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Black Country Joint Core Strategy

Stage 2: Infrastructure and Deliverability Study

Technical Note 2: Stage One Review Outcomes

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1 Stage One Review Report Outcomes

The following is a summary of the key outcomes that were reached from the Mott MacDonald report published in May 2008, entitled '*Black Country Infrastructure Study: Infrastructure Review Report – Stage One Report*':

- Constraints such as transport and land availability are significant in the Black Country and will restrict the implementation of the Black Country Joint Core Strategy (BCJCS) although are potentially solvable.
- As the BCJCS is dealing with increased development for housing and employment, rather than a significant increase in population, transport pressures do not grow as fast as may be expected.
- The challenge for the growth of the Black Country should focus on the need to resolve conflicting policy objectives, such as the balance between congestion and accessibility; and the need to develop infrastructure in locations which are not protected or at risk of flooding whilst preserving a greenbelt/areas rich in minerals such as limestone; as well as ensuring the necessary enabling infrastructure is provided as part of the development process.
- Utilities other than water are not anticipated to represent fundamental constraints to the implementation of the BCJCS.
- There is currently limited awareness of the likely requirements of the BCJCS and much will need to be done to ensure greater engagement with utilities at an early stage and to ensure that necessary works are planned in good time.
- The concerns regarding water, both in terms of adequate supply of clean water and sewage disposal are more significant. A number of areas have been identified as medium or high risk areas in which the supply of potable water and capacity at sewage treatment works will be inadequate to meet demand for all three growth options.
- The Strategic Ground Risk Assessment identified low to moderated risks associated with contaminated land (based on made ground data) in the Employment Land Investment Corridors. A contaminated land risk assessment would be required at a local level, following a review of historic land uses, before any redevelopment of the land takes place. Varying levels of geotechnical risks were also identified within these corridors indicating that mining and instability assessments would be a crucial part of the planning stages before redevelopment or new infrastructure is implemented.

The BCJCS should set out clear objectives to be implemented through Local Development Frameworks in order to ensure that the highest levels of sustainable development standards are adopted in order to minimise investment requirements.