the SA require data that is already being routinely collected at a local level by the Black Country Authorities and their partner organisations. It should also be noted that monitoring can provide useful information for future plans and programmes.

Table 5.1: Proposed monitoring programme for the Core Strategy

Potential negative effect, or area to be monitored	Indicator	Data Source	Frequency of monitoring and scale	Target/ Trigger
Impact of highway improvements on air quality	No. of days when air pollution is moderate or high for NO ₂ or PM ₁₀	BCAs	Annually, BC wide	When number of days continue to see exceedances over a five year period
Potential adverse effects on brownfield biodiversity	Percentage of development and redevelopment on previously developed land undertaking full habitat surveys	BCAs	Annually, BC wide	When percentages see reductions over a five year period
Potential effects on biodiversity from increased use of open space for leisure and recreation	Area (ha) of green space administered by the Black Country Authorities incorporating biodiversity considerations into management regimes	BCAs	Annually, BC wide	When area sees reductions over a five year period
Expansion of high quality sub-regional wildlife corridors forming the wider biodiversity network	Length of wildlife corridor in positive management for biodiversity benefit	BCAs	Annually, BC wide	Target to be determined through Environmental Infrastructure Guidance Phase 2
Stimulation of car use by the planned road improvements and housing and employment provision increases	Traffic flows on key routes	BCAs	Annually, BC wide	When traffic flows see increases over a five year period
Failure to tackle congestion and effectively implement proposed public transport strategy improvements, and associated effects on businesses	Number of VAT registrations	BCAs	Annually, BC wide	When the number sees continued decreases over a five year period
Increases in greenhouse gas emissions from new housing, employment and infrastructure provision	Carbon footprint of sub-region	BCAs	Annually, BC wide	When sector emissions see increases over a five year period
	Carbon emissions per £10,000 GVA (tCO ₂)	BCAs	Annually, BC wide	When sector emissions see increases over a five year period
Potential deficiency in area of public open space	Ha of Accessible Natural Greenspace per 1,000 population	BCAs	Annually, BC wide	Target: Dudley 5.08, Sandwell 3.44, Walsall 5.00, Wolverhampton 4.74 Trigger: Review progress after five years
Potential to use Historic Landscape Characterisation to inform decision making	Percentage of new developments which are informed by detailed characterisation studies	BCAs	Annually, BC wide	When percentages reduce over a five year period
Increasing car use in the sub-region	Proportion of people travelling to work by public transport or walking and cycling	BCAs	Annually, BC wide	When percentages see ongoing reductions year on year over a five year period

Potential negative effect, or area to be monitored	Indicator	Data Source	Frequency of monitoring and scale	Target/ Trigger
Potential to reduce energy consumption from commercial activities	Total industry and commercial energy consumption (GWh) per £billion GVA	BCAs	Annually, BC wide	When consumption sees ongoing rises over a five year period
Potential increases in industrial and commercial waste	Proportion of industrial and commercial waste sent to landfill	BCAs	Annually, BC wide	When percentages see increases over a five year period

5.2 Links with the Annual Monitoring Report

The SA guidance suggests that SA monitoring and reporting activities can be integrated into the regular planning cycle. As part of the monitoring process for their Local Development Frameworks, the Black Country Authorities will be required to prepare Annual Monitoring Reports. It is anticipated that elements of the SA monitoring programme for the Core Strategy will be incorporated into these processes.

The Black Country authorities have committed to a review of the Core Strategy in 2016 to determine if individual policies or the Strategy itself need updating or changing. It is considered that a review after five years will provide sufficient time and evidence to build a picture as to whether the policies and strategy are working and to take into account the effect of changes to the economic and political climate. The information gathered throughout the monitoring years and reported in the Annual Monitoring Reports, including the monitoring of the sustainability appraisal indicators, will inform this review.

The monitoring programme may evolve over time based on the identification of alternative indicators, additional data sources (as in some cases information will be provided by outside bodies) and the collection of new information, including from the National Indicator set. In this context the indicators presented in **Table 5.1** may be revised by the Black Country Authorities to improve alignment with existing monitoring arrangements or data sources or to monitor the potential significant effects or area to be monitored in a more effective way.

References

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Statutory Instruments 2004 No. 1633

Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, Statutory Instruments 2004 No. 2204

Department for Communities and Local Government (September 2009): *CLG Plan Making Manual: Sustainability Appraisal*

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