

NORTH SOLIHULL

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK
ADOPTED FEBRUARY 2005 AS
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE (SPG)

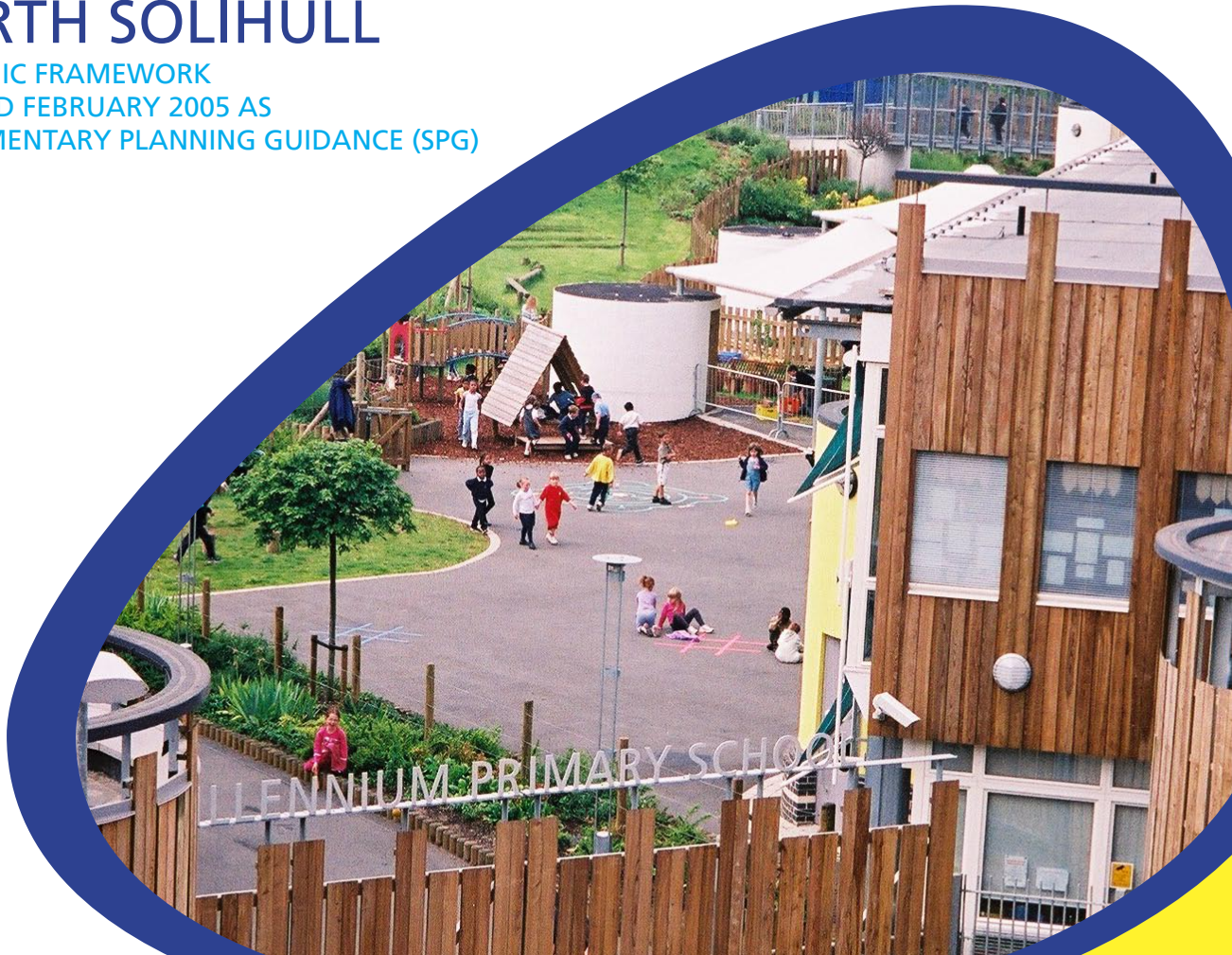


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1. INTRODUCTION

The North Solihull Strategic Framework relates to the North Solihull Regeneration Area. It comprises the wards of Smith's Wood, Kingshurst and Fordbridge, and Chelmsley Wood and contains a population of approximately 38,700 people. The Regeneration Area is based on the 'East Birmingham and North Solihull Regeneration Zone' as defined in planning guidance and the Regional Economic Strategy. This report provides a framework for future regeneration of the area.

The renewal of North Solihull is an important component in the regeneration of the West Midlands. Building on the area's existing assets and the proximity to Solihull Town Centre, Birmingham City Centre, the National Exhibition Centre (NEC), Birmingham International Airport and the M6, the objective is to deliver long term and sustainable benefits for the residents of North Solihull. By creating the conditions for private sector investment and building on existing initiatives, mechanisms and partnership working, the Strategic Framework sets out a strategy for restructuring the housing market and strengthening existing communities within the area through improvements to schools, community facilities, retail, leisure and employment services and in so doing redefines the role for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and its partners in the regeneration of the area.

The Strategic Framework has been prepared following consultation with local communities and key stakeholders. By creating the conditions for private sector investment and building on existing initiatives, mechanisms and partnership working, the Strategic Framework promotes a holistic and integrated multi-agency approach and will provide the policy context for the development of Neighbourhood Plans which will set out more detailed proposals for future change and development at the local level.

BACKGROUND TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

North Solihull has been identified as a priority area for regeneration and is subject to a number of initiatives. (Refer to Appendix C Related Council Strategies and Appendix D Glossary for further details of initiatives, terminology and abbreviations.)

The East Birmingham and North Solihull Regeneration Zone, of which North Solihull forms a part, is identified in Regional Planning Guidance (RPG11) and by Advantage West Midlands in the Regional Economic Strategy (RES)

Delivering Advantage as one of six Regeneration Zones in the West Midlands. This is supported by Solihull's Unitary Development Plan First Review 2001 – 2011 Revised Deposit (June 2003). These policies seek to address the high levels of unemployment in the "East Birmingham and North Solihull Regeneration Zone" by encouraging the recycling of urban land for employment purposes and supporting measures that will help alleviate unemployment including the encouragement of transport links to employment areas both within the Borough and elsewhere.

Fordbridge and Chelmsley Wood Town Centre are subject to the "Fordbridge Plus" Neighbourhood Pathfinder. In addition, North Solihull falls within a proposed Housing Market Renewal Area (The "Eastern Corridor Pathfinder") and is in proximity to Advantage West Midlands High Technology Corridor Coventry-Solihull-Warwickshire.

North Solihull is well positioned to benefit from regeneration. The area is located in close proximity to major employment sites and the opportunities offered by the airport, NEC and Birmingham Business Park will be important factors in taking forward regeneration objectives.

Whilst the general standard of infrastructure is good, the Strategic Framework seeks to improve the housing market and to promote the development of employment sites, Chelmsley Wood retail centre and a network of neighbourhood centres to meet the needs of the community.

The extensive areas of green space in North Solihull are a major asset and offer the opportunity to improve the environment and quality of the area as an attractive place to live, work and invest.

DELIVERING REGENERATION

A sustainable future for North Solihull will be dependent on its integration with the wider area. Success will grow from local strengths and a targeted regeneration strategy to improve the quality and range of residential accommodation, healthcare, education and other services and the general quality of the environment and infrastructure provision.

A new regeneration company will be set up comprising Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, InPartnership Ltd, Bellway Homes Ltd and Whitefriars Housing in early 2005. Plans are currently being developed based upon the Strategic Framework. The overall programme for






regeneration of the area extends to 15 years, improvements will be phased over the whole period and it is proposed that significant improvements will be made within the first five years. The programme of improvements will be undertaken in partnership with the local community.

STATUS OF STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Strategic Framework sets out a vision and regeneration objectives for North Solihull and a comprehensive plan for development and change in the area. It also outlines an implementation and delivery strategy to take the proposals forward together with mechanisms for future review. It has been developed within the context of national and regional planning policy and guidance and conforms with Solihull Unitary Development Plan First Review 2001 – 2011 Revised Deposit (June 2003). Consultation with local people and key stakeholders has taken place during preparation of the Strategic Framework and this will continue during preparation of the Neighbourhood Plans.

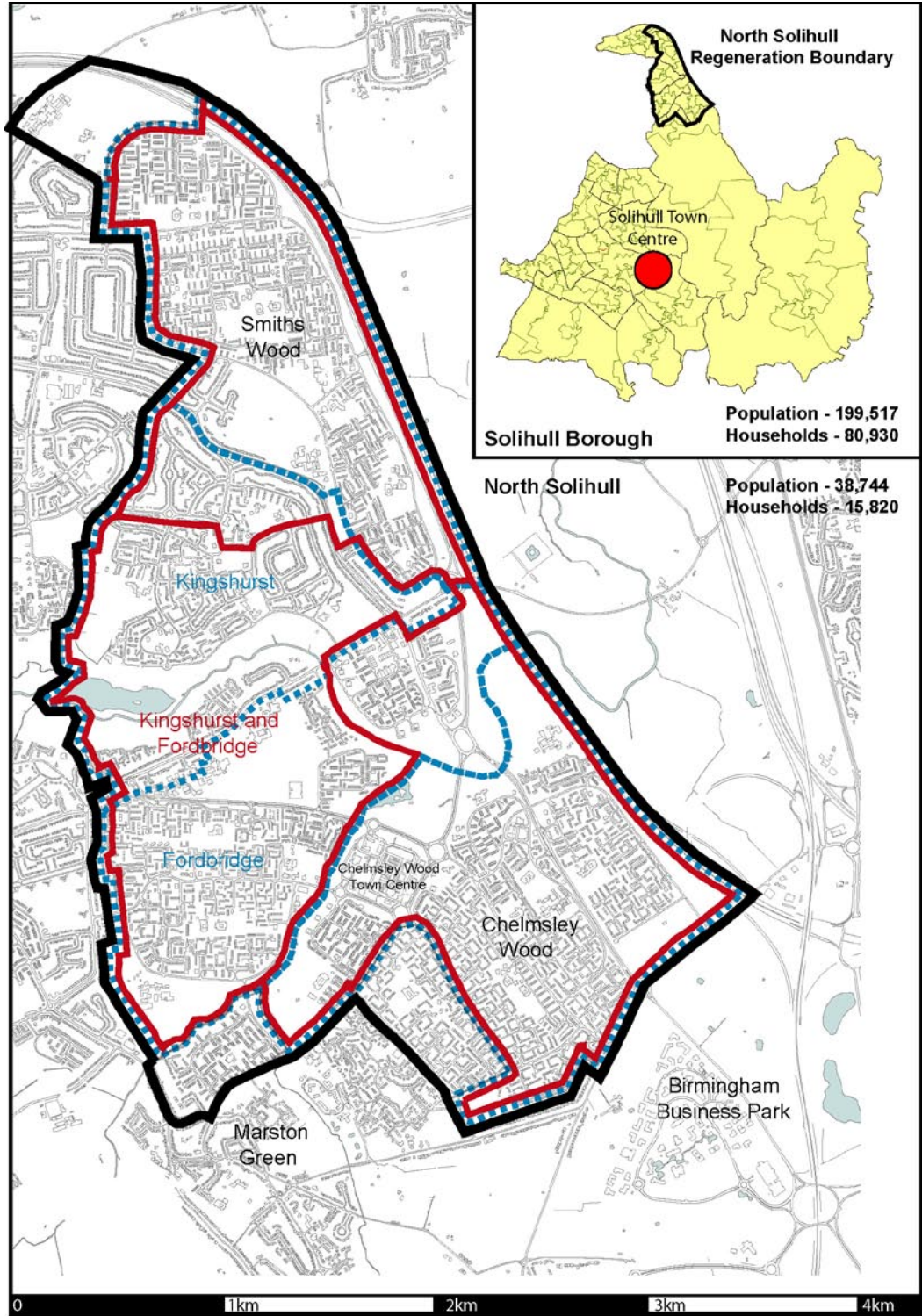
It is intended that the Strategic Framework for North Solihull will be adopted by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council following a full consultation process. The Strategic Framework will be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) supplementing and consistent with 'saved' development plan policy within the Local Development Framework which will be prepared by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council in accordance with the requirements set out in the Planning and Compensation Act 2004. The SPG will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, providing a clear framework for development control decision-making in the North Solihull Regeneration Area.

-  Ward boundaries May 2004
-  Old ward boundaries
-  Proposed North Solihull Regeneration Area boundary

-  King Ward name May 2004
-  Ford Old ward name

nb. Chelmsley Wood and Smiths Wood ward names remain the same.

LOCAL BOUNDARIES



2. CONTEXT

INTRODUCTION

This document has been developed within the context of national, regional and local planning guidance. It has been prepared at a time when new procedures are being introduced in accordance with the Planning and Compensation Act 2004. Under the new regulations, the Council will be required to prepare a Local Development Framework (LDF) to replace the current Unitary Development Plan. It is intended that the North Solihull Strategic Framework will form part of the LDF.

The Strategic Framework will inform the Neighbourhood Plans for North Solihull and will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications providing a clear framework for development control decision making in the North Solihull Regeneration area.

PLANNING CONTEXT

The North Solihull Strategic Framework has been developed within the context of the Regional Spatial Strategy (Regional Planning Guidance - RPG11) and the Council's development plan (the UDP).

There are several key documents that provide the framework for preparation of this document. National Planning Policy Guidance promotes high quality and sustainable development. Sustainable communities require sufficient quality housing to meet the needs of the community, a flourishing local economy supported by adequate infrastructure, a high quality safe and healthy environment and the amenities and sense of space and place to support a diverse and vibrant local community.

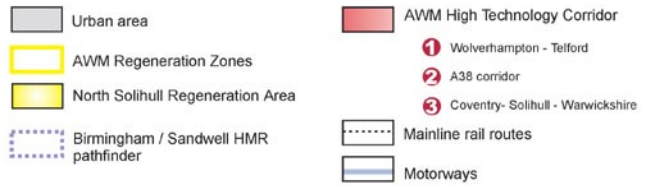
Regional Planning Guidance (RPG11) (2004) seeks to create balanced and stable communities, reversing decline and ensuring greater accessibility to opportunities and services through:

- supporting market renewal of residential areas;
- tackling deprivation and creating employment opportunities in Regeneration Zones;
- protecting and enhancing the quality of the urban environment;

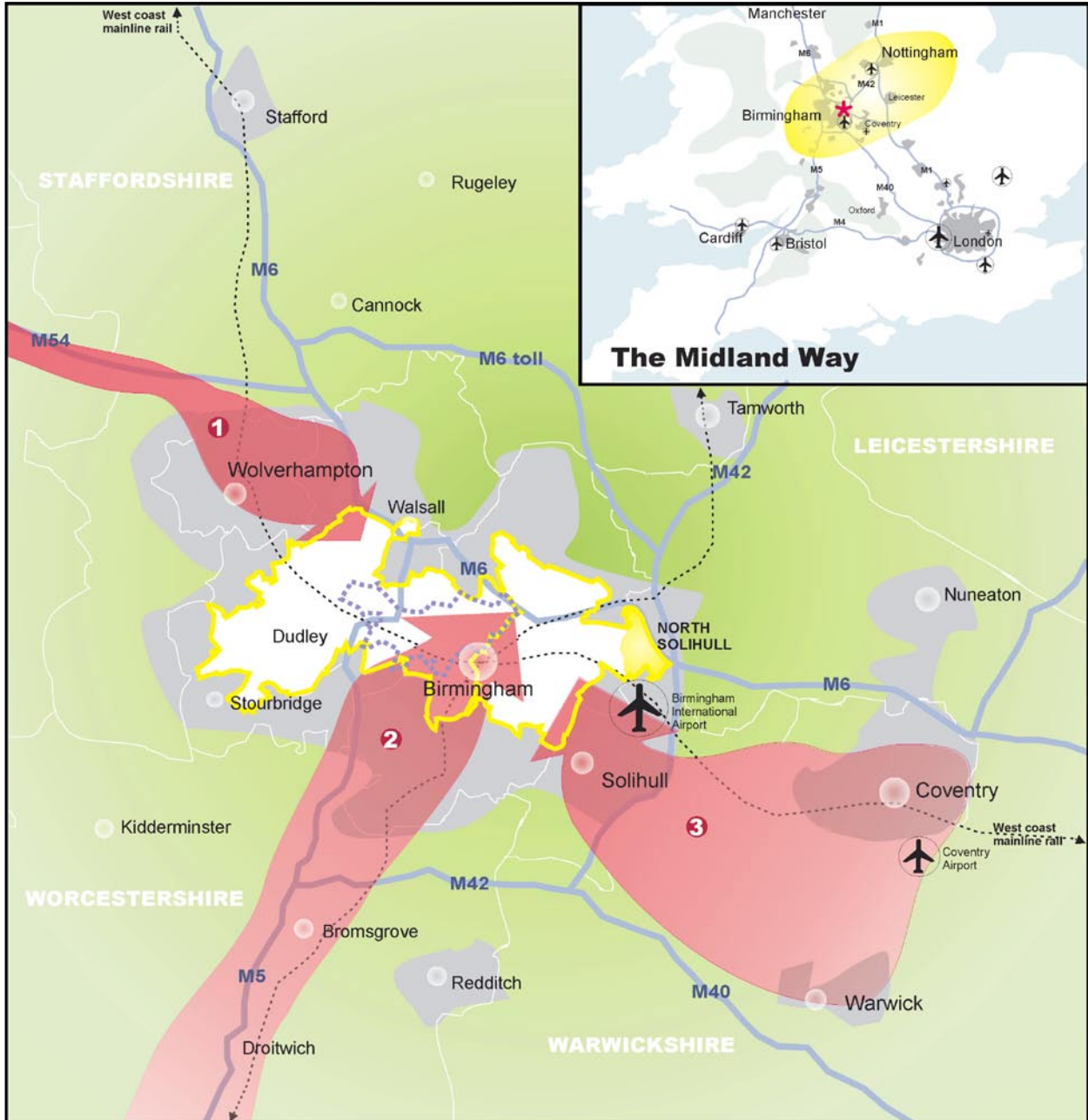
- creating a balanced network of vibrant town and city centres as the strategic focus for major retail, office and leisure development;
- resisting peripheral expansion for housing;
- retaining Green Belt boundaries, but allowing adjustment of boundaries where necessary to support urban regeneration; and
- improving the quality of transport networks.







Key to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RPG11) is achieving urban renaissance in the Major Urban Areas (MUAs) to make them increasingly attractive places to live, work and invest and meet their own economic and social needs in order to counter the unsustainable outward movement of people and jobs.

Within the MUAs the Spatial Strategy seeks targeted action in areas of greatest need and opportunity, to create growth and new choice, with priority for concentrated action within the urban regeneration zones.

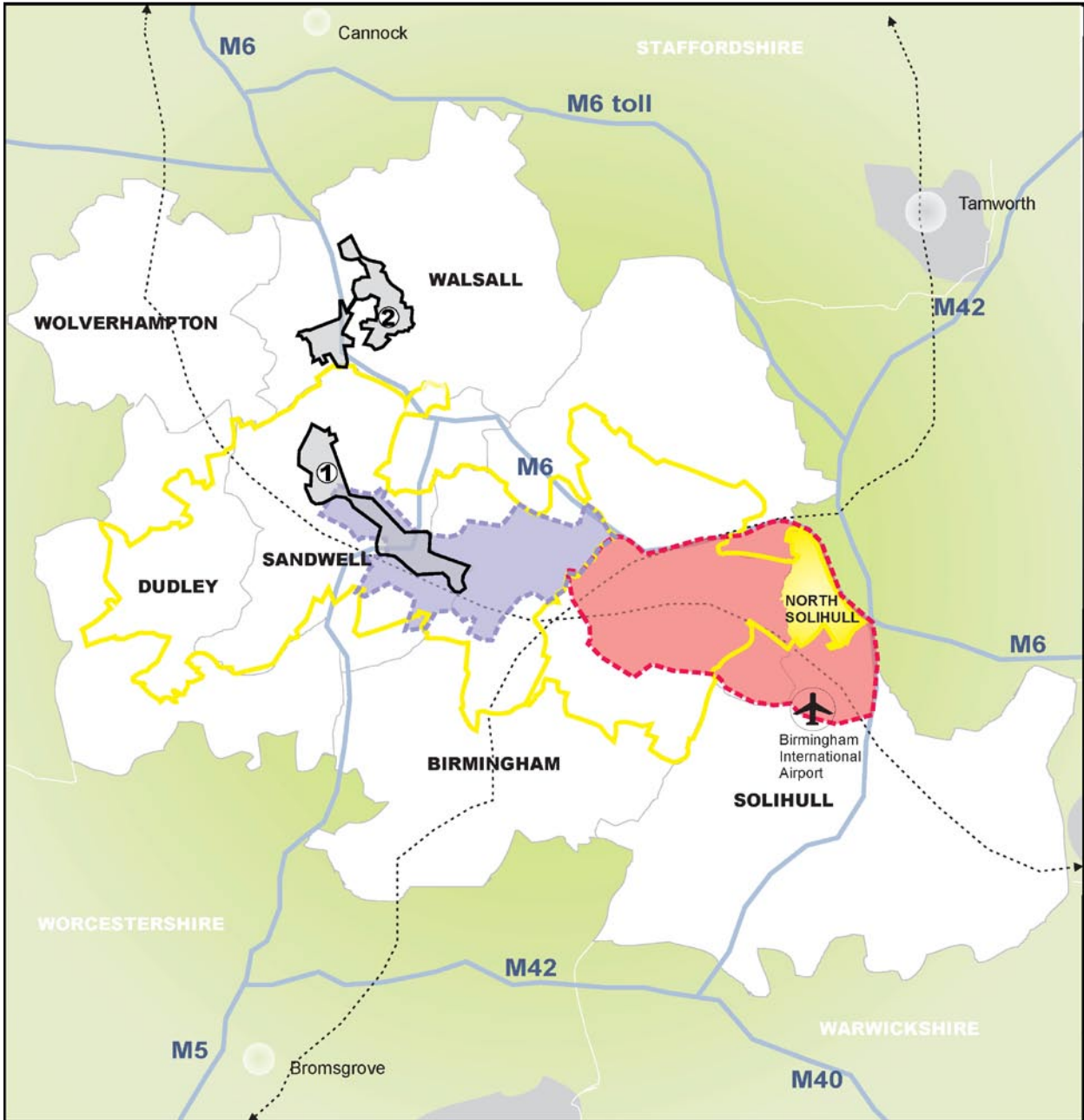


REGIONAL ROLE



- | | |
|---|--|
|  AWM Regeneration Zones |  Urban Regeneration Companies |
|  North Solihull Regeneration Area | ① Sandwell Regenco |
|  Birmingham / Sandwell HMR pathfinder | ② Walsall URC |
|  Eastern Corridor HMR pathfinder - approx boundary |  Mainline rail routes |
| |  Motorways |

SUB REGIONAL ROLE



The focus for economic development is directed to the Regeneration Zones including East Birmingham and North Solihull.

The key planning policy objectives set out in the Solihull UDP First Review 2001-2011 Revised Deposit relate to:

- protecting and maintaining the Green Belt;
- ensuring development is located to minimise the need to travel and to promote public transport, walking and cycling;
- enhancing the role of centres;
- providing a range of sizes and types of dwelling;
- promoting opportunities for sport, recreation, leisure and the arts in accessible locations;
- providing for regeneration employment development;
- strengthening key public transport routes between those areas with a high concentration of unemployed and centres of employment;
- protecting Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs);
- protecting Local Nature Reserves (LNRs);
- protecting the capacity of floodplains with built development permitted only in very exceptional circumstances and limited to essential infrastructure; and
- protecting playing fields, parks and open spaces.

The Draft UDP includes two new housing allocations in North Solihull but most new housing proposed in this document will involve the reuse of brownfield land or redevelopment within the existing urban area. Densities of 30 - 50 dwellings per hectare are sought with densities of over 50 dwellings per hectare promoted in locations with good transport accessibility. A range of size and types of dwelling is proposed. The Council will require developers of both strategic and suitable windfall sites to make a contribution to affordable housing on sites of over 0.5 hectares or over 15 dwellings (and through negotiation) to help meet the overall target for the

Borough of 40%. In assessing the suitability of the site and the amount of affordable housing, the Council will have regard to a number of factors including existing provision of affordable housing; whether the provision of affordable housing would prejudice the realisation of other planning objectives that need to be given priority in the development of the site; the need to secure a range of house types and sizes in the locality in helping to achieve socially balanced and mixed communities and the need to achieve a successful housing development.

The UDP seeks to address problems of unemployment in North Solihull. It identifies one new site for employment use and seeks to improve links to existing employment opportunities within and outside the area. New employment sites may be provided through the redevelopment of Chelmsley Wood Town Centre and the recycling of urban land.

Potential expansion routes for the Midland Metro are proposed in Centro's 20 year strategy with routes serving the Regeneration Area. Whilst a multi-modal transport interchange at the NEC/airport has now been created, improved north-south links are required to serve North Solihull.

Chelmsley Wood Town Centre will be maintained and strengthened as the principal focus in the north of the Borough for retail, employment, leisure and other facilities and services.

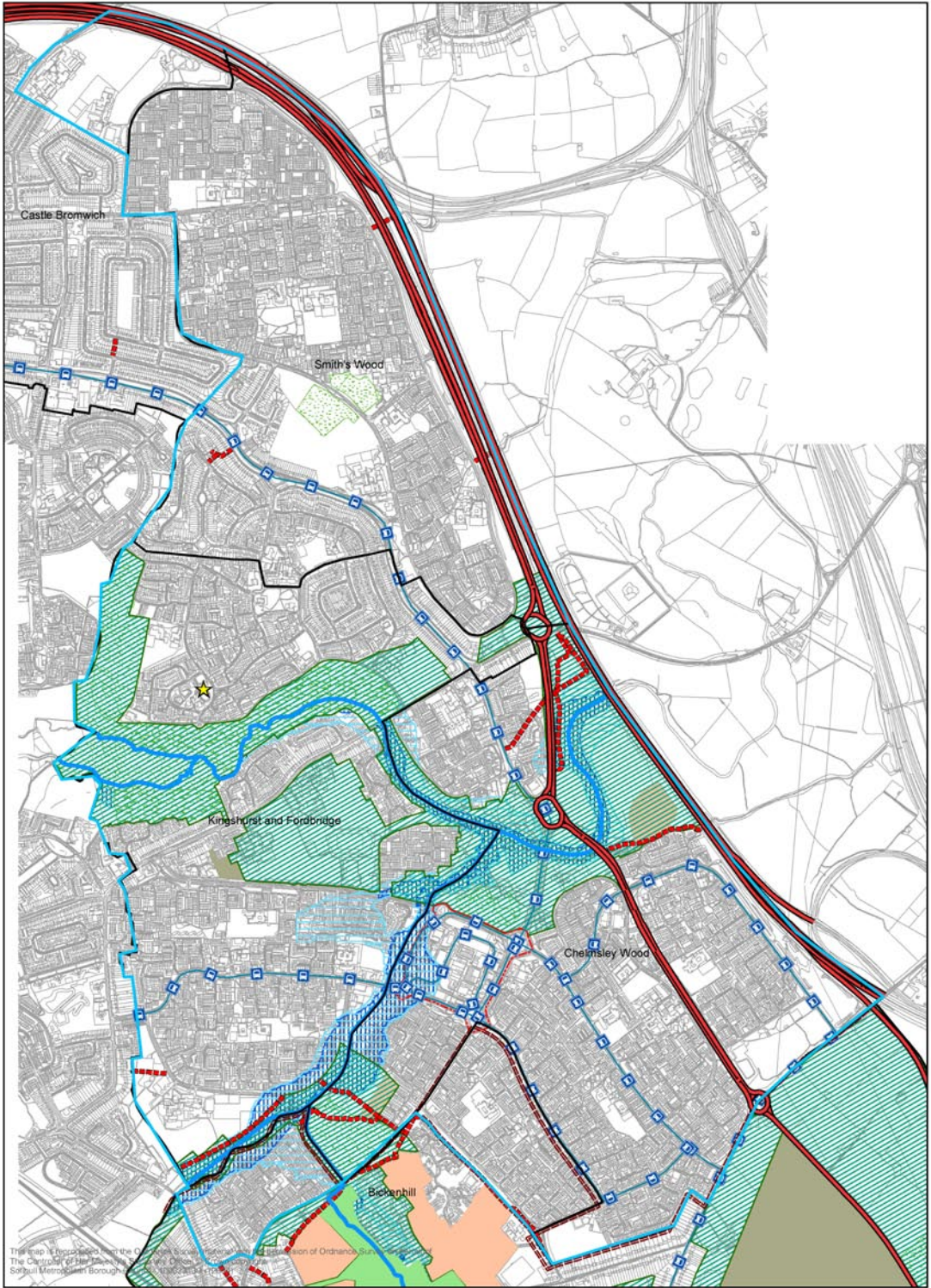
REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY

Advantage West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy Delivering Advantage, West Midlands Economic Strategy and Action Plan 2004 – 2010 outlines the direction and strategy for regional economic development. In the latter half of the document it puts forward an Action Plan comprising 45 actions agreed by the partners and partnerships to deliver and implement the strategy. Many are of relevance to the Regeneration Area but those of most significance include:

- Action 18: Implement initiatives to increase basic skills, particularly in Regeneration Zones, to tackle barriers to employment and address recruitment shortages in key sectors; and
- Action 36: Deliver the Regeneration Zones initiative.



PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT



REGENERATION CONTEXT

North Solihull is well placed to benefit from regeneration. Birmingham has undergone a fundamental and widespread renaissance in recent years and transformed its image to a vibrant, cosmopolitan, diverse centre attracting long-term investment.

The Borough of Solihull has many assets including a prosperous, lively and attractive town centre, high quality residential areas, a variety of employment opportunities and a valued natural environment.

A number of major employment sites are located close and adjacent to North Solihull such as Birmingham City Centre (including Eastside and Heartlands) and Blythe Valley Park. In closer proximity are Birmingham International Airport, the NEC and Birmingham Business Park. Birmingham Business Park and Blythe Valley Park are identified as Regional Investment Sites as set out in RPG11.

Chelmsley Wood Town Centre is to be redeveloped and this development is seen as a catalyst to the wider regeneration of the area. The River Cole Valley and existing open spaces within North Solihull provide a significant opportunity to provide a high quality residential setting and community amenity. Critically, recent consultation has confirmed many residents are committed to their community and wish to remain in the area.

North Solihull is included within the following regeneration designations:

- Advantage West Midlands (AWM) North Solihull East Birmingham Regeneration Zone as reflected in the Regional Economic Strategy, Regional Planning Guidance RPG11 and Solihull's Unitary Development Plan.
- AWM's High Technology Corridor Coventry-Solihull-Warwickshire; and
- Housing Market Renewal (HMR) Eastern Corridor.

This Strategic Framework supports and complements these initiatives.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Significant change is required in North Solihull to create a prosperous, balanced and sustainable community. The Strategic Framework seeks to address existing weaknesses in the area and to build on the area's existing strengths and assets.

POPULATION

The population of North Solihull is approximately 21% of the population of the Borough as a whole. A number of key characteristics are evident:

- A younger population in comparison with national and Borough averages.
- A high proportion of single people.
- A high proportion of lone parent households (twice the Solihull and national average) with particular concentrations in Kingshurst and Chelmsley Wood.

EDUCATION, SKILLS & TRAINING

North Solihull exhibits problems related to education levels and attainment, skills and training. On average 48% of residents in North Solihull have no qualifications with high concentrations in Fordbridge and Chelmsley Wood. Low literacy and numeracy is particularly experienced in Chelmsley Wood and Smith's Wood.

The catchment areas of 5 secondary schools, 16 primary schools and 3 special schools fall within North Solihull. Overall, educational establishments in North Solihull are in poor physical condition.

Solihull College provides a range of post-16 education including higher and further education, adult and community learning (ACL) courses, basic skills and family learning.

Pupil attainment within North Solihull is low and below the national average. Poor attainment is attributed to a range of factors that may include lack of career direction, unsuitable or undesirable further training or educational opportunities and lack of funding or financial support.

Adult education and training take-up is low.

EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Overall, Solihull has a buoyant economy with a number of key economic assets including Birmingham International

Airport, the NEC, Birmingham Business Park, Blythe Valley Park and Land Rover. There are several smaller industrial estates in Chelmsley Wood and Fordbridge and retail sites concentrated in and around Chelmsley Wood Town Centre. Birmingham City Centre is also accessible to North Solihull residents. Major growth clusters are based in ICT and software, transport technologies, tourism and leisure, retail and logistics. Over 50,000 additional new jobs are forecast to be created over the next decade in the wider sub-region.

Despite such opportunities in the area, high unemployment rates persist within areas of North Solihull compared to the rest of the Borough (at 6.2% (2001), twice the national and Borough average). Long-term unemployment is an issue.

Employed residents tend to be concentrated in low skill, low wage occupations. Very few people are employed in professional, managerial or technical occupations and there are few business start-ups, poor business support services and poor quality business accommodation.

A number of barriers to employment have been identified including:

- Inadequate supply of quality business premises, particularly incubator and innovation space and space for SME needs;
- A skills gap - particularly IT skills, numerical, oral and written communication skills;
- Inadequate diversity in the business base to provide a range of employment suitable to resident's skills base;
- Transport and accessibility, particularly from the north to the south of the Borough;
- A lack of affordable childcare; and
- A qualification gap – particularly NVQ Levels 2 and 3.

HEALTH

Poor health is a particular issue in North Solihull and is highlighted by the lower life expectancy relative to the rest of the Borough. It is also reflected in the large number of people being economically inactive as a result of being sick or disabled. Key health issues relate to low personal and social development, low self-esteem, low self-confidence (personal development), alcohol and drug abuse, poor sex education and low levels of physical activity. Teenage

pregnancy is a particular problem. There is a need to develop a more positive, proactive and preventative approach to physical and mental health.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Whilst there are a number of neighbourhood service and advice centres, there are problems of access to these services arising from poor location and public transport facilities.

There are five youth clubs in North Solihull. However there is an identified need to create a further young peoples centre in Chelmsley Wood and Fordbridge. The Extended Schools Initiative offers a number of community services including education, health and social care support, lifelong learning, parental and study support, sports and arts facilities and ICT training. There is a need for more affordable and consistent childcare, expanded arts and cultural provision, drama performance and rehearsal space, improved access to library services, additional and more specialist sports provision and more out of school and holiday activities for children.

CRIME & DISORDER

Whilst the Borough as a whole reports particularly low crime levels (the second lowest rates in the West Midlands), North Solihull has a crime rate above national average.

HOUSING

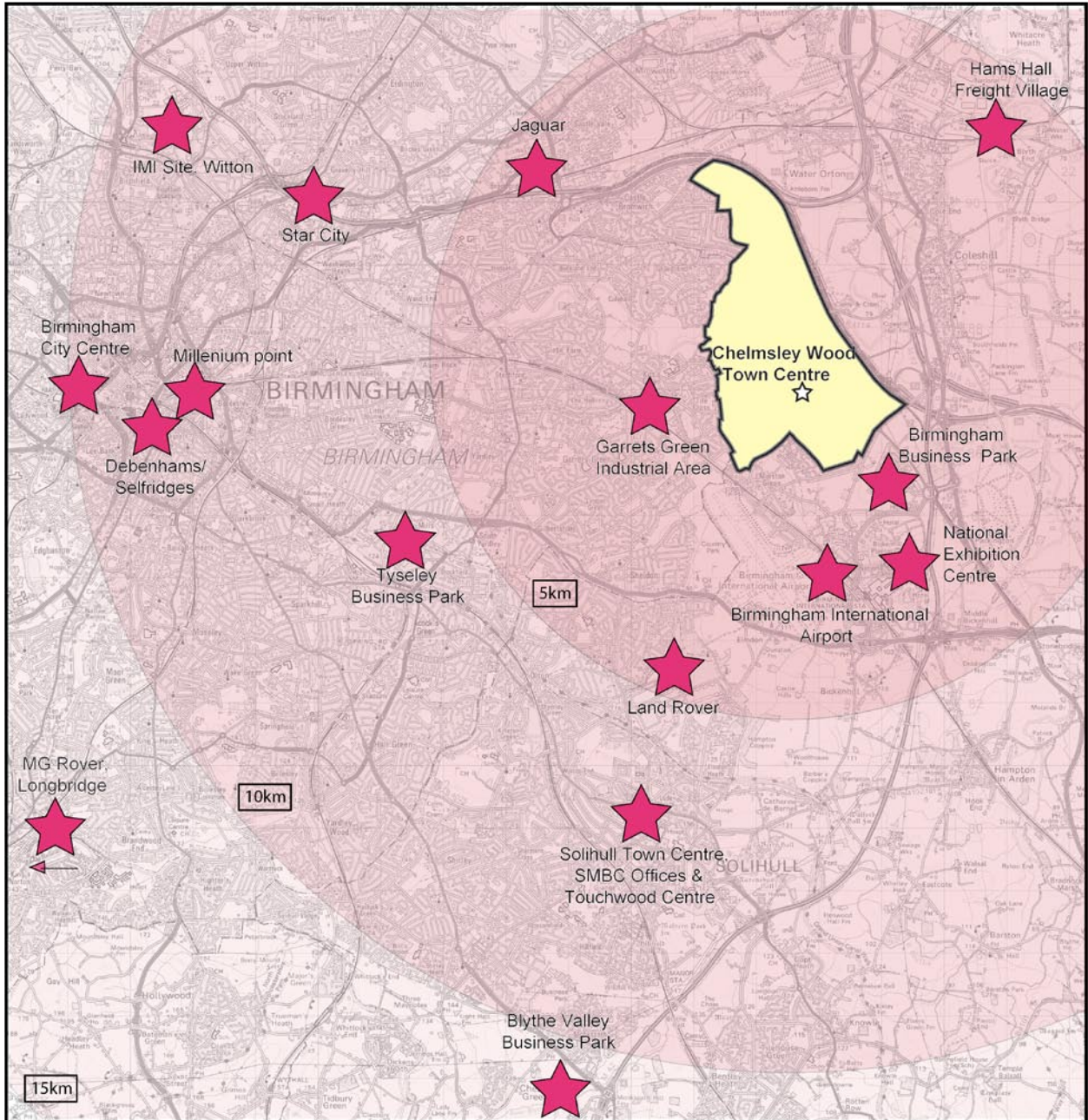
Approximately 15,820 households are located within North Solihull which equates to approximately 20% of the total households within the Borough (2001 Census).

There is a mix of tenures in North Solihull. The most dominant form of tenure is rented housing from the Council (44%) which compares to a Borough average of just 6%. Proportionally there are fewer owner occupiers in North Solihull than the rest of the Borough. Less than one-fifth of households in North Solihull are owner occupied compared to two-fifths of households in the rest of the Borough.

The most common form of property type within North Solihull is terraced housing or bungalows. There is only a small proportion of detached housing (5%) whilst semi-detached housing forms just under one third of the total stock. Almost four times as many households live in a purpose built block of flats compared to the rest of Solihull and nearly half of the local authority flats in the regeneration area are high rise. 99% of the leasehold stock is low rise flats and the majority of these are located in Chelmsley Wood.



REGIONAL EMPLOYERS





Just under half of the total stock in the Borough does not meet the Decent Homes Standard (66% of this stock is located in North Solihull). Nearly half of the stock requires future major repairs (eg. renewal of kitchens, bathrooms, boilers, central heating systems, electrical wiring, windows and flat roofs). The total investment required over the next 30 years for the whole stock was estimated in 2001 at between £542 - £561 million.

Over 10% of Solihull's private sector housing is in a seriously unsatisfactory condition. An average total cost of repair and replacement for private sector dwelling units is £3,740 with an approximate total for North Solihull of £33.2 million.











Accommodation for residents with disabilities in Solihull is inadequate. There is also a shortfall in affordable housing and a backlog of need for more suitable housing. Average household incomes for the Borough as a whole are almost double that of households in North Solihull. The majority of households living in unsuitable accommodation and who need to move cannot afford to either rent or buy in the private sector.

Information on housing demand and supply suggests a mismatch between the types of property available, and those that residents require.

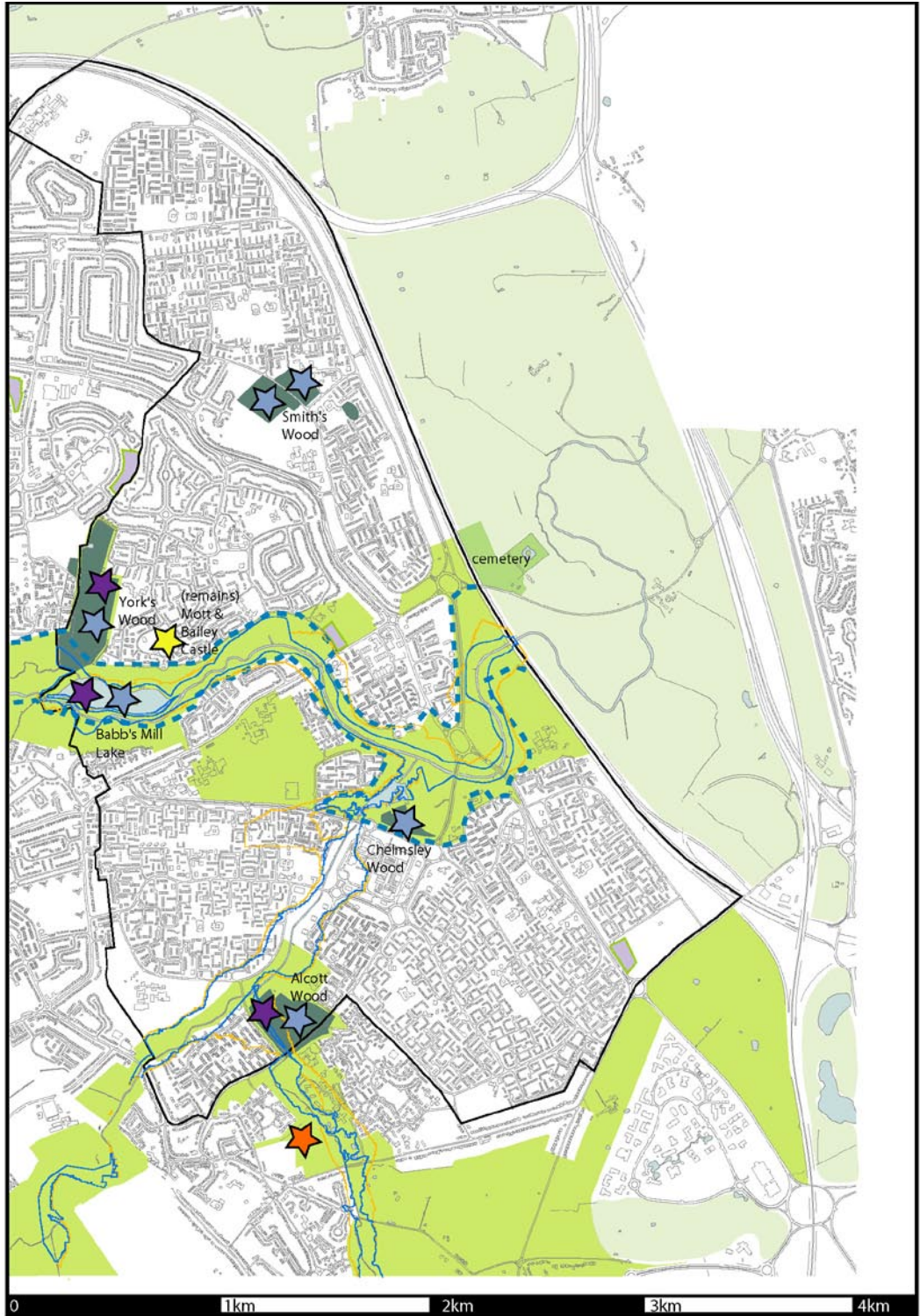
LANDSCAPE & URBAN CHARACTER

A number of landscape designations relate to North Solihull:

- The Arden Character Area (Countryside Agency 'Countryside Character – West Midlands')
- Landscape Guidelines (Warwickshire County Council and Countryside Agency)
- Green Belt
- Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation
- Local Nature Reserves

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|
|  | UDP - green belt |  | Woodland |
|  | UDP - public open space |  | Allotments |
|  | UDP - local nature reserve (LNR) |  | Project Kingfisher |
|  | UDP - sites of importance to nature conservation (SINC) |  | Flood zone 3 (1% risk) |
|  | Ancient monument |  | Flood zone 2 (0.1% risk) |

LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS



The River Cole Valley forms the dominant landscape feature. It is a wide river valley containing grassland, pockets of ancient woodland and recreational facilities at Babb's Mill and Meriden Park. Project Kingfisher cares for 11 km of the Cole Valley, including the stretch in North Solihull. Rangers manage a series of conservation based public events.

A Five Year Parks Strategy (1999 – 2004) has led to new management practices including 10 on-site park rangers, park action groups in Meriden Park and Smith's Wood and the development of flexible concept and master plans for six parks within North Solihull.

There are two central parks in North Solihull: Babb's Mill with a focus of nature conservation and Meriden Park with facilities including tennis courts, a bowling green and children's play area. Vandalism and other anti-social activities are an identified problem in the parks.

A green buffer on the eastern edge of Chelmsley Wood and Smith's Wood separates residential areas from the M6 and A452 corridor. It is effective as a buffer to the motorway but has limited amenity value.

The Play Area Strategy for Solihull (2003 – 2013) concluded that North Solihull was generally well provided with play areas. A full open space assessment and strategy has not yet been completed.

The urban character of North Solihull is defined by the housing areas and landscape features. The majority of Chelmsley Wood, Smith's Wood and Fordbridge were built during the 1960s to a Radburn layout with backs of properties and high fences fronting onto the road and housing blocks geometrically arranged around parking courtyards, drying spaces or small green areas. Access to homes is via footpaths and surveillance is poor. The area contains a large number of high rise blocks. Densities are generally within the range of 35 – 45 units per hectare.





Kingshurst has a contrasting character including pre-1950s development of semi-detached and detached units, early 1950s housing, later housing comprising a mix of flats, terraces and maisonettes arranged around cul-de-sacs and courts and 1970s – 80s development fronting Babb's Mill Park.

Chelmsley Wood Town Centre has dual carriageways on three sides and major roundabouts at key gateways which act as barriers between the shopping centre, the residential neighbourhoods and the green spaces of the River Cole Valley.

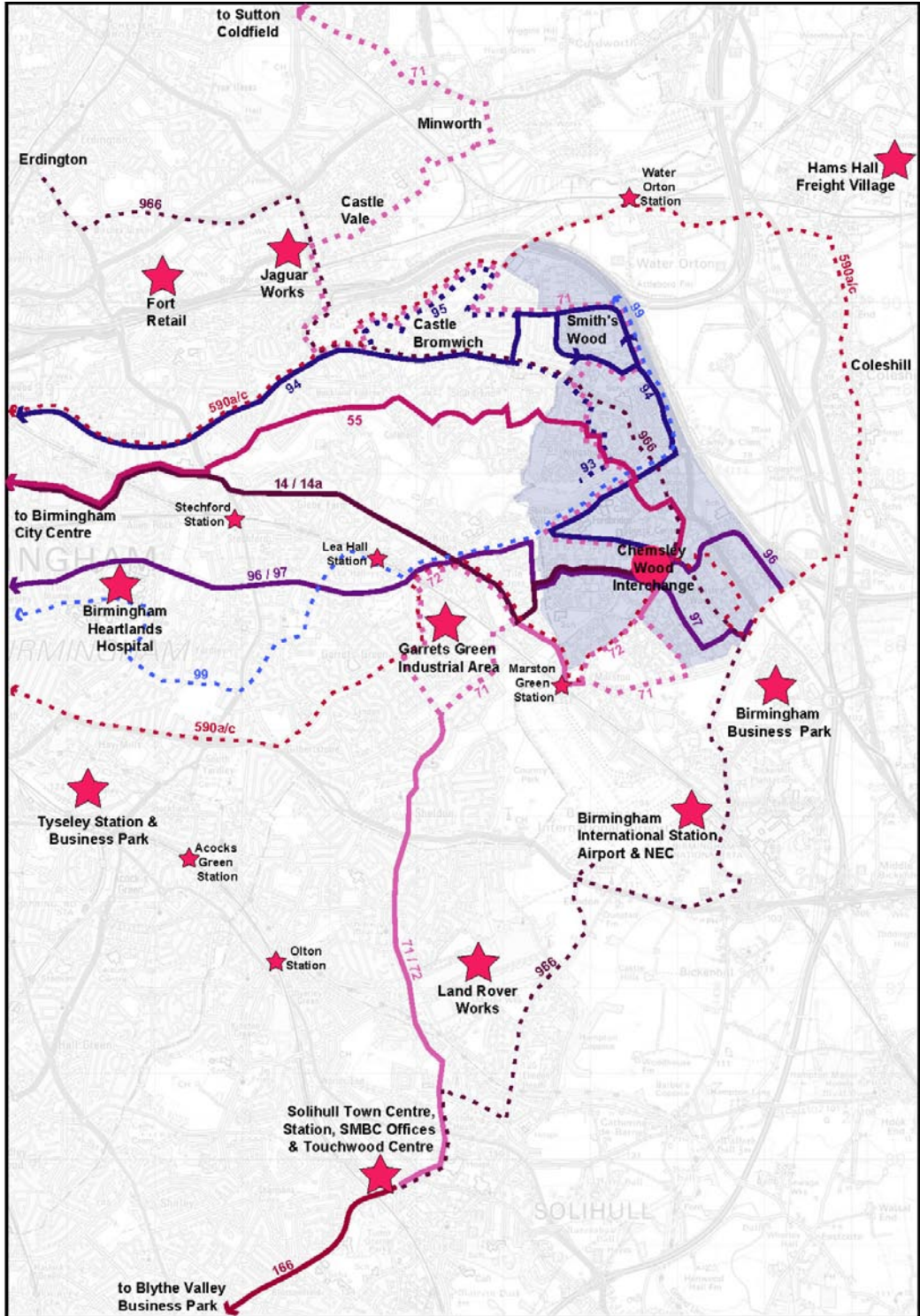
TRANSPORT

Access to a range of transportation modes is a key requirement. Key issues relating to existing transport facilities in North Solihull may be summarised as follows:

- Car ownership is low – 42% have no access to a car in North Solihull compared to 21% for Solihull as a whole and a national figure of 27%.
- East-west bus links between North Solihull and Birmingham City Centre are better than existing north south links connecting North Solihull with Birmingham International Airport, Solihull and Sutton Coldfield.
- Chelmsley Wood and Kingshurst / Fordbridge are better connected to each other than Smith's Wood.
- There is no direct rail access to North Solihull although there are limited bus connections to Marston Green and Birmingham International stations.
- There are general and long-term proposals to extend the Midland Metro from Birmingham City Centre to Birmingham International Airport.
- Whilst there are some cycle links in North Solihull, they are disjointed and overall the provision is poor.
- Accident records show that the levels of pedestrian accidents are 72% higher than the Borough average and 237% higher when considering child pedestrians.

-  Major destinations
-  North Solihull regeneration area
-  Bus routes serving North Solihull with a Monday-Friday peaktime frequency of 15 minutes or less
-  Bus routes serving North Solihull with a Monday-Friday peaktime frequency of 30 minutes or less

EXISTING BUS ROUTES





CONSULTATION

Consultation has been undertaken with the local community during the course of preparation of the Strategic Framework to identify key issues and concerns. The consultation strategy to inform the Strategic Framework included a postal survey delivered to every household in the Regeneration Area and a Roadshow held in the summer of 2004 in 21 different locations throughout North Solihull. This was supported by a follow-up day with members of a number of resident panels and other established groups.

Once prepared the Draft Strategic Framework was then formally consulted upon and copies sent to statutory consultees for comment. A four week public exhibition was also held in a range of locations in North Solihull to engage with local residents. Residents were provided with a range of opportunities to comment, including comment forms that were issued at the exhibitions and a freephone service. Following the consultation this adopted version of the Strategic Framework incorporates the recommendations of statutory consultees and residents where appropriate. A separate accompanying report "The North Solihull Draft Strategic Framework Consultation Report" discusses the responses in detail. The following section summarises the key issues identified during the Roadshow, lending community support to the Strategic Framework proposals.

Over 700 people took part in the road show and a range of ages were represented from across the entire study area. The postal survey achieved a response rate of 18%. A number of key themes and issues emerged from the consultation and these have been taken into account in preparation of the Strategic Framework.

TRANSPORT

- Insufficient bus and rail links from North Solihull to the NEC, Birmingham International Airport, Birmingham Business Park and Shopping Centre to enable residents to get to work. There are not enough evening services both within the area and to destinations outside the area.
- Need for improvements to and additional bus stops and shelters.
- Desire for a new rail link from North Solihull to Solihull and Birmingham town centres.
- Support for increased traffic calming through better road layouts.

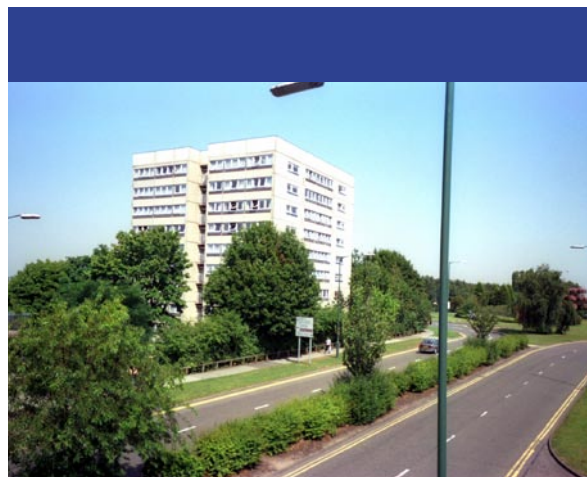
- Support for improved routes and safer routes to schools.

LOCAL JOBS & TRAINING

- Need for more jobs provided locally.
- Need to increase the range and type of jobs available.
- Poor transport access to employment centres.
- Need to improve the quality of training courses at local colleges and community centres.
- Need for more childcare facilities.

LEISURE & OPEN SPACES

- High level of support for the continued protection of green and open spaces.
- Concerns expressed over safety of open spaces due to motor and quad bikes, intimidation of younger children by older youths, drugs and general litter problems.
- Improvements required to the parks including better lighting, toilet facilities, more park wardens on patrol and improved facilities for older children, including a skate park and bike track and improved sporting and play facilities (football, basketball and golf).
- Need to improve the maintenance of play equipment.
- Support for the development of cafés in the parks and sports equipment hire.
- Need to improve local play / open space facilities.
- Requirement for more affordable leisure options.
- Need to diversify the leisure offer to include swimming pool/fun pool and gym (without expensive joining fees), cinema, bowling alley, ice skating and a skate/bike park.
- Support for an evening economy such as better quality and family pubs, restaurants and cafes in safe and accessible locations.



- Support for provision of venues for young people to go to in the evening.

HEALTH

- General satisfaction with health facilities in the area.
- Some facilities could be in more accessible locations and would benefit from modernisation.
- Need to address drug misuse through increased number of support groups.
- Need for more outreach support for those with mental health problems.
- Requirement for more sheltered accommodation for the elderly.

EDUCATION

- Moderate to high level of satisfaction with quality of teaching. Primary schools and pre-school childcare facilities were particularly praised.
- Need for improvements to the quality of teaching facilities and school premises.
- Requirement for safer routes to schools and crossing points on Chester Road.
- Need to increase the school offer with shared use of school facilities by the wider community.
- Support for extension of the Sure Start scheme to all schools and older children.

HOUSING

- Many residents feel part of a community and many have lived there for a long time.
- View that estates are badly designed – dislike of the alleyways which are thought to encourage anti-social behaviour, vandalism and fly-tipping.
- Need for more family housing.
- Lack of council housing and concerns about quality of accommodation.
- Lack of good quality housing to rent or buy.
- Need for more car parking.
- Dislike for the high-rise flats particularly in

Chelmsley Wood because of anti-social behaviour and drug issues.

- Need to increase security in the communal areas of flats.
- Requirement for environmental improvements to the estates.
- Need for improved street lighting, safety and security.

COMMUNITY & RETAIL FACILITIES

- Need to provide facilities for evening entertainment for all sectors of the community.
- Need to improve community halls to provide for a range of adult and children's clubs, classes and other activities.
- Support for increased variety and quality of the shopping offer both in Chelmsley Wood Town Centre and the neighbourhood centres, although general satisfaction with the current facilities to meet day-to-day needs.
- Requirement for bank facilities.
- Need to improve the library offer, particularly for older children.
- Need to improve toilet facilities in shopping and community areas.
- Support for development of active resident associations.
- Requirement for more public telephone boxes.

CRIME & SAFETY

- Need to increase the police presence, particularly on foot.
- Need to address drug/alcohol and substance abuse problems.
- Problems of litter, graffiti and vandalism.
- Need to improve road safety.

The Strategic Framework seeks to address existing problems identified in the Regeneration Area and the key issues and priorities raised during consultation with local communities and to build on the opportunities presented by the area.



3. THE VISION

“Our Vision is of a Solihull where there is no gap of inequality, and where everyone has equality of access to education, health, employment, housing and other services.”

North Solihull Regeneration Partnership

THE CHALLENGE

North Solihull is a product of its time. During the 1950s and 1960s large residential estates were developed to provide affordable accommodation in all of the major cities including Birmingham. North Solihull was developed at this time largely to a Radburn layout. Vehicles and pedestrians were segregated in a ‘back-to-front’ layout with housing reversing onto streets and front doors opening onto semi-private and public spaces. High-rise flats were developed with pockets of open space. Whilst housing densities were high, a uniform system of development evolved lacking in character, identity and diversity. With the decline of manufacturing industries in the area and difficulties in developing the skills required to access new jobs, unemployment increased. As a result, the area has suffered from physical, social and economic deprivation.

The challenge facing Solihull MBC and its partners is to reverse this decline and to secure sustainable change and benefits for North Solihull.

THE VISION

North Solihull has many positive attributes on which to build a sustainable future. The Strategic Framework sets out a vision for North Solihull which is consistent with and conforms to the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Council’s development plan: the UDP. It is a vision which contributes to the urban renaissance agenda for North Solihull, the Sub Region and the Region as a whole and which sees North Solihull as a place with:

- Quality of life and choice
- An engaged and active population
- A place of first class connections
- A distinctive character defined by open space

QUALITY OF LIFE & CHOICE

North Solihull has an important role to play in the urban renaissance. A sustainable, socially inclusive and vibrant outward-looking, adaptable community with a strong sense of place within a green setting will be created. It will be a community flexible and able to provide for a diversity of needs, rich in culture and environment with a higher quality of life.

Distinctive neighbourhoods will be developed which build on existing character and are defined by high quality buildings and public spaces. The creation of energy sustainable buildings will be important. The well being of residents will be improved through better facilities, high quality and safe development and by creating new opportunities.

A wide range of housing in terms of tenure, value, size and form will be provided. The housing market will be active and sustainable; encouraging private owners and the housing market to invest. Retained council owned properties will be improved as part of an integrated programme.

High quality neighbourhood facilities as vibrant and vital local centres accessible to all providing education, retail, leisure, community and healthcare will be developed in locations as far as possible where everyone can access services on foot, bicycle or public transport. Better access to public transport and improvements to routes to better serve the community will be sought.

AN ENGAGED & ACTIVE POPULATION

A sustained and co-ordinated approach is proposed which will remove existing barriers to opportunities for residents such as poor health, poverty and crime and academic underachievement. New employment opportunities will be developed and existing facilities enhanced. A better co-ordinated employment strategy will support all residents in gaining active and stable employment. Improved educational facilities will help residents access local and sub-regional job opportunities. Accessible activities will be provided for young people. Local people will be fully engaged in the regeneration of their area.

A PLACE OF FIRST CLASS CONNECTIONS

Existing physical connections will be reinforced and new connections provided to opportunities in the wider area – especially to the airport, the business park, the NEC and to the west and south. North Solihull's residents will be able to satisfy day-to-day needs for travel to work, shopping, leisure and health care.

Improved access to sub-regional and local economies will underline sustainable economic growth supporting efficient, competitive and innovative business, commercial and industrial sectors both for North Solihull and its sub-region. Releasing the untapped labour resource of North Solihull will have a significant regenerative effect on the wider sub-region.

Reducing the need to travel, providing more connections and encouraging public transport provision will secure more safe and sustainable patterns of movement.

A DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER DEFINED BY OPEN SPACE

The green spaces within North Solihull are a major defining feature of the area. Each residential community will be linked to this parkland setting through a series of well-defined safe streets, incorporating pedestrian friendly routes and cycleways. These open spaces will be accessible to all, secure and provide quality leisure, sport, education and amenity facilities. Biodiversity will be enhanced and protected to prevent, reduce and offset adverse environmental effects. More efficient use of land through higher density mixed use development and the reuse of previously developed land and buildings will be secured. There will be a commitment to high quality architecture and urban design.

This is the vision for North Solihull which the Strategic Framework seeks to promote.



4. REGENERATION PRINCIPLES

A number of key regeneration principles underpin the North Solihull Strategic Framework.

- To improve the quality of life in North Solihull through large scale, holistic regeneration over the next 15 – 20 years.
- To deliver regeneration that the communities of North Solihull are involved in and committed to.
- To create high quality neighbourhoods, each with a distinctive sense of place.
- To create healthy, safe communities where all have equality of access.
- To increase prosperity through improved education, training, employment and transport.
- To deliver sustainable development in order that the quality of life of present and future generations is protected and enhanced.

OBJECTIVES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- All stakeholders have the opportunity to effectively contribute to the plans for their neighbourhood.
- Young people and other “hard to reach groups” are engaged with throughout.
- Capacity is built across the local community to enable local people to make a positive contribution to the regeneration of their area.
- The capacity of the voluntary and community sector is increased.

COMMUNITY COHESION, EQUALITY & ADDRESSING DISADVANTAGE

- A diverse, vibrant and creative local culture, encouraging pride in the local community and cohesion within it.
- Community engagement includes people from all sectors of the community.
- The Partnership has a workforce representative of the community they serve.

- An environment where vulnerable groups are able to benefit from improved employment, education and training opportunities.

COMMUNITY, LEISURE & RETAIL FACILITIES

The partnership will work with other stakeholders to create:

- “Community Hubs” providing integrated services that benefit local people – with a range of services including health, education, leisure and sports as well as retail options.
- To provide neighbourhoods with local shops that offer choice in both quality and price.
- New and refurbished schools adaptable for community use, with enhanced facilities for leisure activities and delivery of community based services.
- Support local community and voluntary organisations in the delivery of services to the community.
- New leisure facilities specifically targeted for young people.

HOUSING & THE ENVIRONMENT

Working with other stakeholders the partnership will work towards:

- Extending quality and choice in the local housing market for all, security for vulnerable people and improvements to the condition and management of existing housing stock.
- A more balanced housing market containing a greater proportion and variety of owner occupied homes.
- Promoting a high quality of building and landscape design and specification to create architectural impact and attractive streets.
- Ensuring that value generated from land assets and new build are recycled back into the regeneration of the area.
- Providing existing owners and tenants with real opportunities to share in the benefits, including new homes regardless of tenure.

- Providing flexibility to address changing needs/ aspirations of the population.

- Creation of mixed use developments that encourage vitality and sustainability.

- Incorporating energy efficiency and water minimisation measures.

- Designing homes for lifelong occupancy.

- Designing out opportunities for crime.

- Improving quality of access to homes and parking provision.

BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The partnership and other stakeholders will seek to ensure:

- High quality, accessible parks and public open spaces with new development facing open spaces in appropriate locations.

- High quality management of the public realm.

- Protection of the natural and built environment via the development of sustainable communities.

- The use of sustainable materials in developments wherever possible, meeting the Building for Life Standard.

- Promotion of sustainable waste management, contributing to the Government’s aim to deliver sustainable use of natural resources.

- Biodiversity is promoted, protected and enhanced wherever practicable.

- All development activity safeguards protected species and their habitats.

- A proportion of new build homes meet the Ecohomes Standard.

- New development will have regard to its impact on the quality of ground and surface water resources through the pursuance of sustainable drainage systems, where appropriate or other pollution control measures to meet Water Framework Directive targets.

- Minimise flooding risk by not locating development within floodplains other than essential transport and utilities infrastructure. Ensure no increase in surface run-off is created by new developments.
- Where practicable ensure new development contributes to the Government's aspirations with regards to Climate Change through the use of renewable energy sources.

BUSINESS & INVESTMENT

The partnership with other stakeholders will seek to:

- Increase the business base and create a more diverse local economy with more industry in key growth areas.
- Develop the right links with the wider regional, national and international community.
- Attract new business investment into the area.
- Support indigenous business growth.
- Raise the aspirations of local residents to achieve their business objectives.
- Provide more modern commercial space including incubator units.
- Provide facilities and support for the development of enterprise and social enterprise.
- Encourage sustainable local businesses.
- Enhance and improve the environment as a means of attracting inward investment.

EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The partnership and other stakeholders will seek to:

- Develop a flourishing local economy-providing access to jobs both locally and within the wider sub regional and regional context.
- Increase employment rates for local people, especially those who may be disadvantaged, such as lone parents, 50+, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, people lacking qualifications.

- Provide training and development scheme for local people through the refurbishment and construction undertaken in North Solihull.
- Successfully develop intermediate labour markets.
- Create sustainable employment and training opportunities through the redevelopment of key sites including retail areas.
- Raise access to and awareness of employment opportunities across the borough for local residents.
- Encourage a culture of Life Long Learning amongst local residents by raising awareness of opportunities.
- Support local people in setting up their own business as an employment option.

EDUCATION

The partnership with other stakeholders will contribute to SMBC's objective of aiming to increase educational attainment across North Solihull through:

- The modernisation of primary school provision in consultation with schools and the community.
- Supporting initiatives to increase educational attainment for pupils and the student population through extended learning and lifelong learning.
- Improved opportunities for adult learning and post 16 participation rates in areas such as construction, industry training and skills.
- Extended school activities supported by quality building design and provision of community based facilities.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

The partnership will seek to work closely with key stakeholders:

- To narrow health inequalities through the effective delivery of key local services, including health, education, housing and crime prevention.
- To improve access to health facilities at a local level through integrated service delivery for the local community.

- To provide additional extra care and respite facilities for older people.

CRIME REDUCTION & PREVENTION

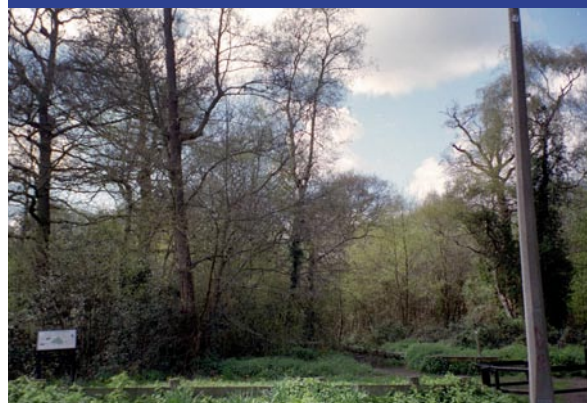
To create safer and stronger communities through working with the police and other local agencies to:

- Seek an overall reduction in crime and disorder, and fear of crime in the local area.
- Development of neighbourhoods with an enhanced environment that are “safer by design”.
- Integrate community safety issues into the master planning and delivery of the regeneration programme.

TRANSPORT

The partnership working with other stakeholders to:

- Improve access to work and important services including education, healthcare, leisure and shopping for the local community and in particular disadvantaged or vulnerable groups.
- Promote the principles of Local Agenda 21.
- Provide a choice of sustainable transport modes for local people.
- Support good public transport and other transport infrastructure both within the community and making links to local and regional centres.
- Promote non-motorised travel options, e.g. cycling, walking.
- Improve public transport provision to “showcase” standard where viable to do so.
- Minimise the environmental impact of transport including air quality and noise.



5. THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Strategic Framework builds on the strengths of North Solihull and the range of current initiatives to bring about sustainable and positive change. It provides a comprehensive framework for change and development which will be capable of adapting to new opportunities in the future. It has been developed to conform with national, regional and local planning policy and guidance and principles of sustainability.

A holistic approach to area regeneration and service provision lies at the centre of the Strategic Framework. The need to view the area comprehensively and to understand the key interrelationships between different parts of North Solihull is essential to the achievement of regeneration objectives. The Strategic Framework seeks to strengthen linkages within North Solihull and to the wider area and to redefine the roles and functions of the principal centres and neighbourhoods.

The key elements of the Strategic Framework may be summarised as follows:

A HIERARCHY OF HIGH QUALITY CENTRES TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- Creation of a diverse town centre at Chelmsley Wood with a range of high quality retail, leisure and community facilities. Chelmsley Wood will be the main centre to serve North Solihull and will provide a more attractive destination with a more diverse offer.
- Development of a series of Community Hubs or neighbourhood centres in accessible locations to provide for day-to-day retail needs, childcare, flexible space for adult education, library and ICT access, evening classes and other community uses supported by residential development. These will be focused in existing local centres or in new locations accessible to the local community. The Community Hubs will take a variety of forms including the provision of new physical space, management, information sharing and partnership arrangements.
- Activity will be fostered in the centres throughout the day and into the evening to provide safe, self supporting and vibrant centres.

EXTENDED GREEN NETWORK & ENHANCED RELATIONSHIP TO THE WATERWAYS

- Creation of an extended Green Network which builds on the special qualities of the area to create a linear park centred on the waterways with connections into adjacent communities. A stronger character and distinct identity for North Solihull will develop focusing on this special landscape quality and enhanced green network. This may involve the adjustment and re-design/relocation of existing open space.
- Development of green chains of open space throughout the area protecting biodiversity and providing an important recreational resource.
- Reinforcement of linkages into the open countryside and to provide safe and pleasant routes within the area and to the wider area beyond.
- Ensuring any new footpaths and cycleways within the green network do not adversely impact on the biodiversity within these areas.

STRONG NETWORK OF CONNECTIONS AND AN ENHANCED PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM

- Provision of new routes to link neighbourhoods and facilitate movement within the area. These new routes will be provided as part of the redevelopment of existing housing areas and will involve the linking of existing cul-de-sacs and the extension of existing streets. The new routes will provide attractive and safe green routes.
- Improved access through redefinition of the street hierarchy including where appropriate reducing the severance of strategic routes, more direct and legible routes to take people to key destinations: the town centre, employment centres, Learning Clusters and Community Hubs. Reducing the severance of existing roads will reduce the barriers to movement currently created by the road system.
- Improved access to jobs through a comprehensive and robust transport strategy focusing on more sustainable modes of travel – walking, cycling and public transport and ease of movement between modes through the development of additional small scale interchanges. The linking of neighbourhoods will enable easier access throughout the day and evening.

- Working with transport operators to provide a strong public transport network to enable residents to access destinations easily and at times they need to travel.

IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING HOUSING AREAS

- The promotion of opportunities for new residential development including the reuse of brownfield land and where appropriate, the redevelopment of existing housing to create an improved living environment.
- The creation of new higher quality, distinctive and attractive residential neighbourhoods with a green backcloth providing a range of accommodation to meet identified needs and strong links between areas, to employment opportunities and to the surrounding countryside.
- The development of socially balanced and mixed communities through the provision of a more sustainable mix of housing types and values to meet a range of needs. There is an aim of no net loss of social rented sector housing as a direct result of the regeneration project. To achieve this, the overall balance of new housing provision will be at maximum ratios of 60% market housing, 30% social rented housing and 10% intermediate tenure which will be kept under constant review as part of the North Solihull Housing Strategy with a view to increasing the intermediate tenure as part of the affordable totals if that is sustainable in rehousing terms.
- Improving the balance between owner-occupied and rented homes. Normal policy requirements will not apply for affordable housing provision as part of new residential developments for a period of 3 years from commencement of the first development on site. This will ensure early and substantial diversification of tenure allowing progress towards the creation of more sustainable communities and to generate funding towards wider regeneration initiatives such as improvements to existing housing stock.
- The development of distinctive places and spaces which encourage ownership and a sense of community.

- An average density of 55 dwellings per hectare across the regeneration area with higher density development in locations with good accessibility to services and public transport such as in designated centres and Community Hubs.

ENHANCED LEARNING CLUSTERS

- Development of stronger educational foci and learning and knowledge centres, encouraging specialisation and improving the quality and range of learning provision.
- The Learning Clusters will relate to Community Hubs and be supported by the improved transport system to permit safe trips to school and work. Development of strong cycle and pedestrian networks to take people to the Learning Clusters will be particularly important.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT

- Reducing unemployment through the development of an integrated approach to education, training, childcare provision and transport.
- Providing a range of new high quality employment space including start-up business space in suitable locations such as Chelmsley Wood Town Centre and the Community Hubs.
- Enhancing educational and skills development to permit residents to pursue a diverse range of employment opportunities.

CREATION OF A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

- Creation of a healthy and active population, participating in a wide range of sporting and leisure activities, walking and cycling to destinations where possible and supported by modern and comprehensive neighbourhood health services.

BUILDING ON EXISTING AND PROPOSED REGENERATION INITIATIVES

The Strategic Framework builds on existing initiatives including:

- The redevelopment of Chelmsley Wood Town Centre
- Woodlands Learning Village, Smith’s Wood

- The City (Grace) Academy, Chapel House Road, Fordbridge
- The LIFT Project, Crabtree Drive, Fordbridge
- Renewal of Secondary schools through the Building Schools for the Future programme.
- SCIL – Solihull Centre for Inclusive Learning.

PROMOTION OF HIGH QUALITY DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

- A high quality of urban design and public realm and the development of safe and secure neighbourhoods and a diverse range of functions and activities.
- Definition of gateways, activity centres, landmarks and increasing density of development in accessible locations and on key routes.
- Developing a community that is proud of and takes care of its neighbourhood and enjoys participating in its safe and stimulating environment.
- Celebration of community and cultural diversity.

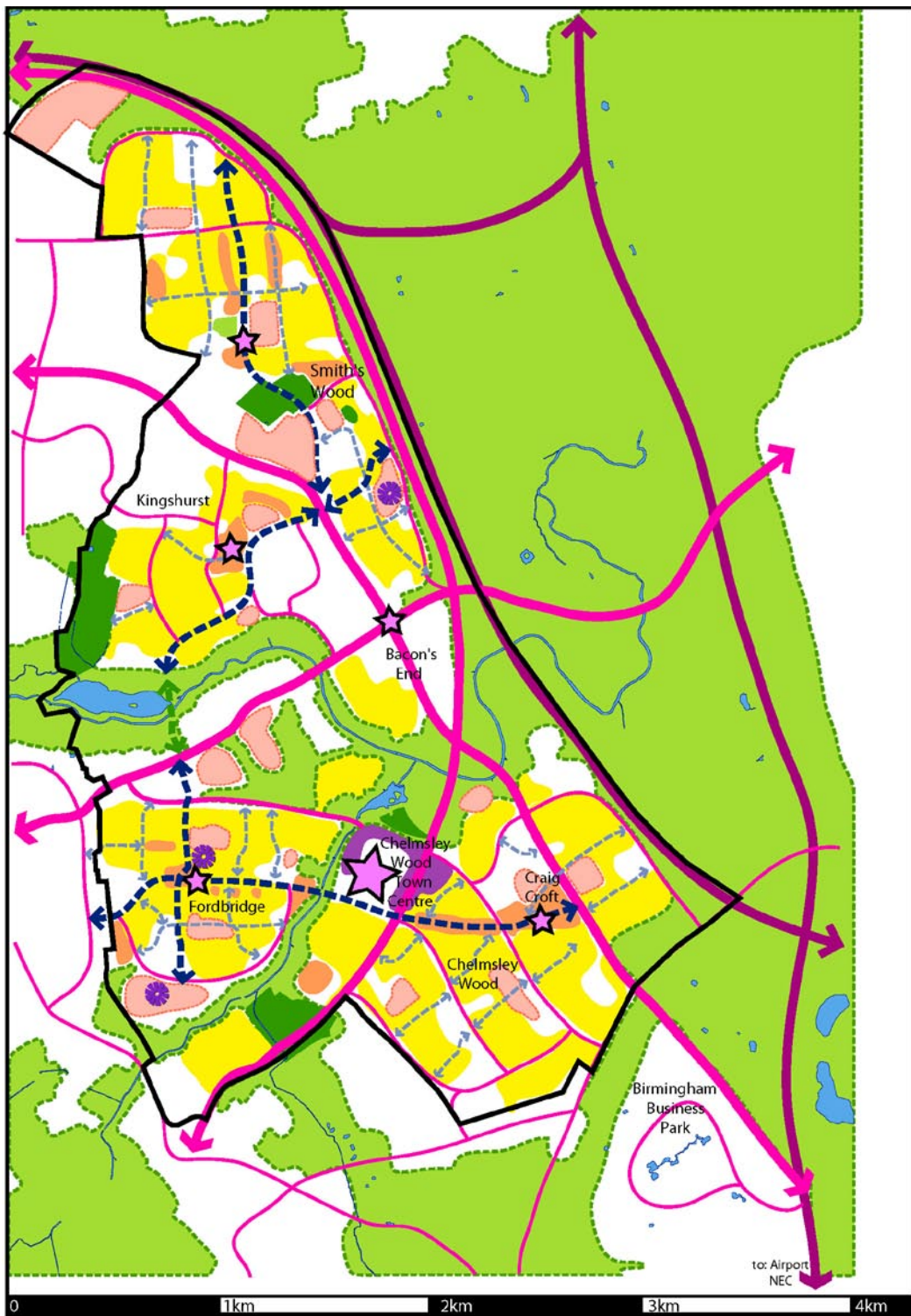
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

- The Strategic Framework promotes sustainable development principles and seeks to balance economic, social and environmental aspirations in order that the quality of life of present and future generations is protected and enhanced.

The Strategic Framework provides the basis for the development of a number of more detailed proposals which are set out in the following section.

-  Enhanced green network
-  Main routes
-  New key connections
-  New green connector [pedestrian +cyclist only]
-  New local connections
-  Waterways
-  Reconfigured housing areas
-  New housing led development
-  New town centre development
-  School sites for review
-  Existing regeneration initiatives
-  Possible centres / community hubs
-  Proposed North Solihull regeneration area boundary

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



6. KEY THEMES

A number of more detailed proposals and development principles have been established in respect of the following key themes:

- Housing
- Transport & Movement
- Countryside, Open Space, Green Belt & Natural Environment
- Employment
- Education & Training
- Community Hubs (Community Facilities, Shops & Services and Healthcare)
- Sport, Leisure & Culture
- Public Realm & Public Art
- Community Safety

HOUSING

Housing activity underpins the regeneration of North Solihull. A comprehensive Strategic Housing Framework has been prepared which establishes strategic directions and interventions. The level of intervention and change will vary from neighbourhood to neighbourhood depending on local conditions and the views, needs and aspirations of residents in that particular neighbourhood. Proposals will be further developed in Neighbourhood Plans which will translate strategic aims into local action.

Overall the residential environment in North Solihull is considered to be poor and lacking in character, identity and legibility. Built form is dominated throughout Smith's Wood, Fordbridge and Chelmsley Wood by Radburn layouts interspersed with high rise isolated residential tower blocks. Tenure is dominated by social rented housing and low levels of home ownership. Kingshurst in contrast provides a broader range of dwellings in terms of size, built form and style of accommodation.

Housing needs are not currently being met with a mismatch between supply and demand. There is a proliferation of small homes (one and two-bed units) in flatted and bungalow units but there is demand for more housing

and for better quality accommodation. There is also need for additional family accommodation. These needs will be addressed through the regeneration process. Major repairs will be required to council property over the next two decades.

The Strategic Framework for North Solihull seeks to diversify the housing offer and to provide a step change in the quality of the housing stock. New housing development will take place on brownfield land and allocated housing sites. A variety and choice of attractive accommodation of high quality sustainable design will be provided and a range and mix of tenures will be secured to create balanced and sustainable communities.

Overall the tenure balance will move from the current balance of 49% owner occupation and 51% social rented housing to a higher proportion of owner occupation and intermediate tenure. There is an aim of no net loss of social rented sector housing as a direct result of the regeneration project. To achieve this, the overall balance of new housing provision will be at maximum ratios of 60% market housing, 30% social rented housing and 10% intermediate tenure which will be kept under constant review as part of the North Solihull Housing Strategy with a view to increasing the intermediate tenure as part of the affordable totals if it is sustainable in rehousing terms.

Residential areas will be planned with a mix of uses to provide for everyday needs. Shops and community facilities will be provided in accessible locations. Open space and recreational facilities will be protected and improved. The special landscape quality will be used as a positive feature to help shape and provide this step change. Access to employment both within and outside North Solihull will be improved.

The following objectives will underpin interventions in the housing market in North Solihull:

- To create long term sustainability in the housing market by extending tenure choice and accessibility.
- To reflect and where necessary raise the aspirations of all stakeholders particularly existing residents.
- To replace unpopular/unsuccessful housing.
- To meet the range of housing needs in the area.

- To provide flexibility to address changing needs/ aspirations of the population.
- To generate funding for delivering wider regeneration objectives through private housing development and to secure linkage between new development and regeneration via planning obligations and/or other appropriate mechanisms for a range of initiatives such as the improvement of existing housing stock and economic development/social programmes.
- To achieve an average density of 55 dwellings per hectare with a higher density of development in designated centres and Community Hubs with good access to services and public transport. Where individual proposals exceed the advisory upper range of 50 dwellings per hectare set out in PPG3 Housing, good access to services and improved public transport will be ensured through appropriate planning obligations.

LEVELS OF INTERVENTION:

The level of intervention will vary between neighbourhoods to reflect neighbourhood housing market conditions. Consideration will be given to the following factors in determining the level of intervention:

- Stock condition
- Evidence of vandalism/damage
- Housing demand
- Distribution of voids
- Community consultation
- Property prices
- Mix of property tenures
- Age and natural life of properties

It will be essential to ensure that phasing of housing development is consistent with agreed decanting and rehousing programmes. This will involve demolition of up to 25% of the overall stock in North Solihull, as well as redevelopment and refurbishment. The level and type of intervention will be established in consultation with the local community in the preparation of the more detailed



Neighbourhood Plans and will vary according to local conditions and needs. Levels of intervention will be in the range of high, medium and low:

- Low – Appropriate in areas of more sustainable property with high owner occupation, a successful housing market and low levels of Radburn layout. This may include environmental improvements and property improvements including a limited amount of selective demolition to facilitate improvements to access and security; a limited amount of quality new build to increase the range of property types available locally; a limited amount of internal remodelling to properties and reversal of Radburn layouts; face lift or 'enveloping' schemes to improve the visual appearance and condition of the external fabric of properties.
- Medium – Widely applicable in areas with a mix of council and privately owned properties with pockets of unsustainable properties. Environmental improvements will be undertaken together with higher levels of property remodelling. Property improvements may include selective demolition of poor quality and unpopular dwellings to open up larger development sites; replacement with quality new build properties to increase the range of properties available locally; selective internal remodelling to properties and reversal of Radburn layouts.
- High – Appropriate in areas of predominantly council owned housing with average to low demand, where major physical intervention is required to tackle housing problems associated with Radburn layouts. More extensive environmental improvements will be undertaken as a consequence of higher levels of property remodelling. Property improvements may include selective demolition (including selective street clearance) to open up larger development sites; replacement with quality new build properties to increase the range of properties available locally; selective remodelling to internal layout of properties and 'Radburn reversals'; provision of non-housing uses including community facilities and open space.

The Housing Strategy focuses on:

DEVELOPING HIGH QUALITY DESIRABLE RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOODS

- Encouraging private sector housing developers to invest in the area in order to diversify the housing market and provide a step change in quality.
- Providing a balanced range and size of housing types to meet the diverse needs and aspirations of the community allowing people to exercise choice in where they live.
- Addressing the lack of larger style housing for families with children with outside space and for extended family arrangements.
- Increasing the proportion of houses to flats.
- Developing housing that will be flexible to respond to changing requirements over the longer term.
- Increasing the range of tenure with a greater emphasis on providing for owner occupation whilst ensuring an adequate supply of affordable housing.
- Providing housing that enables people to move up the housing ladder and to adapt to changing lifestyles and needs whilst remaining in North Solihull.
- Homes will meet modern day standards.
- Promoting the early development of the following sites for residential use:
 - o Whitesmore School site on Chapel House Road, Fordbridge
 - o Lowbrook Centre, Chichester Grove, Chelmsley Wood

DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES WITH A STRONG SENSE OF PLACE

- Developing the potential for higher density development:
 - o at places with good public transport accessibility

-  New key connections
-  New green connector [pedestrians and cyclists only]
-  Possible centres / community hubs
-  Greenbelt
-  Opportunity for new high density housing focussed on key connections/ centres
-  Opportunity for new housing addressing the green space
-  Identified early new build housing sites
-  Less sustainable properties, >50% LA ownership - proposed intervention level medium-high
-  More sustainable properties, <50% LA ownership - proposed intervention level low - medium
-  More sustainable areas of private / RSL ownership - proposed intervention level low - medium

HOUSING STRATEGY



- o close to the proposed Community Hubs
- o along new key connections to enhance legibility and sense of place and support the viability of public transport provision.
- Fostering the special landscape qualities of North Solihull in defining and shaping new housing developments. Opportunities for new housing development which address the green space include:
 - o Residential land to the north of the River Cole Valley in Kingshurst and Bacon's End
 - o Along Hatchford Brook in Fordbridge and south of Chelmsley Wood Town Centre
 - o Close to Meriden Park in Chelmsley Wood.
- Ensuring new development is orientated towards and addresses the street frontage.
- Integrating residential development with other uses to develop coherent and integrated neighbourhoods with accessible services to meet residents' needs.
- The potential for integrating residential development including affordable housing will be assessed in the preparation of proposals for the new Community Hubs.
- The provision of high quality open space in line with Sports England standards will be an integral component of new housing development.

SUSTAINABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

- New housing development will respect the Green Belt and other landscape designations and reuse previously developed brownfield land and buildings wherever possible.
- Housing should take account of latest guidance on sustainable building design, energy efficiency, water minimisation, reduction of waste and SUDS.
- Layouts should encourage walking and cycling for short journeys by providing direct and attractive routes to destinations, particularly the

Community Hubs, Learning Clusters, routes to school and public transport corridors.

- Neighbourhoods should feel safe and attractive to move around through enhanced layout.
- Landscaping should be designed in conjunction with the built environment and greening of key connection routes.
- Promotion of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) energy production and heating systems.
- Facilities for recycling of waste should be provided.

MANAGEMENT

- Strong co-ordination between the work of:
 - o In-Partnership Consortium
 - o The ALMO (Solihull Community Housing)
 - o Eastern Corridor Housing Market Renewal Area Pathfinder (HMRA)
 - o SMBC Operational Services
- Effective landlord services (management and maintenance) in both private and public sectors providing the customer with value for money.
- Accessible housing advice services to prevent homelessness and allow people to make informed choices about housing.
- Inclusive housing services which respect diversity and promote equality and social cohesion. Tenures will be mixed to create balanced communities.

The Strategic Framework establishes a framework and parameters for overall intervention within which Neighbourhood Plans will be developed and implemented.

TRANSPORT & MOVEMENT

An integrated and sustainable transport strategy is fundamental to the successful regeneration of North Solihull. At present one of the key barriers to improving prosperity and quality of life relates to problems of access

to jobs, facilities and services. Existing public transport provision is inadequate and car ownership is low. The layouts of residential neighbourhoods do not provide safe and attractive routes for pedestrians to key destinations. The cycle network is not well developed.

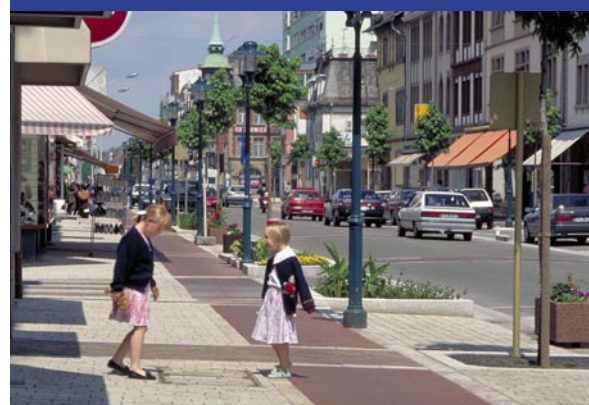
There is a need and opportunity to improve transport, movement and accessibility for the residents of North Solihull. The transport proposals focus on an integrated approach with land use and the provision of new and improved routes to destinations both within and outside the area. Proposals seek to reduce the need to travel, particularly by less sustainable modes. Improvements to and ease of transfer between different modes of travel is also sought.

The viability of public transport will be a key issue. It is envisaged that by integrating land use and transport proposals, it will be possible to support enhanced public transport services. There will be a need to demonstrate to transport operators the requirement for new and expanded services.

Joint partnership working will be required between the Council, local operators and management systems. Delivery needs to be coordinated to provide, where possible, access to a service within 300m of all homes and to link these local services with sub-regional and national provision (including Virgin, Central and Chiltern Trains and National Express).

A new showcase bus route is identified in the UDP travelling through North Solihull connecting Smith's Wood with Chelmsley Wood Town Centre and on to Birmingham International Airport, the NEC and Birmingham Business Park. It will provide a high quality and frequent north-south public transport link to key destinations within North Solihull and beyond. The diversion of some existing services is proposed to help achieve greater public transport penetration into residential areas and link the proposed new Community Hubs and transport interchanges. Better connections to Marston Green railway station, Birmingham City Centre and Coventry will also be considered. There are long-term aspirations to extend Midland Metro through North Solihull.

The creation of new and improved connections will provide a logical hierarchy of routes to enable North Solihull, in conjunction with other measures, to function as a cohesive whole with all areas served by easily accessible transport interchanges linked by frequent bus services and safe and attractive pedestrian and cycle routes.



A new long distance footpath and cycleway is proposed along the eastern boundary of North Solihull. It will link to key destinations including Marston Green Station, Chelmsley Wood Town Centre and Birmingham Business Park, the NEC and Airport.










The key strategic principles and proposals in respect of transport may be summarised as follows:

INTEGRATING LAND USE & TRANSPORT STRATEGIES

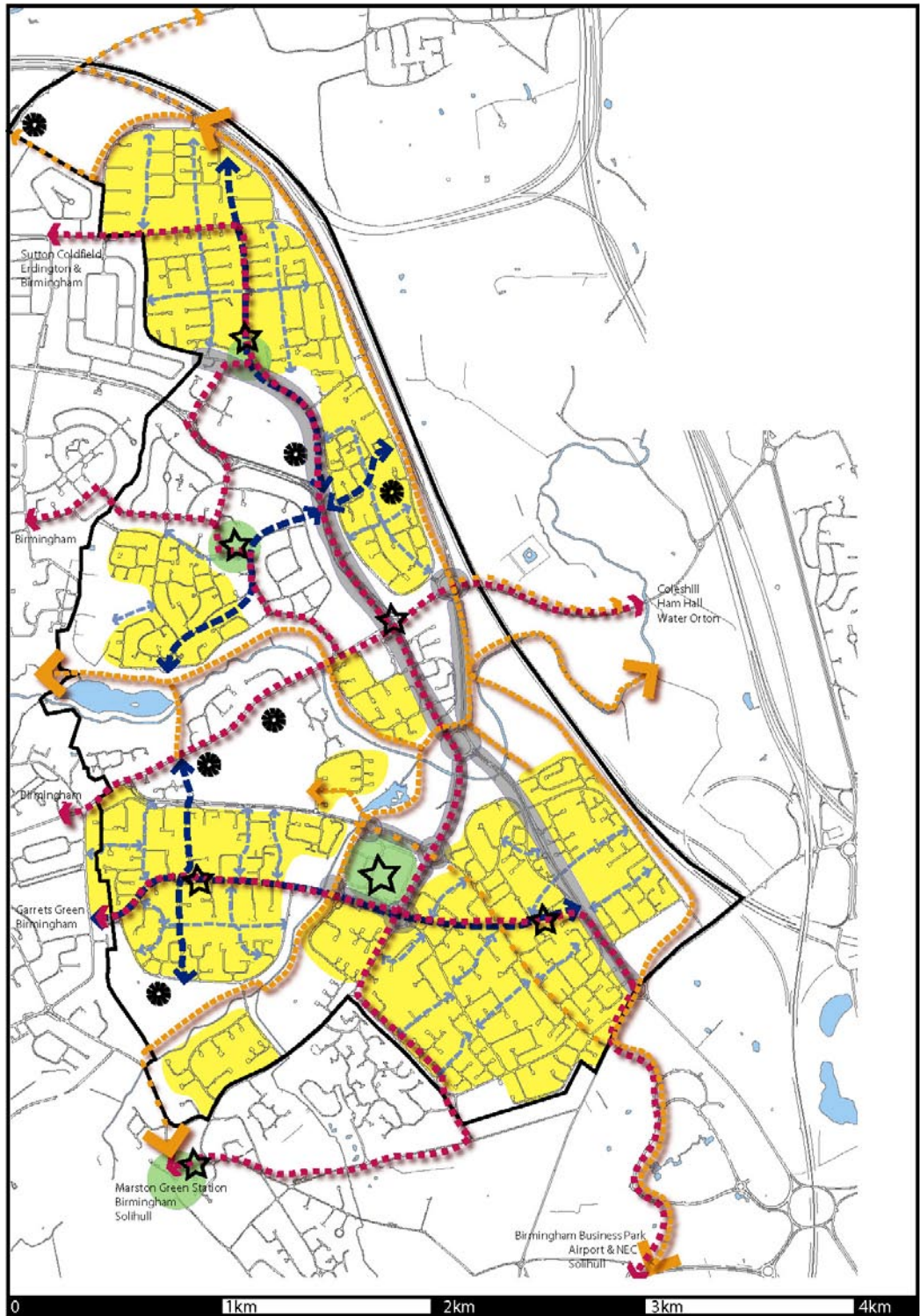
- Locating and concentrating complementary land uses in accessible locations to encourage linked trips and sustain a viable level of usage to support public transport routes.
- Chelmsley Wood Town Centre, the Community Hubs and Learning Clusters will be linked by new key connections and within their respective neighbourhoods by new local connections. Long distance footpaths and cycleways will also link to these centres.
- Higher density residential development on key connections will support the viability of enhanced public transport provision together with more direct, strong and safe local connections.
- Ensure levels of parking are adequate whilst having regard for sustainability principles.
- Encouraging employers and education providers to develop travel plans.
- Providing safe and secure cycle storage space at Chelmsley Wood Town Centre, in the Community Hubs, at schools and colleges and places of work with shower facilities provided in the latter two.
- Encouraging and supporting walk to school / work initiatives.
- Facilitating ease of movement and transfer between modes and routes at key destinations.
- Actively encouraging the development of new bus routes between neighbourhoods and the sub-region to destinations along desire lines.
- Continue working with employers to improve access to work and establishing new mechanisms (eg Partnership working and Planning Contributions) to facilitate the process as appropriate.

IMPROVING LINKS AND ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABLE MODES OF TRAVEL

- Provision of accurate and easily accessible transport information. The Community Hubs and Chelmsley Wood Town Centre should contain information points.
- Explore potential long term parking demand management regimes for Chelmsley Wood Town Centre in anticipation of its successful redevelopment.
- Enhancing the accessibility of key destinations, including employment centres both within and outside the area, by a variety of means including new and amended routes to reflect accessibility needs.
- Continue to protect and enhance the transport interchange facilities at Birmingham International Airport / railway station, Marston Green Station / Park and Ride and Chelmsley Wood Town Centre to facilitate multi-modal trips (i.e. walk, cycle, bus, rail) with associated cycle storage.
- Respect and build on existing initiatives and public-private partnerships developed between regional employers and others to improve transport and movement. This includes the measures undertaken by the Airport including improvements to bus services, cycle initiatives, the Travelwise Plus Scheme to improve access from North Solihull and develop employment opportunities for local residents.
- Continue to explore and address the barriers in providing an adequate bus service for residents of North Solihull and employment centres. This will require partnership working and possible initial subsidisation of services from public and / or private sector bodies.
- Improve bus waiting facilities including where possible provision of seating throughout the area and to an agreed and coherent style.
- Encouraging further small scale interchanges related to the proposed Community Hubs in Kingshurst and Smith's Wood. These may include enhanced bus waiting facilities to facilitate interchange between local routes and showcase routes and provision for cycle storage.

-  Possible centres / community hubs
-  Secondary schools / colleges
-  Transport interchange
-  Reconfigured access roads/ paths
-  Reduced severance of roads / roundabouts including new surface crossings
-  New key connections
-  New local connections
-  Proposed future showcase bus routes / amendments to existing routes to better serve communities
-  Proposed long distance footpath / cycleway

TRANSPORT FRAMEWORK



- Developing a network of safe and attractive pedestrian and cycle routes linking key destinations within and outside the area (up to 5km) with residential areas and to the identified transport interchanges. Cycle routes will link with the existing network as identified by Sustrans including the National Traffic Free Routes:
 - o South from Birmingham International Airport through Bickenhill with a short on-road signposted connection from the Business Park.
 - o From North Solihull Sports Centre, Fordbridge along Hatchford Brook to Marston Green and railway station and beyond.

Other signed on-road cycle routes:

- o Along Chester Road linking to Castle Bromwich through North Solihull to Coleshill to the east;
- o From Castle Bromwich through North Smith's Wood to Water Orton and the railway station.

Sustrans is a charity that works on practical projects to encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport. Sustrans is developing a National Cycle Network and further signed on-road cycle routes.

- Maximise advantages afforded by the quality landscape features of North Solihull to encourage walking and cycling to destinations as a means of travel and leisure activity. There is potential to reduce the number of short-car trips in this way. However new routes must be safe, well designed and lit.
- Support proposals to create a hierarchy of roads with particular emphasis on developing strong north-south and east-west links throughout the area.
- Development of new key connections incorporating extension and joining of existing routes (eg cul-de-sacs) to facilitate improved access and create more direct routes and safer streets:
 - o East-west through Chelmsley Wood linking Chester Road with Chelmsley Wood Town Centre and through Fordbridge.

- o North-south through Fordbridge towards the River Cole Valley.
- o Linking the above route for pedestrians and cyclists across the River Cole Valley to Kingshurst.
- o Forging a new strong north-south route towards Chester Road and Smith's Wood
- o Creation of a new junction with new key connections into Smith's Wood.
- o Development of new key connections north-south and east-west in Smith's Wood and to link North Solihull with Castle Bromwich.

- In the longer term, to look at measures to discourage car use through reduction of car parking and introduction of parking fees.
- Seek to improve public transport provision and services in north-south directions.

ADDRESSING BARRIERS

- Address the severance created by sections of the road network to create a better balance between pedestrian and vehicular ease of movement and also between road capacity/journey times and environmental quality without prejudicing their role as major distributors of traffic.
- Investigate and incorporate a number of designed means of reducing speeds whilst protecting safety of vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.
- Protecting main routes but reducing the size of existing roads and roundabouts where appropriate and development of new surface crossings including:
 - o The treatment of the 'collar' around Chelmsley Wood Town Centre to help it reconnect with the surrounding residential areas of Chelmsley Wood and Fordbridge.
 - o Reducing the size of sections of the dualled Collector Road (A452) to address problems of severance. The new key connection from the Collector Road to Tile Cross will support this proposal.

- o The treatment of sections of Chester Road (B4114) to help denote this route as primarily a route for North Solihull derived trips rather than through movements. It is likely people will make greater use of the Collector Road between Bacon's End and Castle Bromwich as a result.
- To provide a more legible and structured residential environment which encourages walking by creating attractive and direct routes to Community Hubs and transport interchanges that benefit from much greater levels of surveillance. New local connections will be developed in the residential neighbourhoods.
- Build on existing demand responsive initiatives such as 'Busterwerkenbak' and 'Workwise' to complement other transport initiatives.

PROTECTING & IMPROVING EXISTING FACILITIES & PROGRAMMES

- Provide proposals for the extension of Midland Metro to Chelmsley Wood and actively engage in the route planning process.
- Protection of the identified bus showcase routes as identified in the UDP.
- Improving bus shelter facilities.

IMPROVING SAFETY

- Encourage greater provision of safer crossing points on identified school and work routes.
- Ensure safe access to new developments and encourage road safety and traffic calming through appropriate design of new housing layouts.
- Ensure adequate lighting and good design of both on and off-road pedestrian and cycle routes.

COUNTRYSIDE, OPEN SPACE, GREEN BELT & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

A number of opportunities are presented by the special quality of the Arden landscape to bring about regeneration and foster a step change in the environmental quality of North Solihull.

An integrated approach will be adopted to improve and protect the built and natural environment. The benefits of green space within North Solihull will be enhanced, protected and maximised for the enjoyment of the public and benefits of biodiversity.

Current initiatives will be built on including:

- The Leisure and Culture Strategy
- The Playing Pitch Strategy
- The (Draft) Facilities Assessment Plan
- The (Draft) Physical Activities Strategy
- The Habitat Biodiversity Audit

The approach adopted by the Strategic Framework to the environment and open space focuses on the following principles:

PROTECTION, ENHANCEMENT & CONSERVATION

- The special quality of the natural environment in North Solihull and its surrounds will be protected, enhanced and conserved.
- Protection and enhancement of nature conservation designations including Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). Public access to these features will be improved to encourage a greater understanding of these protected ecosystems.
- Protection of ancient monuments and their setting with a commitment to existing management plans.
- No development within the Green Belt unless justified by special circumstances to fulfil essential regeneration objectives. There must be a clear link between the proposed development and the specific regeneration benefits. This linkage is to be assured by planning obligation or other appropriate mechanism.



- Compensation for any loss of open space through re-provision in a similar location and of a high quality.
- Control of development in flood plains. In accordance with UDP Policy ENV22, development within a flood plain will only be permitted if it does not reduce the capacity of the flood plain, and its location is not liable to flooding. Built development will be permitted only in exceptional circumstances and limited to essential infrastructure.
- Protect the natural hydrological systems through the development of sustainable urban drainage systems in all new development. There should be no increase in surface run-off rates that could contribute to flooding downstream.
- Capacity building to encourage community involvement and ownership of the management of local green spaces (for example, through Britain in Bloom, Conservation volunteers, Groundwork and allotments).
- Support the extension of 'Project Kingfisher' along Hatchford Brook and the existing programme of conservation and community involvement projects in the River Cole corridor.
- Community involvement will be encouraged through programmes such as Project Kingfisher and English Nature's Wildspace! Programme Liaison Officer and Groundwork. These roles will be supported.
- An Open Space Strategy will be prepared by the Council to inform future policy and provision.
- The impact of new development on areas of nature conservation value and biodiversity will be fully assessed in order to minimise impacts.
- The management and upkeep of open space will be considered in the design of new and re-provided spaces to address current issues associated with the Radburn layout.
- Support the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), especially the Built Environment BAP.
- Ensure that in new development, survey work is undertaken to protect and enhance populations

of protected species and results are integrated into the design.

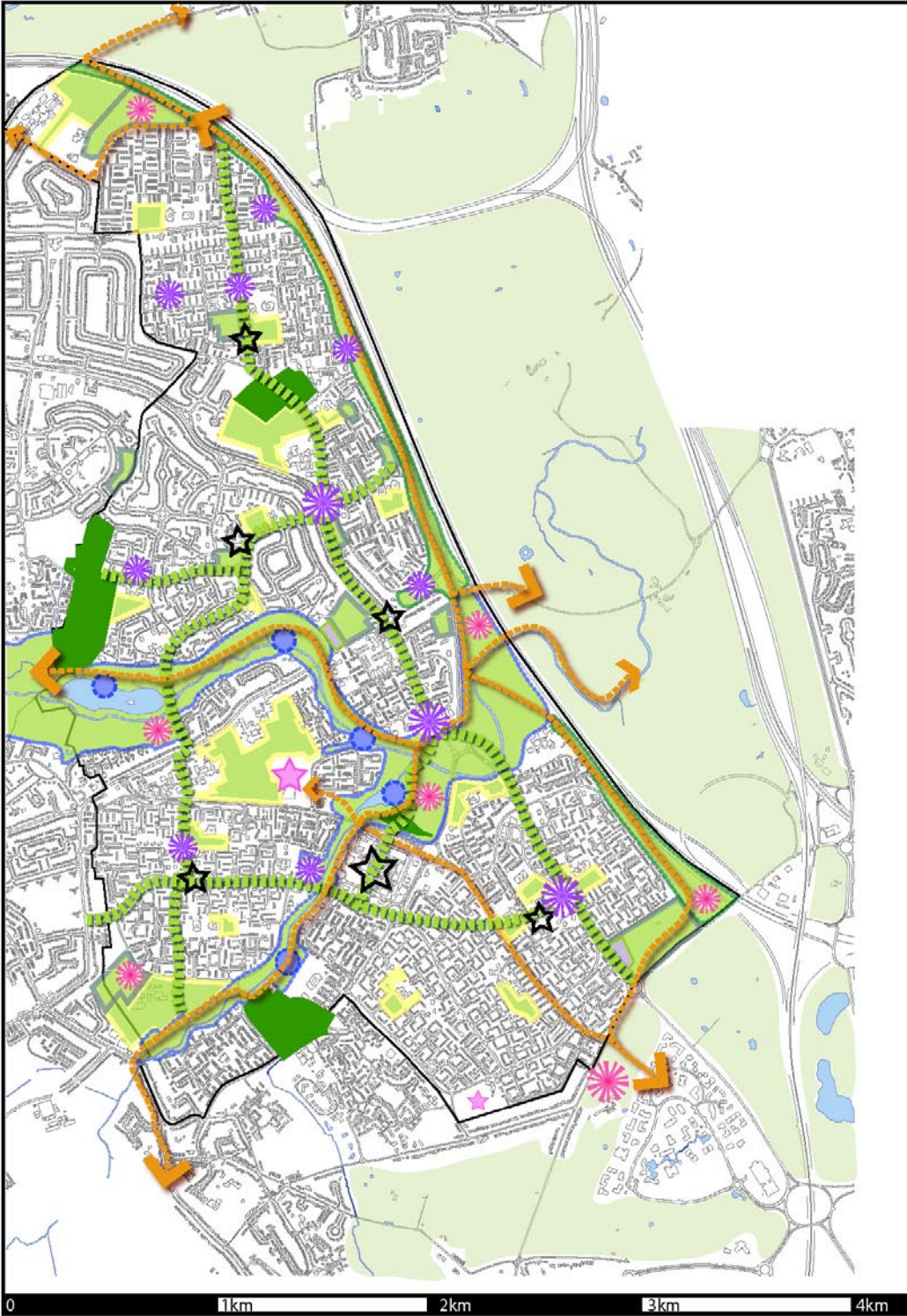
ENCOURAGING OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Encourage recreation and sport throughout North Solihull's public open space through the provision of improved facilities and access. The following locations are particularly identified:
 - o Lanchester Park, Smith's Wood
 - o Babb's Mill Recreational Ground, Kingshurst and Fordbridge,
 - o Land to the rear of Solihull College Campus, Chelmsley Wood
 - o Meriden Park, Chelmsley Wood
 - o Land to the east of Yorkminster Drive, Chelmsley Wood
 - o Chapel House Recreational Ground, Fordbridge
- Concentrate recreational activity within the River Cole / Hatchford Brook corridor, where it will not impact on nature conservation as the river corridor is also the main concentration of wildlife sites.
- Encourage the sustainable use of water for recreation and education in the River Cole Valley and along Hatchford Brook where it will not impact on nature conservation interests.
- Provide local play facilities in response to local needs. These should reflect young and older children's needs as well as more robust spaces for use by young adults for more extreme recreational past times. This may include supporting and improving the skate park and providing a quad and motor bike track.
- New and reprovision of outdoor recreational facilities will be informed by the Council's Playing Pitch Strategy.
- Enhance play facilities particularly at the following locations which have a low play value:
 - o Lanchester Park



-  Local community hubs / centres with potential for new sports and leisure provision
-  Existing formal public sports facilities
-  Opportunity for improved /new sports facility within the green space
-  Opportunity for long distance cycleway/ footpath
-  Opportunity for new pocket parks, play areas or squares
-  Opportunity to use water for play / education
-  New green connector routes
-  Opportunity to protect and enhance existing woodlands and to encourage local participation
-  Potential to encourage use of school playing fields for community recreation
-  Improve existing recreation spaces
-  Proposed linear woodland park
-  Opportunity to enhance existing linear riverside park and improve public access

LANDSCAPE STRATEGY



- o Bluebell Recreation Ground
- o Colebank Park
- o Kingshurst Park
- Consideration will be given to the provision of quality toilet, rest and changing facilities as required. Priority will be initially to those awarded high play value:
 - o Meriden Park
 - o Babb's Mill Recreational Ground
 - o Burton Green Recreational Ground
 - o Chapelhouse Recreational Ground
- Throughout North Solihull encourage the sharing of recreational facilities at all schools and colleges with the community.
- Safety and quality will continue to be supported and strengthened by on-site Park Rangers and Park Action Groups (building from experience of groups in Meriden Park and Smith's Wood).

ENHANCING THE LANDSCAPE SETTING

- Implementing the Parks Strategy to improve existing parks and open spaces and create a network of quality local parks and squares which meet a range of recreational and social needs.
- Developing and improving links between the River Cole Valley and open countryside to the east of the study area.
- Development of a linear woodland park and cycleway along the mounding adjacent to the Collector Road will be supported to link with the Sustrans cycle network. Safety issues will be addressed through design and lighting considerations.
- Bring underutilised areas, including open space and woodland into active use in partnership with the local community.
- Develop quality new housing at the edge of green spaces where views and access into the green

space are maximised. This is to encourage use and ownership by creating positive and active frontages to open recreational space and woodland at Smith's Wood, York's Wood, Meriden Park and Alcott Wood and also the Green Belt centred on the River Cole Valley and Hatchford Brook.

- Create new green connector routes by encouraging quality street tree planting and hard landscape detailing on both minor and major routes.
- There will be no net loss of recreational open space and proposals will enhance and improve the existing spaces. It may be necessary for the adjustment and redesign/relocation of some existing open space with corresponding improvements in quality and usability.

EMPLOYMENT

North Solihull is characterised by high and sustained unemployment rates at twice the Borough and national average. The strategies for employment, education and training are strongly interlinked and mutually dependent. Close working with Advantage West Midlands (AWM) to improve employment prospects in line with the Regional Economic Strategy's Action Plan will be an important component of the strategy.

A number of existing barriers to employment have been identified:

- A skills gap - particularly IT, numerical, oral and written communication skills.
- Transport and accessibility, particularly from the north to the south of the Borough. Most residents will continue to be employed in locations outside the study area and access needs to be improved to these areas.
- A lack of affordable childcare to support employment opportunities.
- A qualification gap – particularly at NVQ Levels 2 and 3.
- Making work more worthwhile economically and encouraging those on benefits to enter employment.



- A need to raise aspirations.
- More career guidance.
- The need to provide stepping stones into employment.

Employed residents are concentrated in low skilled and low wage occupations and there is potential to diversify the employment base to improve access in particular to managerial, professional and technical opportunities. Workforce development is necessary to enable those in employment to proceed up the career ladder improving prosperity through enhancing access to better paid and higher skilled occupations, for example through the Train2Gain initiative.

There are few business start-ups and the quality of accommodation is poor in an environment which does not attract investors.

The strategy seeks to develop a motivated and skilled workforce in North Solihull with access to a wide range of employment and training opportunities in Solihull and the wider sub-region. Residents will be supported by a comprehensive transport system to access work and education opportunities and necessary supporting facilities including health, sports and affordable childcare. Providing stepping stones into formal education and work will be a key element of the strategy. Enabling residents to access employment opportunities, reducing the culture of dependency and increasing prosperity are fundamental to the successful regeneration of North Solihull.

Significant employment opportunities for residents are identified to include: Birmingham Business Park, Birmingham International Airport, the NEC, Land Rover Works, Jaguar Works, Blythe Valley Park, Tyseley Business Park, Garrets Green Industrial Area, Hams Hall Freight Village, Star City, Fort Retail and the multiple opportunities in Solihull and Birmingham city centres.

The objective is to provide new employment sites where appropriate through the recycling of urban land. Existing employment sites and allocations will be protected. Proposals will be directed to key centres in a sequential approach and in line with the land use strategy. Chelmsley Wood Town Centre and proposals for redevelopment present the greatest opportunity for new employment generating uses, followed by the Community Hubs and Learning Clusters (as defined in the Education & Training section of this chapter).

A range of higher quality business space will be provided through land use allocations and the development of the Community Hubs, particularly to address the need for small and medium size incubator and innovation spaces to meet existing and emerging needs. These local businesses /entrepreneurs may need to be supported to ensure they are sustained in the area. A range of space will be offered to permit smaller enterprises to grow and develop.

The Strategic Framework also seeks to remove barriers to employment by improving and increasing the choice of modes of travel to work, providing more affordable childcare, supporting programmes to provide residents with more softer skills and formal qualifications, and providing more space for business start-ups.

Any further employment generating development proposals within the Borough and accessible to the regeneration area will be expected to contribute to public transport and training initiatives in compliance with the Council's Economic Development Strategy. This will be sought through the planning contributions mechanism.

The principles underpinning future employment initiatives will be to:

PROTECT & INCREASE EMPLOYMENT SPACE

- Protect existing and allocated employment sites and seek to retain existing employers in the area at all levels.
- Locating employment sites in accessible locations and where possible through the recycling of urban land where suitable opportunities arise.
- Improve Chelmsley Wood Town Centre, including environmental improvements to attract and retain investors and protect and promote employers within North Solihull.
- Provide for small business units and incubator space in the proposed Community Hubs.
- Provide an integrated approach with education and community strategies to pool resources, provide for identified needs and gaps in skills provision and improve the quality of space available.
- Support for proposals to further develop and expand the Birmingham & Solihull Connexions

career guidance service, education business support and the job centre.

IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve access to jobs physically and through matching residents with jobs available.
- Continue to improve physical access to job opportunities both within and outside North Solihull through an improved transport strategy to key destinations that provide employment and at times to coordinate with work start times and shifts. This will include developing stronger links in a north-south direction.
- Any further employment generating development proposals accessible to the regeneration area will be expected to contribute to public transport and training initiatives as identified above and in compliance with the Council's Economic Development Strategy. Employment generating development proposals within the sub-region will be encouraged to employ and develop links with the residents of North Solihull where possible. This may be implemented through consultation with neighbouring local authorities as appropriate.
- Undertake research to coordinate the main transport providers with existing dial-a-ride and community bus services. A smart ticketing service will be investigated and supported to enable easy change between modes.
- Provide stepping stones into employment through less formal educational channels and training as well as in the schools and colleges. There is a need to raise aspirations, develop self-confidence and self-esteem which will require co-ordination with the community and health programmes. The strategy will build on, for example, the work of North Solihull Access to Employment Group and Birmingham and Solihull LSC Train2Gain amongst others.
- Use the regeneration process itself to provide skills development and employment opportunities for the local community working with existing initiatives developed by Birmingham and Solihull Construction Employment Alliance, Construction Centre of Vocational Excellence and the experience to date of Lovell's, the Probation Service and Cowwise.

- Maximise opportunities for work based learning through work experience placements.
- Encourage social enterprise development.

PROVIDE AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

- Provide an integrated approach to education and community strategies.
- Improve links between employers and education providers so that the necessary skills are developed for residents to access local opportunities. There are opportunities to develop links through initiatives such as the Airport Community Trust Fund as a Section 106 Agreement. Support training programmes particularly for unemployed residents and economically inactive people (including those on incapacity benefit) to match jobs available.
- Partnerships / relationships should be fostered between educational establishments and major employers to match skills with jobs and provide stepping stones into work. Develop and support the Job Centre and Jobjunction at the Airport/ NEC and other similar local and national schemes.
- Encourage local businesses and health and education services to advertise job opportunities locally. This is to help ensure residents of North Solihull can access local opportunities, particularly those that may be created through the regeneration process. There may be opportunities to promote working in the public sector through the Public Service Compact initiative.
- Support the work of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to develop conservation skills for the local unemployed through involvement in Project Kingfisher and the work of Groundwork.
- Provide space for employment agencies, business support and enterprise development services, skills and training, adult and community education and career guidance as appropriate in the Community Hubs and attached to community facilities.
- Support proposals to improve the quality and provision of education including lifelong learning, vocational training and adult education.

- Support proposals such as the North Solihull Learning Village to improve the provision of education, including adult education.
- Provide affordable and high quality childcare in accessible and appropriate locations. Seek to provide consistency in care to enable residents to go to work and participate in learning opportunities in conjunction with the community facilities strategy.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Poor educational achievement, skills levels and training is a major barrier to regeneration in North Solihull. Nearly half of residents lack formal qualifications restricting access to jobs and in particular skilled, professional and managerial positions.

There are many programmes currently underway to address deficiencies and the Strategic Framework seeks to build on these to foster educational opportunities and reduce barriers to employment as part of a comprehensive approach to area regeneration. There is an identified skills gap which should be addressed to enable local residents to access local jobs.

Priorities identified for children and young people in North Solihull to raise educational achievement include:

- Improving the physical quality and range of the school offer.
- Raising the level of attainment amongst pupils.
- Raising skills levels, both general and vocationally, specific for adults and young people.
- Raising aspirations and ambitions for learning and career opportunities from an early age.
- Developing closer links with education providers and local employers.
- Extending the opportunities for out of school learning.
- Maximising resources and opportunities through joint planning for 14-19 education among providers through collegiate

developments with the Solihull Colleges and local secondary schools.

- Increasing informal and creative learning opportunities.

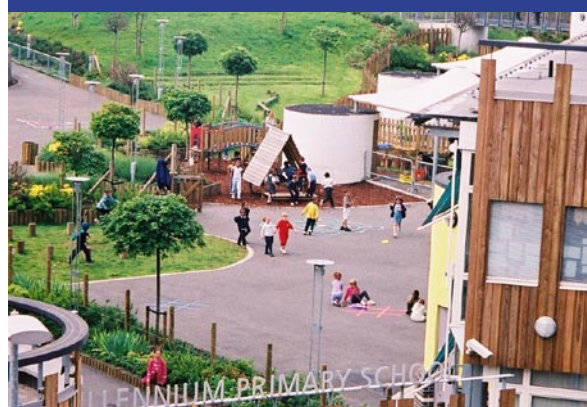
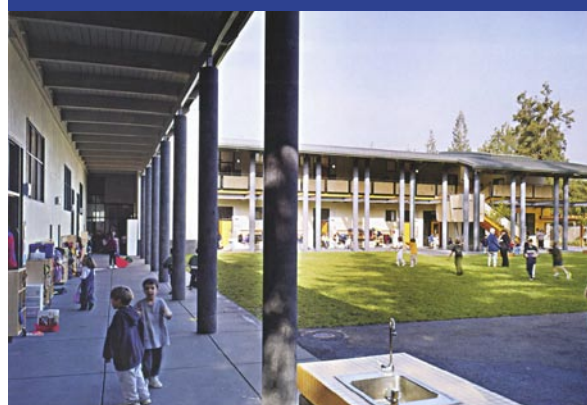
There is a need to improve access for adult education through:

- Increasing the number of adult learning programmes and outreach provision and extending the range of delivery locations.
- Addressing current barriers to access eg. childcare provision and physical access for people with disabilities.
- Providing both formal and informal educational opportunities, including 'soft-skill' development.
- Maximising awareness and promotion.
- Providing quality buildings and facilities in accessible locations.
- Providing stepping stones into employment and building closer links with employers.

Objectives relating to education include the need to improve the educational offer. Building Schools for the Future is intended to secure funds to improve the physical quality of education facilities both at the primary and secondary level through redevelopment and refurbishment. The Strategic Framework seeks to improve the performance of both primary and secondary schools in the regeneration project area. This will be promoted through continued development and support for the Excellence in Cities, Excellence in the Community and Out of School Hour Learning programmes and the Extended Schools initiative.

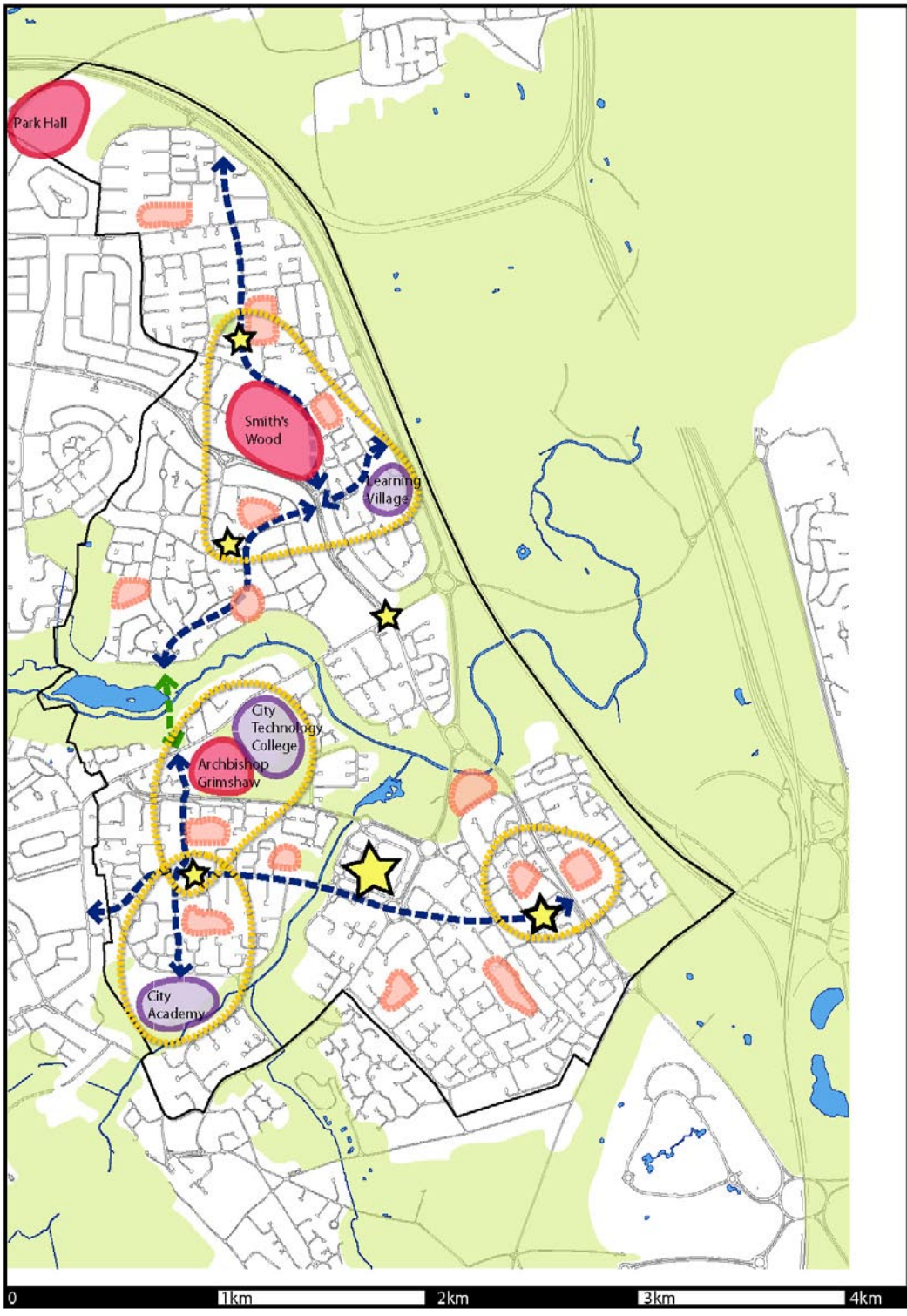
The Extended Schools initiative offers a number of community services and after school care. A full service includes education, health and social care support, lifelong learning, parental study and support, sports and arts facilities and ICT training.

Proposals to improve the physical quality of secondary schools will be supported. Better co-ordination between existing education establishments and employers will ensure skills and qualification gaps are addressed and that local jobs are available to local people.



- Primary schools for review with rollout of extended schools initiative
- 'Excellence in Cities' secondary schools with improved facilities funded by BSF
- Specialist secondary / HE provision
- Learning clusters
- Community hubs with opportunity for adult learning, libraries/ information centres
- New key connections
- New green connector routes [pedestrians and cyclists only]

EDUCATION FRAMEWORK



GENERAL PRINCIPLES

A number of general principles are proposed:

- Provide an integrated approach to education, employment and community facility provision to remove barriers to improved prosperity.
- Supporting and re-providing space where necessary through the proposed physical improvements to schools to provide wider services to the community.
- Supporting a range of community/ adult learning programmes (outreach provision) in a range of locations including the Community Hubs attached to schools to provide stepping stones to more formal education and improved job prospects. The Council and Solihull College are currently working on this initiative to deliver outreach community education 'on the doorstep'. Provision of flexible space in the Community Hubs may provide additional high quality venues.
- Addressing barriers to social cohesion and particularly the need to promote equality of opportunity in terms of race, gender, age, disability, sexuality, marital status, religion and ethnic origin through education and training opportunities.
- Providing personalised learning supported by high quality recreational and sporting facilities.
- Improvements to the quality of playing field provision will be sought.
- Work with local employers to get local people into jobs.
- Basic skills will be integrated into all education and training for unemployed and employed individuals and the local community in response to identified need.
- Provide appropriate space to match learning needs in the proposed Community Hubs.
- Support and roll-out of programmes to develop softer and practical skills such as the Green Scheme Community Development and the Community Education Programmes.
- Provide careers guidance to ensure a wide range of accurate information is supplied to the community relating to the opportunities available developing from the work of Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) and other groups.
- Support the 'taster day', open day and trial initiatives and seek to provide affordable and preferably free childcare to accompany these days.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The focus of the primary school education strategy will be to:

- Implement the commitment through the regeneration process to improve the physical quality of all primary schools within the regeneration area through redevelopment or refurbishment.
- Seek to address the poor attainment levels of primary school pupils through additional learning support and wider learning and socialising opportunities presented through the continued roll-out of Out of School Hours Learning through the New Opportunities Fund.

The Extended School Initiative is proposed to be incorporated at all schools using the experience gained by Coleshill Heath and Hatchford Community Primary Schools to inform the model and Kingshurst Junior School as the Beacon School. Develop and work with SureStart, Ontrack and the Children's Fund. Where appropriate, this will be planned with the development of the proposed Community Hubs.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The focus of the secondary school strategy will be to:

- Support Building Schools for the Future to improve the physical offer of secondary schools throughout North Solihull.
- Extend and develop the scope of the Excellence in Cities Cluster currently operating in Archbishop Grimshaw, Park Hall and Smith's Wood, Whitesmore and their feeder primary schools.
- Develop and support the continued expansion of Out of School Hours Learning to enable pupils to succeed to the best of their abilities.
- North Solihull/Woodlands Learning Village. This is a key asset for Smith's Wood and the wider

area and provides opportunities for vocational education, adult and community learning from basic skills to higher education levels. This may be alongside complementary community facilities.

LEARNING CLUSTERS

By clustering similar services, resources and management can be shared to provide for wider accessibility and a coordinated and complementary destination of facilities provided. It will also give the neighbourhood and wider North Solihull identity and a resource for recognition.

- Develop key formal 'Learning Clusters' in accordance with the Building Schools for the Future vision. This is centred on secondary schools / tertiary education with links to primary schools and to the proposed Community Hubs.
- By developing key interlinked nodes of activity based at the schools and Hubs, provision and support and help to develop cohesive functioning neighbourhoods will be strengthened. Where possible new space for local businesses and enterprise will be provided at the Community Hubs closely aligned with the identified Learning Clusters, particularly at Bosworth Drive and North Arran Way. These facilities will be further supported by the new connector routes enabling ease of access from neighbourhoods.
- Learning clusters are proposed at the following locations:
 - o Cook's Lane, Fordbridge – building on the success of the City Technology College and providing support for specialist school proposals.
 - o The new City (Grace) Academy (due to open 2006) on the site of Whitesmore School.
 - o North Solihull/Woodlands Learning Village. This is a key asset for Smith's Wood and the wider area and provides opportunities for vocational education, adult and community learning with provision from basic skills to higher education level alongside complementary community facilities.
 - o Smith's Wood School and the proposed SCIL (Solihull Centre for Inclusive Learning) providing for special needs.
- o Windy Arbor and St Patrick's Primary Schools to serve Chelmsley Wood and Kingfisher Primary School. These are initially proposed as they are located within or adjacent to the first two proposed Neighbourhood Plan areas (Craig Croft and North Arran Way).
- Support and protect the sites of special education providers including Lanchester School and the merger of Merstone School and Forest Oak School to form the 'Skills Centre' adjacent to Smith's Wood School.
- Provide community learning space at schools to support the Excellence in the Community Programme.
- Provide for Libraries as Learning Places.

COMMUNITY HUBS

The provision of adequate and appropriate community facilities is fundamental to the development of vibrant, successful, prosperous, healthy and sustainable communities. Current evidence indicates a clear lack in provision particularly for children and young people with particular negative consequences related to crime, anti-social behaviour, health and education. There is a need to provide recreational facilities and evening entertainment for all sectors of the community.

Participating in community and cultural activities helps shape and strengthen a community's identity, supporting regeneration objectives. It is therefore a key element of the Strategic Framework.

It is proposed that a series of 'Community Hubs' would be developed in North Solihull building on existing community, education, retail, health and voluntary provision and initiatives. It is envisaged that the Community Hubs will bring together a number of community (possibly including primary/Extended Schools), information and support services, leisure and retail uses as a cluster in the heart of neighbourhoods in accessible locations as supported by the transport strategy. By clustering complementary facilities and services, a neighbourhood would have a stronger focus, residents would have a greater awareness of local services and opportunities, knowledge and management could be pooled and facilities would be more accessible. The development of the Community Hubs would have a

number of benefits and provide the opportunity for the provision of new high quality flexible space in distinctive buildings complemented by an integrated management system.

The nature, size and composition of the Community Hubs will vary according to the requirements of the neighbourhoods they serve and the relationship to other facilities in the area.

Key components of the Community Hub may include children and youth services, childcare, education and learning, library and ICT services, flexible space for use by community and voluntary groups, space for worship and cultural activities, health services and sports/gym space supported by retail and café /social space, leisure uses and small business/incubator units. Where appropriate new local play facilities and outside communal space such as seating areas will also be provided. Establishment of community management bodies should be considered to foster community ownership. Evening activities within the Community Hubs will bring life into the neighbourhoods and improve safety and perceived fear of crime.

Management of community services and the Hubs is expected to be delivered by a joint partnership group through collaborative working. The experience gathered by Fordbridge Pathfinder will inform and shape the model. Ultimately the Community Hub will be self supporting and it is hoped it will provide a sustainable income stream for community groups.

The Hubs would be located in existing local centres or in other accessible locations. The development of the Community Hubs will need to seek a shared strategy and commitment with existing service and community facility providers in the area. This will include local health care facilities and delivery bodies, community centres and places of worship as appropriate.

Options for development including the location, size and composition will be considered in consultation with the community during the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans. They will provide flexible space which relates to local needs and will be able to respond and provide for the changing requirements of the community they serve. Whilst the basic model is the same, each Community Hub will be different to reflect local conditions and requirements. It is likely that some will be closely linked with education providers. Proposals for Hubs at or near to the following locations will be promoted:



COMMUNITY HUBS POSSIBLE COMPONENTS



- Chelmsley Wood Town Centre
- Arran Way
- Kingshurst Shops, Marston Drive
- Crabtree Drive/ Bosworth Drive
- Craig Croft
- A smaller scale facility at the junction of Cook's Lane, Birmingham Road and Chester Road enabled through reducing the severance created by these roads and the existing roundabout

The development of Community Hubs at Craig Croft and Crabtree Drive/Bosworth Drive have been identified as priority projects to be developed during the early years of the regeneration process.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The change proposed to the housing areas will not involve any loss of existing community facilities and will seek to improve the quality of accommodation wherever possible. In some circumstances, the provision of replacement facilities may be appropriate. Through the LSP the contribution of the North Solihull Regeneration project to the delivery of the Community Strategy in North Solihull will be maximised. Detailed proposals for the Community Hubs will be developed in consultation with community and voluntary groups.

A number of gaps in community service provision in North Solihull have been identified. The development of Community Hubs will help address these needs:

- Requirement for a further young peoples centre in Chelmsley Wood and Fordbridge with continued review of provision in other areas. It will be important to ensure new facilities are accessible from other neighbourhoods in North Solihull. The model provided by Youth Action UK's Streetwise programme with support, information, advice, recreational and health facilities is a successful example.
- Additional, affordable and quality childcare for a range of ages and times of the day and evening. Co-ordination of provision will be necessary to establish confidence by users and continuity for children. Proposals will build on

existing programmes such as SureStart and their Children's Centres, Neighbourhood Nurseries, the Extended Schools initiative, Family Centres, SNAP and the Children's Fund amongst others. Childcare will be provided both in the Hubs and associated with schools and colleges.

- Development of an expanded arts and cultural provision including new performance and rehearsal space.
- Enable Children's Trust services to be delivered. The Children's Trust is an overarching body providing services relating to health, social care and education. The Children's Trust is likely to have a co-ordinating role in multi-faceted provision.
- Increased access to Library and ICT services and a new approach to attract people back to learning. It will be important to provide stepping stones back to more formal education by providing a range of learning options. As the government's modernisation agenda is rolled forward (e-government) it will be necessary to provide affordable access to internet facilities.
- Whilst North Solihull Leisure Centre is at capacity, a full similar facility is not required. However there is potential and demand for alternative and more specialist sports provision such as an improved or indoor skate/bike park, a climbing wall, a fun pool and minigolf. More all weather pitches are required together with a general improvement in the quality of recreational facilities within the area.

The principles for the future development and provision of community facilities may be summarised as follows:

- Supporting the provision of neighbourhood service and advice centres particularly in relation to personal, social, psychological and health development.
- Support for the development of SureStart Children's Centres in North Solihull.
- Protecting existing and supporting new proposals for youth centres.
- Improving the quality and range of recreational provision.
- Supporting new provision of affordable childcare in suitable and accessible locations.

- Development of new community space, particularly for music and the arts.
- Creation of Libraries as Learning Centres together with improved ICT access.
- Partnership with the community and voluntary sector in delivering these services.
- Improving community safety.
- Ensuring all publicly accessible buildings, facilities and services provide access to all sectors of the community in compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

SHOPS & SERVICES

There is a requirement for access to local shops and other services. Development should be focused in existing centres to promote their vitality and viability, social inclusion and sustainable patterns of development.

Chelmsley Wood Town Centre is the retail focus for North Solihull and beyond. It is the third largest shopping centre in the Borough. However it is now 30 years old and in need of modernisation. Current proposals for refurbishment and development will allow a greater diversity of offer and vast improvements to the layout, design and quality of the centre. It will improve the range and quality of shops, leisure facilities and employment opportunities in the town centre. As such the Strategic Framework supports and encourages the further improvement of Chelmsley Wood Town Centre and its development as an Employment Hub.

Day-to-day shopping needs are also provided at the neighbourhood level. Such facilities are an important part of balanced communities and are a particularly important resource for the less mobile sectors of the population.

The development of a hierarchy of retail centres is proposed based on the following principles:

- The Strategic Framework is committed to sustaining the vitality and viability of the existing town centre at Chelmsley Wood and the proposed Community Hubs as the appropriate location for a wide variety of activities including retailing, public assembly, leisure, business and other major trip generating facilities. Such developments outside these locations will be resisted.



- Adopting a sequential approach to retail and other key town centre uses by directing such proposals in the first instance to Chelmsley Wood Town Centre.
- The role of Chelmsley Wood Town Centre is to be strengthened as the central retail and service focus for North Solihull.
- The vitality and viability of existing shopping centres will be maintained and enhanced providing access, by a choice of transport modes to a range of goods, services and other appropriate activities in an attractive environment.
- Chelmsley Wood has great potential to be developed as a dynamic and active town centre. The refurbishment and development proposals should incorporate exciting, modern and lively architecture. The centre should relate to neighbouring areas including Meriden Park and residential communities.
- Proposals for the refurbishment and development of Chelmsley Wood Town Centre are supported. A greater mix of town centre uses, including retail, leisure, employment, food and drink and residential uses is encouraged.
- Support proposals that strengthen, maintain and enhance local centres including Arran Way, Kingshurst Shops on Marston Drive, Crabtree / Bosworth Drive and Craig Croft for day-to-day shopping and other complementary and community uses. The Strategic Framework will improve such centres and any redevelopment will require re-provision in a similar location. The development of these local centres will be in conjunction with the development of the proposed Community Hubs.

HEALTHCARE

A sustainable community is a healthy community. However, poor health is a particular issue in North Solihull. There is a need to develop a more positive, proactive and preventative approach to health issues. Proposals will build on current initiatives. The principles for Healthcare focus on better delivery and improvements to the quality of service provision. Poor physical and mental health can be attributed to a number of cross-cutting issues and is related to the high incidence of anti-social activity and

crime. This highlights the importance of an integrated approach to health issues. The focus will be on:

- Support for a multi-disciplinary multi-agency approach to improving health.
- Support for existing health programmes such as the Healthy Schools Programme with space provided as needed in the proposed Community Hubs.
- Support for the new Primary Care Centre (the LIFT Project) at the Crabtree Centre Bosworth Drive. LIFT comprises a partnership of local PCT and the Council to create a primary care centre. Future proposals for LIFT schemes in appropriate locations will be supported.
- Development of proposals for a Community Hub adjacent to and to support the vitality of the LIFT project.
- The creation of clusters of modern health facilities to meet residents needs. Investigations are underway to develop a North Solihull Health Cluster.
- Inclusion of community health initiatives and education space in the Community Hubs to support programmes relating to sexual health, alcohol and substance abuse and teenage pregnancy building on the work of Baby Think it Over, Just 4 yoU Clinics, Clinic in a Box and SHIP.
- Opportunities to develop and link facilities with the Community Hubs and Learning Clusters will be encouraged.
- Integration of opportunities for a more active lifestyle into the Strategic Framework (including network of pedestrian and cycle routes to key destinations and improvements to leisure and recreational facilities in parks).
- Encourage development of shared use of recreational facilities at schools. These would be available to pupils and the wider community out of school hours.
- Improve access to wildlife and the environment.

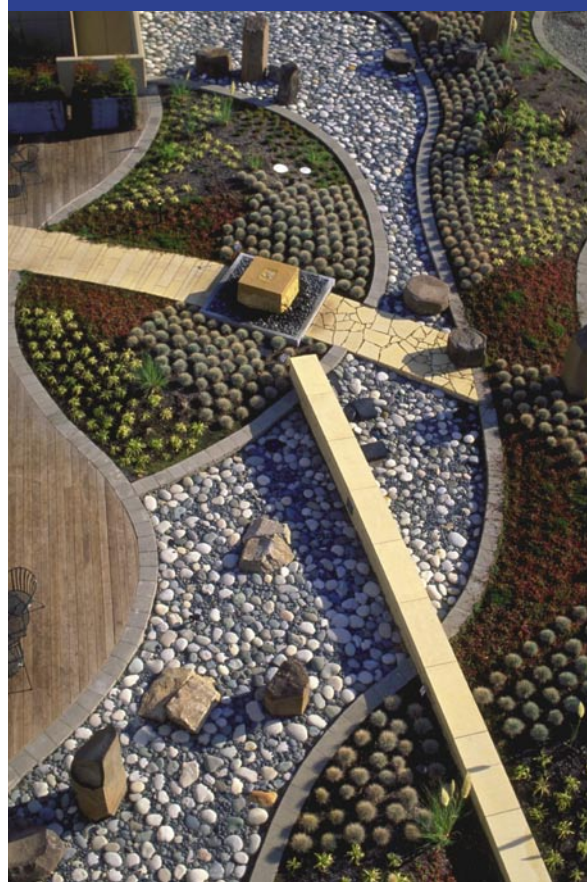
SPORT, LEISURE & CULTURE

There is potential to improve the quality and range of sports, leisure and cultural provision in North Solihull. There is substantial potential to develop access to facilities and opportunities through using schools, early years, community and church settings for delivery across the area.

A well developed set of sports and leisure principles will help to address the poor health of Solihull residents, anti-social activities, lack of things to do and places to go for young people, families and the ageing population. There are a number of successful initiatives, including Positive Futures and Doc Spot (GP referral). Such projects will fulfil the objectives of creating sustainable and balanced communities. Harnessing the power of physical activity can help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, improve educational achievement, improve physical and mental health and help employment pathway creation.

The approach to sports and leisure focuses on:

- Supporting current and future initiatives and agency approach to improving the quality and quantity of sport, physical activity and leisure facilities.
- Promoting Chelmsley Wood Town Centre as a leisure destination and encouraging the development of other town centre uses for leisure and recreational (such as a cinema, outdoor / adventurous sports centre, bowling alley, café and evening entertainment uses in the centre).
- Development of flexible community meeting space /indoor sports/ multi-function space (suitable for dancing, indoor bowls, badminton, trampolining etc) with associated outdoor provision, play areas for all ages, to allow the generations to mix in the neighbourhood centres / Community Hubs.
- Development of an expanded arts and cultural provision including new performance space.
- Ensuring that there will be no net loss of public recreational open space and that the quality of public open space and playing field provision will be improved. New space will be provided as an integral component of new development. These spaces will be provided in line with Sport England standards.





- Providing an improvement to the overall quality of sports, leisure and cultural facilities and services.
- Reviewing the potential for more specialist sports provision with the Regional Office of Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport for round the year use. Floodlighting may be necessary in consultation with local residential communities to ensure minimum impact on residential amenity.
- Support for proposals to expand the recreational offer and improving the quality of provision at North Solihull Sports Centre. Improve facilities at other sports and recreational centres.
- Accommodating quad and motor bike riders and improving safety by providing a managed area where such recreational activity is provided for without adverse impact on residential amenity or the environment. Models of good practice from elsewhere will be followed.

PUBLIC REALM & PUBLIC ART

The quality of the public realm is a defining feature of the character of its occupants and the success of a neighbourhood. For too long the public realm has been seen as a totally separate entity to the built environment. The approach will be integrated with the Council's Public Art Policy.

A high quality, integrated public realm is a key facet of the Strategic Framework and the public realm improvements will be based on the following principles:

- Development of a co-ordinated and integrated public realm strategy based on an agreed set of principles to help foster coherence, local identity and improved appearance.
- Requirement for design proposals for the public realm to be submitted with all development proposals.
- Encouragement for the better management of the public realm through extended street warden schemes and together with town centre management.

- Improving the image and legibility of North Solihull through the development of the following elements (to include buildings, paving, landscaping and planting, street furniture, lighting, signage, soundscapes and non-functional art works):
 - o Landmarks
 - o Gateways
 - o Nodes
 - o A prescribed set of street furniture.
 - o Environmental improvements.
- Particularly existing Gateways to North Solihull require enhancement including:
 - o Land at the junction of Chelmsley Wood Town Centre, Meriden Park, and the northern residential districts.
 - o The junction between Fordbridge and Chelmsley Wood Town Centre.
 - o To the south of the regeneration area at the Chester Road and Coleshill Heath Road junction.
- There is opportunity to provide a series of new pocket parks, play areas or squares. The number of potential locations have been identified as suitable to link to Community Hubs and along key and green connector routes and sections of the proposed linear park in Smith's Wood. This will aid legibility and provide an enhanced sense of place as well as a recreational resource.
- The maintenance requirements of public open space (including parks and playing fields) will be considered at the design stage including 'designing out' current issues such as flytipping and other litter problems.
- Developing clear and safe routes for pedestrians.
- Celebrating cultural diversity.
- Encouraging the use of public art to enhance high quality design with community involvement in the design.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

North Solihull has a crime rate above the national average. The seven major concerns focus on burglary, vehicle crime, robbery, violence against the person, criminal damage, domestic violence and general disorder. Whilst recorded crime is falling significantly, fear of crime is a real issue for residents of North Solihull.

The high crime levels can be attributed to several causes and as such an integrated approach is required linked to other elements of the Strategic Framework. However there are a number of physical changes that can also be incorporated to reduce the potential for crime and to improve community safety.

The Crime and Disorder Strategy for 2002/2005 identifies key cross-cutting agendas and priorities for tackling crime. The Solihull CDRP is completing a Crime and Drugs Audit and Strategy which will highlight in more detail the issues and priorities which need to be addressed. Other initiatives in place include Small Area Regeneration (SARs) programmes, Home Zones, Crime Fighting Teams, Community Safety Officers, Drug Action Team, Connexions, restorative justice programmes, NSPCC and the Positive Futures initiative. The Strategy builds on these initiatives and focuses on three themes: a physical strategy incorporating environmental improvements, a management strategy and a community cohesion strategy.

PHYSICAL STRATEGY

The physical strategy focuses on the following elements:

- Improving residential layout and design where possible to readdress the street.
- Closing off alleyways and extending back yards / gardens to eliminate hiding spaces and escape routes.
- Provide for a coherent street lighting strategy and eliminating dark and unsafe routes through improved layouts supported by adequate lighting.
- Designing new housing development to better address open space and woodland to provide natural surveillance of these spaces and activities that occur in them. This may involve new buildings on the edges of existing green space. The layout and design of housing areas will be

undertaken in association with the police and relevant design guidance.

- Providing new and high quality recreational spaces and improvements to existing spaces. A variety of quality facilities to encourage positive use will be sought together with basic essential equipment such as bin and toilet provision.
- Focusing health, community and education in key nodes as Community Hubs and Learning Clusters to encourage a vibrant and safe mix of activity throughout the day and into the evening. This will support the viability of these centres and the transport strategy.
- Developing a greater mix of horizontal and vertical housing tenures to create a more balanced and stable community.
- Controlling the use of quad and motor bikes but also accommodating it through the development of a suitable designated facility.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The management strategy will be supported by key management initiatives including;

- Sustained and extended street warden and police community support officer schemes.
- Development of neighbourhood watch and park management strategies to encourage ownership and foster community identity.
- Development of a high quality environment to encourage ownership of space.
- Support and extension where necessary of neighbourhood level policing, youth offending and drug tackling initiatives including the Behavioural Improvement Programme, Positive Futures, OnTrack and the work of the Community Development Team.
- Support for education and preventative interventions to address anti-social behaviour and repeat offence programmes.

COMMUNITY COHESION

Development of a strategy to foster community cohesion is a fundamental component of the Strategic Framework which must be addressed in a positive and constructive way, building on existing programmes and strengthening and developing new approaches in North Solihull through the regeneration process. This may include:

- Ownership – fostering care and respect for both the built and natural environment through involving residents including those with special needs such as disabled people, throughout the design process from consultation in the development of the Strategic Framework and Neighbourhood Plans to the design of particular elements such as the Community Hubs, housing, parks and other recreational facilities. Programmes which provide local residents with opportunities to gain skills and employment in the construction industry and to be involved in the rebuilding of North Solihull may also help.
- Addressing anti-social behaviour and community service sentences through involvement in environmental improvement schemes and cleaning up of areas (rubbish collection through to graffiti removal).
- Working with employment agencies, the voluntary sector and intermediate agencies to develop programmes to encourage participation in the regeneration of North Solihull whilst gaining key skills. This is in addition to more formal employment of local people in local projects/opportunities.
- Tackle discrimination experienced by BME and other minority groups through a range of initiatives which will be developed to meet needs and aspirations.

A number of approaches are proposed:

- o Education programmes within schools to celebrate cultural diversity.
- o Development of high quality and flexible meeting space in the Community Hubs available for use by all community groups to improve communication between groups. The Community Hubs must be safe and secure whilst also open and integrated into the residential community.
- o Through encouragement of cultural and religious events.
- o Through SureStart and Extended School initiatives.
- o Through the housing management strategy to ensure vertical and horizontal mixing of tenures.
- Creating a safe and vibrant environment encouraging people to mix and socialise by:
 - o Developing a sustainable mix of uses in the Community Hubs and Chelmsley Wood Town Centre, including residential uses to allow a variety of activity throughout the day and into the evening.
 - o Environmental improvements and development of safe and attractive cycle and pedestrian routes to encourage and enable people to walk to destinations.
 - o Provide things to do and places to go for young people to get them off the streets and significantly reduce / eliminate intimidation to residents.

7. URBAN DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Good urban design is essential to produce attractive, high quality, sustainable places in which people will want to live, work and invest. There is a general desire for better designed places which will inspire and be valued, places where vibrant communities can grow and prosper.

Solihull MBC is committed to securing good urban design to help improve the quality of people's lives in North Solihull. This section sets out the key principles which will be adhered to in order to achieve higher standards in urban design.

ACHIEVING QUALITY THROUGH DESIGN

Urban design is about making places for people. It includes the way places work and matters such as community safety; how places look and the connections between people and places, movement and urban form.

The objective is to create a safe and attractive living environment that provides a sense of identity and place to which local communities can relate and in which they can have pride.

The Strategic Framework promotes the creation of a high quality built environment for all and seeks to secure a high quality of townscape, urban form, building design and urban spaces through the use of architecture, urban design and landscape design which respects local character, culture and history. Based on the key characteristics of successful urban areas identified in the CABE publication 'Better Places to Live', the principles of good urban design which will guide future change and development in the area may be summarised as follows:

- **Character** – A place with its own identity
- **Continuity and Legibility** - A place that is easy to understand and where public and private spaces are clearly distinguished
- **Quality Public Realm** - A place with high quality, attractive and successful public spaces and streets
- **Ease of Movement** - A place that is easy to get to and move through
- **Sustainability** – A viable, successful place which minimises resource consumption

- **Adaptability** - A place that can change easily in response to changing requirements
- **Diversity** - A place which offers variety and choice

CHARACTER

The 'character' of an area is determined by its form and layout; building types; architectural style and detailing and age of buildings; the form, appearance and location of open spaces; mix of uses and activities and how the area is used by its residents. North Solihull contains a number of distinct areas of different and contrasting character ranging from the extensive 1960s 'Radburn' estate layouts at Smith's Wood to the established more typically 'suburban' areas of Chester Road and Fordbridge Road in Kingshurst.

Future development should seek to reinforce local character and to strengthen and foster local identity and pride. New development should be of a high quality with the objective of improving the environment and creating places of distinction.

The following principles will apply to new development and the design of public realm and environmental improvement schemes:

- Build on the character of existing areas which exhibit a strong sense of place.
- Create distinctive places well related to other areas.
- Seek to raise aspirations through the promotion of high quality development which will change the image and perception of the area.

CONTINUITY & LEGIBILITY

Urban areas are defined by the network of streets and spaces. In North Solihull, the urban form has been dominated by the development of large areas to a Radburn layout. The aim of the Radburn layout was to alleviate problems of traffic but the effect was to create a series of cul-de-sacs, service streets and pedestrian cut-through routes that are often difficult to follow, poorly overlooked and feel unsafe.





In contrast areas with more traditional patterns of development (such as Victorian terraced houses fronting main routes) provide more successful living environments and indicate how North Solihull could be reconfigured in the future.

The regeneration of North Solihull seeks to create places with well defined street frontages and routes. Routes to Chelmsley Wood Centre and local centres should be easy to navigate for residents and visitors to the area. Key routes running to the centres should be enhanced through improved lighting, paving and planting.

New buildings should face the street, with buildings on key routes and at key junctions forming landmarks to aid orientation. The entrances to particular neighbourhoods or character areas should be highlighted by significant buildings or spaces which are easy to identify.

Public spaces should have active frontages. The introduction of retail and service uses should be considered in appropriate locations to animate public spaces and improve surveillance and community safety.

The concentration of facilities and increase in bus route frequency on key routes should be reflected in a higher density of residential development in these locations. This will support facilities and strengthen local character and distinctiveness.

The following principles will apply to new development and the design of public realm and environmental improvement schemes:

- Continuity of building frontages.
- Reconfiguration of areas of Radburn layout to improve quality of pedestrian environment.
- Create legible, well defined routes and spaces.
- Celebrate elements such as main routes or key spaces.
- Increase densities of development along public transport routes and close to local facilities.

QUALITY OF THE PUBLIC REALM

The river valleys that pass through North Solihull are important features of the area, providing valuable recreation space as well as links to the surrounding countryside. These spaces are major assets which should be enhanced for the enjoyment of residents through landscaping, management and other facilities which will encourage use by a wider range of people than at present.

The existing parks add to the visual interest and character of the area. New development should provide frontages to these spaces with improved surveillance and access through the creation of new routes. Within the residential areas, environmental assets are of particular importance and value. Radburn layouts are renowned for their poor public realm, design quality and maintenance. The potential reconfiguration of some areas will allow the creation of well-defined, open spaces that function more like traditional parks. These could provide a focus for high quality development.

There is a requirement for improved quality of street design and maintenance. An increase in the quality of main routes through the area will have a major impact on people's perception of North Solihull.

Keeping new and existing open spaces animated through the presence of people at all times of day will help to improve passive surveillance and perceived safety levels. Consideration should be given to increased residential densities around key spaces and environmental assets, particularly in the neighbourhood centres.

The following principles will apply:

- Improved access to key environmental assets such as the river valleys.
- Use landscape as a driver of value and character.
- Create overlooked and well defined green spaces.
- Raise the image of the area through improvements to main routes.
- Increase density of development around key spaces.

EASE OF MOVEMENT

Within the Radburn layouts, traffic is concentrated onto a few key routes which create barriers between neighbourhoods contributing to a poor public realm and problems of traffic and road safety. The re-planning of many of these areas will allow the relationship between these key strategic corridors and residential communities to be reviewed. A more traditional street network will be promoted to integrate communities.

The objective is to create a network of streets that cater for all forms of movement which pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles can share comfortably and safely. More sustainable forms of movement such as walking and cycling will be encouraged and the viability of local centres will be supported through improved accessibility to local communities.

The use of 'Boulevard' or 'Avenue' treatments can help to change perceptions of main traffic routes. Tree planting is of particular importance, as it can help to improve the appearance of the area and pedestrian environment. The following will apply:

- Encourage high quality connections between communities.
- Create a network of mixed, shared routes for all street users.
- Facilitate area-wide movement whilst ensuring local movement, particularly walking, is encouraged.
- Seek to limit the physical and environmental impact of traffic.
- Increase residential densities within a five minute walk of transport stops.
- Use development to open up new routes to public transport maximising access and supporting local services.
- Ensure all development and transport interchanges are fully accessible to all users.

SUSTAINABILITY

The creation of sustainable living and working environments is fundamental to the regeneration of North Solihull. Sustainability considerations will be incorporated into all new development such as energy and water efficiency, use of renewable energy, sustainable construction and drainage, building orientation, use of recycled materials, minimisation of waste and prolonging the lifespan of buildings.

More sustainable lifestyles can be achieved through the promotion of more sustainable modes of transport such as public transport and walking and through mixed-use development which provides employment and retail opportunities within easy reach of housing areas.

It will be necessary to address the needs of existing and incoming residents and to improve their quality of life and level of opportunities. Good urban design will promote social inclusion and the growth or strengthening of communities. Good quality living and working environments will help to retain and attract people to the area.

The more efficient use of land will allow for improvements to the housing stock, an increase in residential densities and the provision of new facilities in the area. More efficient or innovative use of existing building stock will also be considered.

ADAPTABILITY

New development should be able to adapt to the changing requirements of the community over time. A range of housing types and sizes will be provided with the potential for adaptation. This will assist in retaining people in the area.

The street pattern and layout of residential areas should also be capable of adaptation to accommodate new housing forms or different uses in the future.

The existing Radburn layouts are inflexible and will require reconfiguration to adapt to changing requirements.

DIVERSITY

The interaction between people of different backgrounds and from different age groups and a range of facilities and activities can make urban life more vibrant and

interesting. This will encourage people to remain within the area.

In order to sustain existing and new communities within North Solihull, the objective must be to increase choice and diversity within the area.

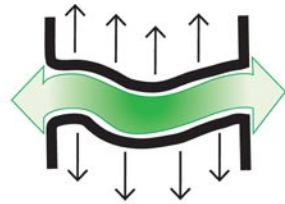
Variation in the appearance and design of development in different parts of the area will assist in promoting diversity and establishing a 'sense of place' and community spirit.

Diversity of an urban area should also be reflected in the mix of land uses. New development should seek to introduce a mix of uses to add vibrancy and variety to residential areas including a range of facilities to meet the needs of the local community.

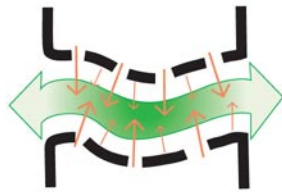
The following urban design principles will apply:

- Provision of a range and choice of housing types within each neighbourhood.
- Variety of building styles and design to reinforce local distinctiveness and character.
- Housing led mixed-use is to be encouraged.

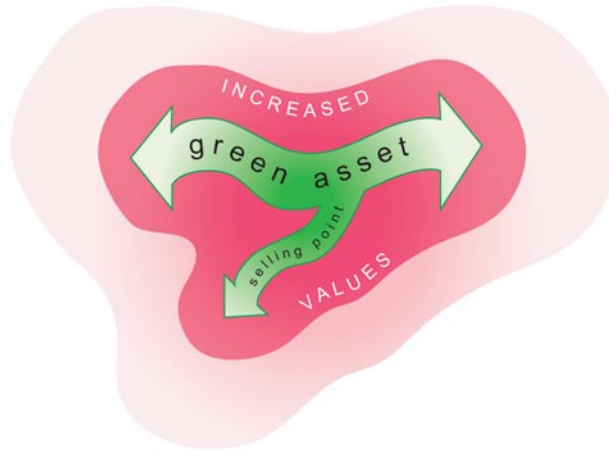
GREEN ASSETS



Developments turn their back on major green spaces

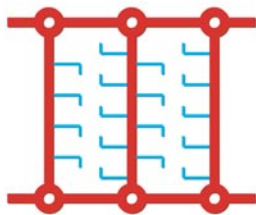


New developments must address the green spaces to maximise benefits for park users & residents

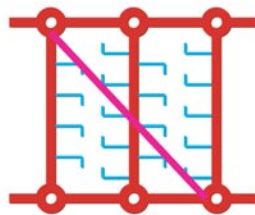


Focus new development to make use of North Solihull's 'Unique Selling Point'

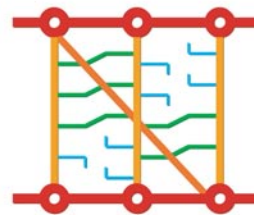
CONNECTIONS



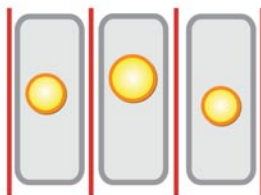
Current road hierarchy



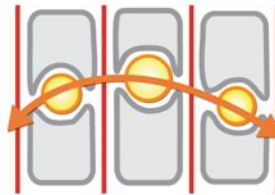
Introduce a new connecting route



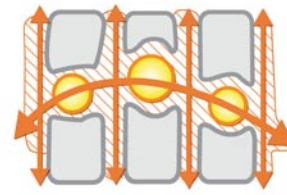
Create a pedestrian and vehicular friendly road hierarchy



Location of current opportunities



Introduce a new connecting route



Open up the neighbourhoods to maximise regeneration benefits

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

The North Solihull Strategic Framework sets the overall strategy for the regeneration of North Solihull. Within this context, a series of Neighbourhood Plans will be prepared to bring forward more detailed proposals and strategies for delivery. A total of 15 separate neighbourhoods have been identified and are indicated on the accompanying plan. These neighbourhoods will provide the basis for preparation of the Neighbourhood Plans in consultation with the local community. They will be prepared in discussion with social housing providers in the area.

North Arran Way and Craig Croft have been approved by SMBC as priority neighbourhoods and the first Neighbourhood Plans will be prepared for these areas.

The 15 neighbourhoods are identified as follows. They have been given a name for identification purposes but will be subject to consultation.

SMITH'S WOOD

- Lanchester Way
- North Arran Way
- Woodlands

KINGSHURST

- Kingshurst
- Babb's Mill

FORDBRIDGE

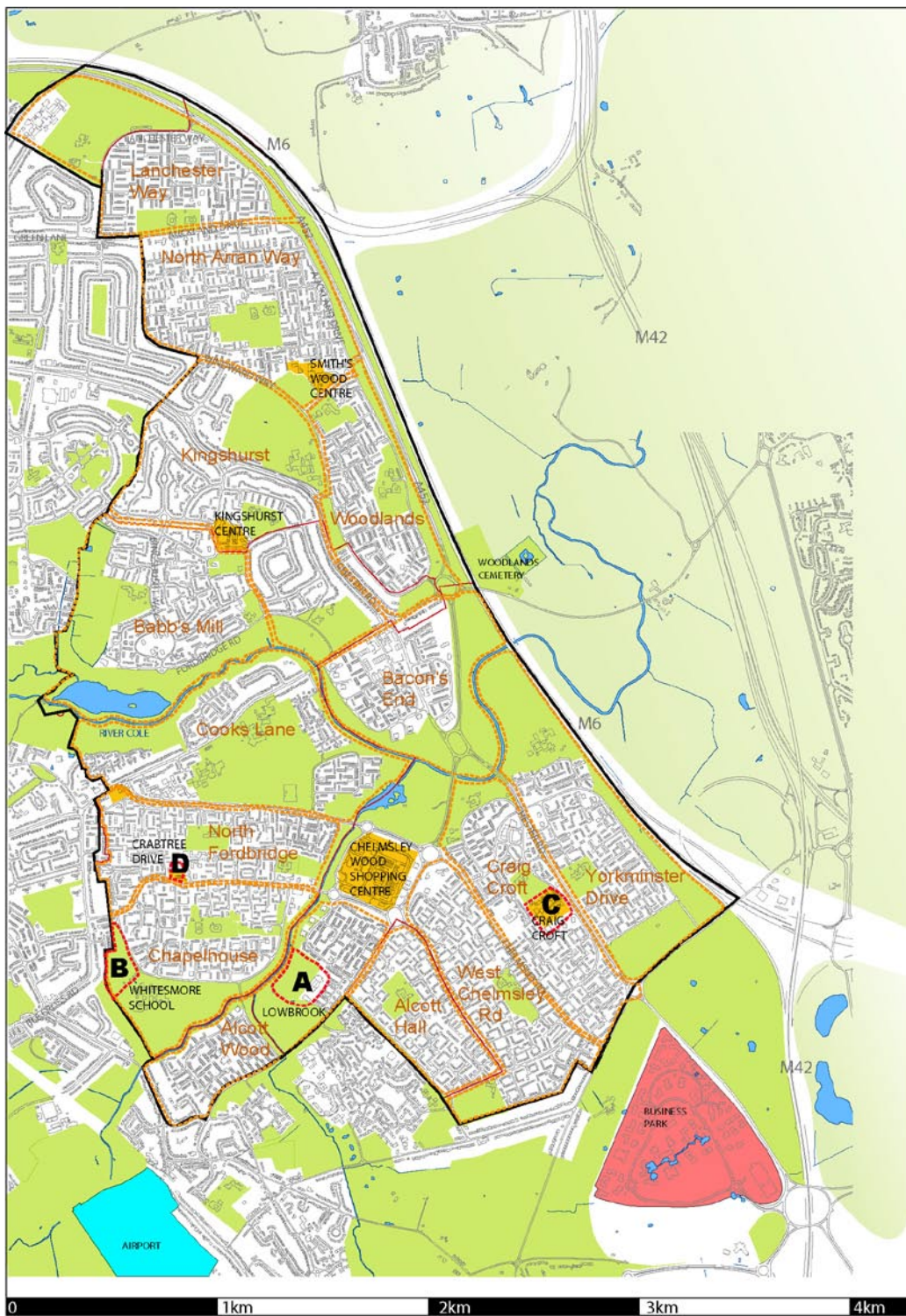
- Cook's Lane
- North Fordbridge
- Chapel House

CHELMSLEY WOOD

- Bacon's End
- Alcott Wood
- Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre
- Alcott Hall
- West Chelmsley Road
- Craig Croft
- Yorkminster Drive

-  North Solihull regeneration area boundary
-  Ward boundaries
-  Green spaces
-  Airport
-  Business park
-  Centres
-  Neighbourhood plan boundaries
-  First phase projects
- A** Lowbrook housing development
- B** Whitesmore housing development
- C** Craig Croft community hub
- D** Crabtree Drive community hub

NEIGHBOURHOODS & FIRST PHASE PROJECTS





Neighbourhood Plans will be developed in accordance with the principles set out in the Strategic Framework and will consider the interrelationships and linkages between adjacent neighbourhoods. A number of the neighbourhoods include areas of strategic open space and will be required to reflect strategic landscape proposals. For example, the River Cole Valley is a significant asset for North Solihull and provides major opportunity for the successful regeneration of the area. It includes recreational facilities at Babb's Mill and Meriden Park and cuts across most neighbourhood boundaries identified in Kingshurst, Fordbridge and Chelmsley Wood. Residential and commercial developments at South Kingshurst, Bacon's End, Chelmsley Wood Town Centre and North Fordbridge benefit from proximity to and views into the woodland and river corridor. Low Brook and Hatchford Brook together with the River Cole act as both barriers and visual connections between neighbourhoods.

The eastern edge of Chelmsley Wood and Smith's Wood is characterised by a green buffer separating residential areas from the M6 and A452. It is an effective buffer which reduces the impacts of the motorway but its amenity value could be improved with the potential for new footpath and cycleways and landscape improvements such as pocket parks at entry points.

In addition to the general principles identified in the North Solihull Strategic Framework, a number of issues, opportunities and priorities have been identified for each of the neighbourhoods. These are summarised below and will be addressed in consultation with the local community in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plans. Preparation of the Neighbourhood Plans will draw on the experience gained from the Pathfinder pilot scheme in Fordbridge and the application of neighbourhood management principles.

SMITH'S WOOD

The baseline study through analysis of 2001 Census data and the Index of Multiple Deprivation identified Smith's Wood as the most deprived ward in the Regeneration Area.

1 – LANCHESTER WAY

This neighbourhood currently experiences particularly high deprivation relating to education, skills and training with high numbers of people without qualifications. There are concentrations of long-term unemployed residents. Four schools are located within the neighbourhood: Forest Oak

Special Day School, Park Hall School, Lanchester School and Bosworth Wood School. Radburn layouts dominate with associated problems of high pedestrian permeability.

There are opportunities to improve north-south and east-west vehicular connections. The schools offer the potential to address the lack of qualifications experienced by residents together with the provision of shared/improved community facilities. There are opportunities to improve Lanchester Park.

2 – NORTH ARRAN WAY

North Arran Way is the most deprived area within North Solihull (Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2001). There are high concentrations of lone parents, deprivation related to education, skills and training and residents lacking qualifications. Unemployment is high, particularly amongst the young and a large number of residents currently claim benefits, including disability benefits. There is a range of residential unit types with an emphasis on Radburn layouts interspersed with high rise towers.

Pedestrian permeability is high but there is a lack of clear north-south vehicle routes and low levels of car ownership.

There are opportunities to develop a Community Hub improving the retail and community offer and access to and within the area. During the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan a series of options will be examined to establish the most appropriate and feasible location for the Community Hub. Landscape features including Smith's Wood and Burton Green Recreational Ground provide regeneration triggers. Kingfisher School is located within the neighbourhood and the proposed Woodlands Learning Village is located in close proximity.

3 – WOODLANDS

This neighbourhood experiences particularly high concentrations of lone parent households and residents lacking in qualifications. Unemployment is an issue, especially for the young and long-term unemployed. Crime levels are high and new policing initiatives have been introduced. There is an emphasis on Radburn housing estates with a number of high rise towers.

A major opportunity for this neighbourhood and the surrounding area relates to the development of the Woodlands Learning Village. Solihull College is to be relocated to the site of the existing Woodlands School to provide post 16 education, a vocational training centre, adult and community education and childcare facilities.

Smith's Wood School is situated to the north of Chester Road and St John the Baptist RC School is also located in this area. Access to education and training opportunities should be improved by a variety of means.

KINGSHURST

Kingshurst contains the greatest diversity of housing in North Solihull although there remains a need to provide greater choice. There is a variety of house types and layouts and a mix of council and private sector housing development.

4 – KINGSHURST

Whilst this is a relatively deprived neighbourhood with particularly high concentrations of long-term unemployed residents, there are a number of potential opportunities to promote area regeneration. These include Kingshurst Junior School and Kingshurst Infant School, Fordbridge Infants School, Smith's Wood Secondary School and St Barnabas Church. Kingshurst shops and existing community facilities offer the potential for redevelopment to provide new and improved facilities in a Community Hub.

The area benefits from a number of special landscape features including Smith's Wood SINC, the River Cole Valley and York's Wood.

5 - BABB'S MILL

The baseline study indicates that there are a significant number of lone parent households in Babb's Mill and relatively high levels of deprivation in terms of education, skills and training. Unemployment is relatively high. The area is dominated by a mix of 1950s – 1960s council low rise and cul-de-sac housing with a number of 1960s high rise tower blocks, many face directly onto the Cole Valley.

Babb's Mill benefits from a number of potential regeneration triggers including proximity to the proposed Community Hub in Kingshurst, the special landscape value and character of Babb's Mill Lake and recreation ground, the River Cole Valley and York's Wood.

FORDBRIDGE

Fordbridge is characterised by concentrations of residents lacking in qualifications and low average incomes. There is a shortage of affordable accommodation and the housing stock is dominated by Council developed one-bed bungalows, one and two-bed low and high rise

flats, some of which have been assessed as being of a very poor environmental / liveability standard. There is a lack of north-south vehicular links although pedestrian permeability is high. Preparation of the Neighbourhood Plans in Fordbridge will build on the Fordbridge Pathfinder pilot scheme and management principles.

There are opportunities to develop stronger north-south and east-west linkages and the River Cole Valley provides a valuable asset and setting to the area.

6 - COOK'S LANE

This neighbourhood experiences relative deprivation in terms of lack of educational qualifications, long-term unemployment, involuntary exclusion from work with a number of residents on benefits. There is a mix of building types but these are not well integrated.

There is potential for the area to benefit from the concentration of education and recreational facilities on Cook's Lane: Archbishop Grimshaw School, the City Technology College and North Solihull Sports Centre. The Strategic Framework seeks to strengthen and protect this focus of activity. The River Cole Valley provides the potential for improved recreation and as a setting for high quality residential development. Land at Saxon Way could be developed for small business use.

7 - NORTH FORDBRIDGE / CRABTREE

North Fordbridge/Crabtree scores relatively highly on the indices of multiple deprivation in relation to education, skills and training and unemployment. The area benefits from a number of community facilities and policing initiatives. It suffers from poor image and relatively low house prices.

It is considered that there would be potential to develop this area as a community focus centred on a Community Hub together with the new Primary Care Centre (LIFT project). A high level of intervention in the housing stock may be required to secure regeneration objectives.

8 - CHAPELHOUSE

Education is a key issue for residents of Chapelhouse with particularly large numbers of residents lacking in skills and qualifications. There is a concentration of lone parent households and crime levels are high. House prices are low. A high level of intervention in the housing stock may be required to secure regeneration objectives.

A number of current initiatives will act as triggers to the regeneration process including the Fordbridge Plus

Neighbourhood Pathfinder Project, the City (Grace) Academy specialising in business and enterprise which will replace Whitesmore School and the development of a SureStart Children's Centre at Hatchford Community Primary School. Chapel House Recreation Ground to the north of Whitesmore School has been awarded a high play value and is an asset for residents.

CHELMSLEY WOOD

Chelmsley Wood is a mixed area with key strengths such as the town centre (where redevelopment proposals will further diversify the existing offer and improve the environment), proximity to the River Cole and employment centre to the south. It experiences fewer problems relating to accessibility than other areas of North Solihull although pedestrian access is poor.

However the area suffers from key housing issues relating to need, unsuitable housing, lack of certain types of housing and shortage of affordable units. Major repairs are required to much of the housing stock.

The neighbourhood has the capacity to build on its established strengths. A high level of intervention in the housing stock may be required to secure regeneration objectives.

9 - BACON'S END

Bacon's End is a relatively small neighbourhood which occupies a central location at a key gateway to North Solihull and is surrounded on three sides by the River Cole Valley. Whilst a high proportion of its residents have few qualifications and there is no school within the boundary of the neighbourhood, the special landscape setting provides a number of opportunities for regeneration. It is proposed that a small Community Hub or gateway feature could be developed at the junction of Chester Road and the Collector Roads.

10 - ALCOTT WOOD

Development will be constrained in parts of this area due to the extent of the designated floodplain of Hatchford Brook. Key opportunities are presented by the linear green space along the brook and Alcott Wood and there is potential to improve access to this area. The high quality landscape could provide a feature for new higher quality housing development in the area.

11 - CHELMSLEY WOOD SHOPPING CENTRE

Comprising a mix of retail and community uses, Chelmsley Wood Town Centre is the focus to North Solihull.

Proposals for redevelopment can be further enhanced and strengthened by promoting a more vibrant mix of uses, the introduction of residential and evening entertainment and by reorientating the centre so that it becomes outward looking. Community facilities should be enhanced. Criminal activity is an issue but could be addressed through improved management practices and design.

12 - ALCOTT HALL

Alcott Hall suffers from deprivation relating to lack of skills, poor education and training. A high proportion of residents have no qualifications and there is a high proportion of lone parent households and a lack of community facilities. The potential of Coleshill Heath School Centre and associated playing fields should be fully investigated as a means of improving facilities in the area.

13 - WEST CHELMSLEY ROAD

Poor education and qualifications, skills and training are key issues. The neighbourhood is almost totally dominated by Council developed Radburn layout estates with a number of interspersed high rise towers.

Coleshill Heath Primary School has an extensive Extended Schools Programme and this will be supported and developed further, particularly in relation improving educational achievement and adult learning. The potential for sharing of schools facilities with the wider community is promoted and the development of a SureStart centre is supported.

14 - CRAIG CROFT

Unemployment and crime are significant issues for residents in the Craig Croft neighbourhood. The area is defined by a predominance of Radburn housing layouts and high rise towers.

However the area has a number of key assets relating to successful educational facilities and the proposed development of a Community Hub centred on Craig Croft will provide new and improved facilities for the area. The neighbourhood encompasses the River Cole Valley to the north.

15 - YORKMINSTER DRIVE

Yorkminster Drive is dominated by Radburn housing layouts and isolated high rise residential towers. It suffers particularly from deprivation relating to lack of education, skills and training however it is well served by buses. There are opportunities to improve Bluebell Recreational Ground. These issues will be addressed in preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan which will consider options for improving the quality of the residential environment.



9. DELIVERY & IMPLEMENTATION

The Strategic Framework sets out an ambitious strategy for improving the quality of life in North Solihull. Given the scale of this challenge, it is recognised that achievement of the regeneration objectives will require a phased approach over time and the full commitment of the public, private and voluntary sectors and the community. Progress will be dependent on a number of factors including changes in funding and investment, the effective coordination of programmes and initiatives and the development of a robust implementation strategy.

The delivery strategy will need to address the following elements:

- Management and organisation.
- Programme for delivering overall strategy and key projects.
- Funding sources and programmes available to North Solihull.
- Outputs and framework for monitoring.

This strategy will be documented in full in the North Solihull Business Plan which will be based on this Strategic Framework, the Neighbourhood Plans and other supporting documentation such as the Housing Strategy. The Business Plan sets out details of all financial requirements and targets and also quantifies non-financial outcomes. The Business Plan will be the core tool for the North Solihull Regeneration Partnership over the next 10-15 years and will not be a static document but will be subject to review as circumstances in the area change and improve.

The delivery strategy will need to integrate the public consultation process as a fundamental component of the strategy for change and renewal. The communications strategy will set out details of each stage of consultation during the preparation and implementation of Neighbourhood Plans and detailed proposals.

At this stage a broad outline of the delivery strategy is provided but this will require further refinement as the Neighbourhood Plans are prepared. A key objective will be to maximise public and private funding to secure regeneration objectives.

MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION

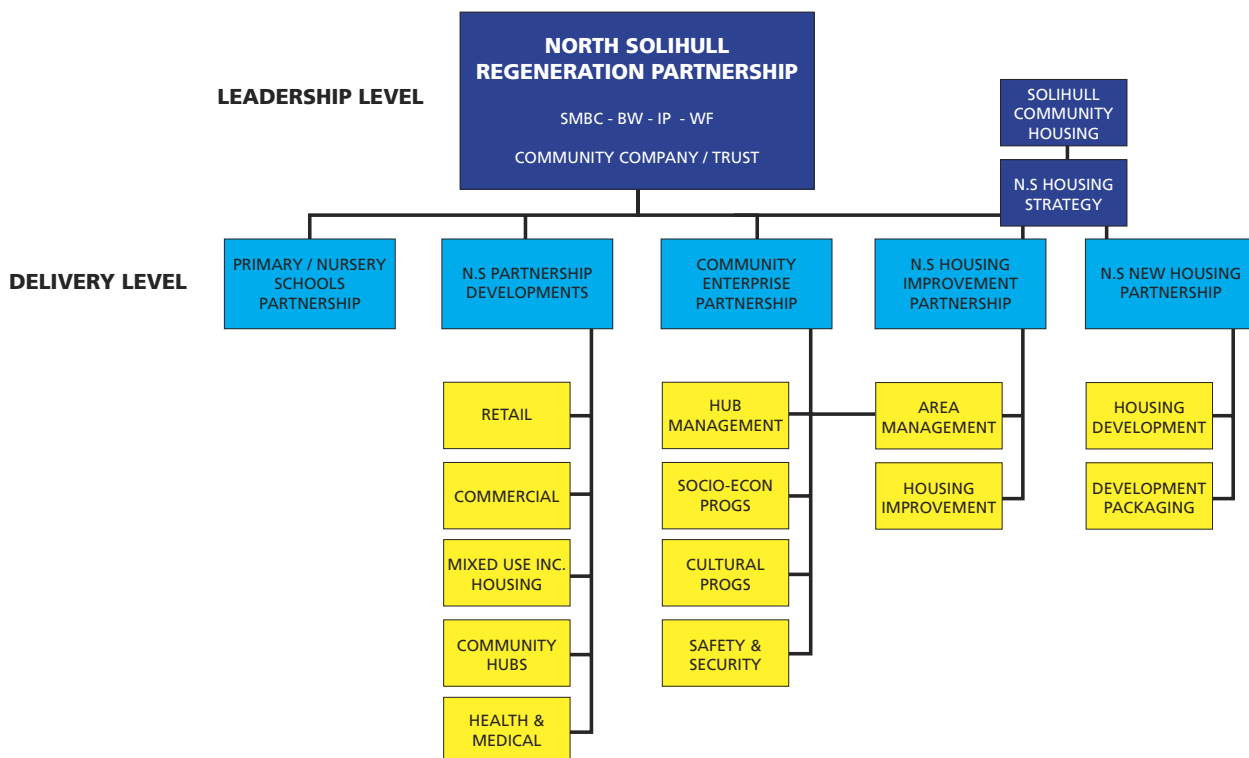
The diagram below sets out the initial proposed delivery arrangements. It indicates how the partnership will manage the process of delivery over the next few years.

There will be a dedicated team of people from the In-Partnership Consortium and SMBC based in North Solihull to work with the local community and other stakeholders in taking forward area regeneration.

SLC (Solihull Community Housing) and the Council's team undertaking the BSF procurement for Secondary Schools are key components in delivering this strategy.

The Solihull Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) will also be a key partner in delivering the strategy. It provides a framework for multi-agency working and allows local groups and organisations to work together in a co-ordinated way to fulfil the aims of the new community strategy.

PROPOSED DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS



PROGRAMME

The Strategic Framework outlines a number of proposed interventions to the existing housing stock, opportunities for new house building, creation of Community Hubs, improvements to public open spaces and local environment and transport improvements. It also identifies a range of community and economic development initiatives to ensure that physical renewal is integrated with improvements to the social and economic well-being of local communities.

Further project definition will be undertaken during preparation of the Neighbourhood Plans. This will permit the establishment of an overall programme of projects phased over the short (0-5 years), medium (5-10 years) and longer term (10-15 years).

At this stage, a number of first phase projects have been identified that will be developed during the early years of the regeneration process (1-3 years). Revenue from the proposed residential developments will be fundamental to kick-start wider regeneration objectives. The first phase projects are proposed to be at:

- A) Lowbrook, Chichester Grove, Chelmsley Wood.** Proposals for high quality exemplary residential development of the allocated Lowbrook site will form part of the first phase. Any development of a second phase will need to recognise the special quality of the landscape, Green Belt and neighbouring SINC and LNR designation for Alcott Wood. An assessment of Flood Risk for the site from Hatchford Brook will be required to evaluate the risk of flooding. Due to the Green Belt status of Lowbrook any proposals will have to be linked to particular regeneration benefits.
- B) Whitesmore School site, Chapelhouse Road, Fordbridge.** Proposals for high quality exemplary residential development will coincide and relate to development of the City (Grace) Academy on the eastern portion of the site. Residential development will relate strongly to the Academy proposals, street frontage and neighbouring residential areas. Proposals may involve a land use swap, re-provision of open space and improvements to the quality of Chapel House Recreational Ground to create a more coherent, attractive and safer urban structure.

- C) Craig Croft Shops, off Chester Road, Chelmsley Wood.** Proposals for a new Community Hub containing a mix of uses will be developed on this site. Suitable locations will be examined as options during the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan in consultation with the community and other key stakeholders. Links with Keeper's Lodge Community Centre will also be examined. Links with St Patrick's RC and Windy Arbor Primary Schools will be important.
- D) Crabtree Drive, off Bosworth Drive, Fordbridge.** Proposals for a Community Hub on the site of the existing shops and pub will be developed. Close relationship with proposals for the LIFT Primary Health Care centre, near to the site will be important. The Community Hub will contain a mix of uses.

FINANCIAL STRUCTURE AND FUNDING

FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

The financial structure of the project is based on capturing value from residential-led and other forms of development in North Solihull. The financial structure:

- Captures the maximum amount of value from development and puts this back into improving schools, the local environment and housing, and so makes the North Solihull area a place where people choose to live and will wish to remain.
- Develops incentives for the team to capture the maximum financial resources from third parties.
- Secures significant net additional public sector resources to the estate.
- Includes the scope to incorporate a neighbourhood management partnership to improve the quality of neighbourhood services and to underpin the strategy for value enhancement.
- Includes scope for income streams to fund community programmes thus making community activities sustainable in the long term.

Schools – It is anticipated that a phased programme of improvement to the secondary schools portfolio will be implemented through the 'Building Schools for the Future' (BSF) initiative and the Council is well advanced with this

programme. The Consortium will draw together the skills to help procure, through a competitive process, the design, build and operation of the new primary schools. To support the new capital investment in these schools, the partnership will be investigating all avenues of funding including the Public Finance Initiative (PFI). A Steering group, made up of the partnership, the council, heads and governors has been set up to take this forward. This will also take into account the relationship between the Extended Schools Initiative and the Community Hubs.

Community Hubs - these will be the responsibility of the partnership to deliver and will be funded through a combination of public and private finance and cross funding through the partnership structure.

Transport Improvements – the partnership will work closely with regional transport stakeholders, operators and employers in order to achieve the proposals set out in this Framework. This will mean the support and funding of various scene setting initiatives.

Project Delivery – individual projects will be developed out of this Strategic Framework and the Neighbourhood Plans. These will include infrastructure projects, housing and commercial projects, community and other projects. These will be delivered in four general ways:

- The partnership itself will develop key projects such as the Community Hubs and primary schools.
- The consortium partners will be responsible for delivering various projects.
- Other partners will be brought in through a competitive process.
- Potential for funding from Government, Europe and the East Birmingham and North Solihull Regeneration Zone resources will be maximised.

FUNDING STRUCTURE

The funding structure and delivery arrangements are based on the following:

- Land input to the partnership by SMBC.
- Investment from the In-Partnership Consortium shareholders to develop the North Solihull Strategic

Framework and to advance detailed planning applications for each phase of the project.

- Securing awards for PFI credits, grant support and housing investment funding.

This will be developed within an accountable management structure which operates for the benefit of the community living, working and visiting the area. Through the work carried out so far the consortium are confident that this programme can be implemented.

10. MONITORING & REVIEW

MONITORING

Regular monitoring of the Strategic Framework will be important so that its effectiveness can be kept under review and any requirements for modifications identified. Monitoring reports will be produced.

A series of outputs or measures of the regeneration objectives of the Strategic Framework have been identified to monitor progress. These will be developed and checked as the regeneration programme progresses. Such monitoring will facilitate the review process as necessary. A full Monitoring & Review Matrix is contained in Appendix A.

Regeneration outputs will be monitored against the objectives set out in this document.

REVIEW

Whilst the Strategic Framework has been developed to achieve positive change over a 15 year period to 2021, circumstances will change over this period and this document will require review and adaptation. It is therefore recommended that a preliminary review is undertaken during the preparation of the Local Development Framework (the Development Plan) as required by the Planning and Compensation Act 2004.

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

The Sustainability Appraisal of the Strategic Framework was prepared in accordance with the methodology established in the preparation of the Solihull Unitary Development Plan Revised Deposit. The regeneration principles of the Strategic Framework were tested against the agreed list of Sustainability Principles. The assessment identified whether each principle is moving towards or away from sustainable development, if there is neutral or no effect, or if the effect is unknown. The full Sustainability Appraisal is presented in Appendix B.

SUMMARY OF APPRAISAL FINDINGS

The Strategic Framework's regeneration principles are likely to be beneficial in moving towards sustainable development. Creating a more diverse economy, improving links with the wider area through training and improved transport connections together with community engagement and capacity building will in particular

maintain high and stable levels of economic growth and employment. However such improvements may have a less sustainable impact on the protection of biodiversity.

Overall the Strategic Framework will enhance social progress through meeting the needs of everyone. This will be facilitated by promoting health and leisure, improving safety, meeting residents' needs and promoting community identity and pride. It will be secured through continued community engagement, diversifying local culture and promoting social inclusion. Development of Community Hubs, improving the range and quality of housing, environmental improvements and reducing crime, and development of employment and skills will all have a significant impact on social progress.

Whilst regeneration is promoted it will be within the context of effective protection of the environment; protecting wildlife and biodiversity, enhancing quality and local character. Community Hubs and improvements to housing and layouts will seek to improve the quality of the built environment whilst maintaining the Green Belt and green spaces. Improvements in the quality and provision of parks and play areas will enhance and protect biodiversity, enhance quality and local character.

Encouraging the recycling of previously developed land in residential schemes and the development of a public transport network based on sustainable travel modes will contribute to the more prudent use of natural resources. However compliance with such principles will place some restrictions on the design of buildings and public spaces in particular.

CONCLUSION

The Sustainability Appraisal of the Strategic Framework did not identify any significant concerns nor suggest any changes or improvements to the document. It concluded that the Strategic Framework is sustainable but that this will be dependent on securing three fundamental objectives of the overall strategy- improved public transport; sustainable building design and improved access to employment opportunities. The process of Sustainability Appraisal is part of the Council's commitment to integrating sustainable development principles into the preparation of planning documents.

The Strategic Framework will be adopted as SPG supplementing and consistent with 'saved' development plan policy within the Local Development Framework to be prepared by Solihull Council.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A:
MONITORING & REVIEW MATRIX

APPENDIX B:
SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL MATRIX

APPENDIX C:
RELATED COUNCIL STRATEGIES

APPENDIX D:
GLOSSARY

APPENDIX A: PROPOSED MONITORING AND REVIEW FRAMEWORK

INTRODUCTION

The following Matrix presents a proposed Monitoring and Review Framework to assess progress in achieving the Regeneration Objectives set out in the North Solihull Draft Strategic Framework, (October 2004). The aims of the Monitoring and Review Framework are two-fold:

1. Firstly, to monitor changing baseline conditions in the north Solihull project area (encompassing Chelmsley Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Smith's Wood wards) against the Regeneration Objectives set - particularly at 5-yearly control points during the life of the regeneration programme (2010, 2015 and 2020); and
2. Secondly, to inform strategy and investment decisions.

The proposed Framework therefore focuses on 'Headline Indicators' of 'Quality of Life' in the area. A total of 35 'Headline Indicators' are currently identified against Regeneration Objectives relating to ten priority regeneration themes ('Community Engagement and Cohesion', 'Housing Quality and Choice', 'Liveability and Sustainable Development', 'Transport and Access', 'Education and Skills', 'Enterprise', 'Employment', 'Crime and Community Safety', 'Health', 'Community, Leisure and Retail Facilities').

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

It is noted that, whilst the Framework identifies the contribution that North Solihull In-Partnership is expected to make to the delivery of the Regeneration Objectives, the activities of other agencies and initiatives will be key to delivering 'quality of life' improvements to the project area. The proposed Framework therefore does not serve, in its current form, as a monitoring tool for the performance management of In-Partnership activity specifically. This would require more specific identification of the outputs that In-Partnership is expected to deliver for planned expenditure by the 5-yearly control points identified (2010, 2015, 2020). Attribution of any 'Quality of Life' improvements in the project area to In-Partnership activity specifically, would rely on robust evaluation activity to identify the relationship between In-Partnership outputs and any improvements against the indicators and targets identified in the proposed Framework.

DOCUMENT STATUS

The indicators identified have been selected to reflect the Regeneration Objectives identified for the north Solihull project area. They have also been selected to reflect Solihull MBC's Top 40 Best Value Performance Indicators and Targets. Reference has also been made to the 2004 national 'Floor Targets' for neighbourhood renewal, the Audit Commission's 'Quality of Life' indicators and the Home Office's 'Community Cohesion' indicators. Key individuals from key Council departments and other partner agencies have also been consulted regarding the selection of indicators and identification of proposed targets. Indicators have been specifically selected for which data can be provided at the spatial scale of the north Solihull project area - with use of comparators for the rest of the Borough (and Borough-wide, regional and national comparators where appropriate). A key focus of the framework is on measuring the gap between the deprived north Solihull project area and the rest of the Borough. Existing targets set for reducing this gap, and proposed targets where these are not currently set, are identified.

It should be noted that the Framework is proposed and will need to be consulted upon and reviewed by all key stakeholders and partners in the delivery of regeneration in the north Solihull project area - including the lead bodies for other initiatives and frameworks relating to the area (including, for example, the East Birmingham, North Solihull Regeneration Zone, the Fordbridge Plus Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder and Solihull's Safer, Stronger Communities Fund activities). Key elements of the wider strategic context have been identified to inform this process of identifying strategic linkages between the proposed Framework and wider strategies. It is proposed to review the proposed framework at the end of the first year of delivery - both in terms of progress made against the indicators and targets identified and in terms of their suitability. Thereafter, progress against the targets identified will be measured at the five-yearly control points identified (2010, 2015 and 2020).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COHESION								
Regeneration Objective	Indicators	Baseline Position	Target	In-Partnership Contribution	Wider Strategic Context	Data Source	Rationale	Notes/Actions
To ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to effectively contribute to plans for their neighbourhood To promote community cohesion	% of residents living in the project area who feel they can influence decisions affecting their neighbourhood plan area (QoL 23; CC04)	20% of resident survey respondents living in the project area felt they could influence decisions affecting 'their area' (compared to a national average of 26%)	30% of adults living in the project area reporting they can influence decisions by 2010 (Borough target for QoL 23)	Community Capacity Building programme to be implemented (Indicative sum of £150k allocated within Business Plan) Neighbourhood Panels, Community Champions to be established as part of the Neighbourhood planning process and long term consultation strategy Neighbourhood planning process to ensure that needs of BME communities and other hard to reach groups are met. are identified and met.	Solihull Safer, Stronger Communities Fund Statement of Agreed Outcomes 2005/06-2007/08 SMBC Social Inclusion Strategy (currently being developed)	Citizen's Panel Survey North Solihull Area Residents Survey, 2004	SMBC Top 40 BVPI (QoL 23) Home Office Community Cohesion indicator (CC04)	
	% of people surveyed who completely or largely agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds and communities can live together harmoniously	To be identified	60% of people surveyed who completely or largely agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds and communities can live together harmoniously by 2008 (Borough target)	Support programmes and initiatives to develop community cohesion Community hubs to provide space for all community groups, bringing groups together	As above	West Midlands Police Authority 'Feeling the Difference' quarterly survey	Home Office Community Cohesion indicator (CC01) Solihull Safer, Stronger Communities Fund Statement of Agreed Outcomes indicator 2005/06-2007/08	
	Relative no. of recorded racial incidents per head of population in project area compared to Borough mean.	Relative no. of recorded incidents per head of population in project area 1.15 in 03/04 compared to Borough mean of 1.0 (1.5 in Chelmsley Wood, 1.4 in Fordbridge, 0.9 in Smith's Wood and 0.8 in Kingshurst)	Aspirational target to reduce the gap in no. of recorded incidents per head of population between the project area and rest of the Borough mean by half to a rate for the project area of 1.08 incidents per head by 2020 on (and to 1.13 by 2010 and 1.1 by 2015)	As above	As above	Solihull Crime and Disorder Strategy 2002-2005	Solihull Crime and Disorder Strategy Audit 2005-08 (Draft)	Home Office Community Cohesion indicator (CC06)

HOUSING QUALITY AND CHOICE

Regeneration Objective	Indicators	Baseline Position	Target	In-Partnership Contribution	Strategic Context	Data Source	Rationale	Notes/Actions
To ensure greater quality and choice in the local housing market for all	% of housing stock in the project area that is market housing.	51% of housing stock in the project area market housing (48% is owner occupied; 1% is owner occupied shared ownership; and 1% is privately rented) compared to 90% across the rest of the Borough (2001 Census)	53% of housing stock in the project area is market housing by 2011 and 60% of housing stock is market housing by 2021 Census.	New housing development	Solihull Housing Strategy 2004-08 SMBC Strategic Housing Framework	Census	Programme objective to increase proportion of market housing in stock.	
	House prices/earnings affordability ratio for project area (QoL 13)	Data not currently available	To be set	New housing development increases range of affordable housing Improved access to employment and training opportunities. Increased business investment in project area due to improved image, increased business premises	As above Solihull Economic Development Strategy 2003-2006 Solihull Lifelong Learning Strategic Development Plan 2004/07	Average house price data from Land Registry (local authority level only). – data available down to postcode level). Average local full-time annual income available Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (via NOMIS)	Aim to improve choice of (and access to) housing for all. Top 40 BVPI - Voluntary QoL Indicator 13	
	% of new housing developed in project area that is intermediate housing	(N/A as applies to new build only)	10% of new housing provided in project area by each 5-yearly control point (2010, 2015 and 2020) is intermediate housing	New housing development	Solihull Housing Strategy 2004-08	Regeneration Company data	Aim to improve access to housing for all	
	% of new housing development in project area that is social rented	47.8% of housing in the project area social rented compared to 8.5% across the rest of the Borough (2001 Census)	30% of new housing developed in project area by each 5-yearly control point (2010, 2015 and 2020) is for social renting	New housing development	As above	2001 census (baseline), monitoring of new build - Regeneration Company data	Aim to improve access to housing for all	
	% of social housing in project area meeting Decent Homes Standard	58% of social housing meets the Decent Homes Standard	All social housing in project area meets Decent Homes Standard by 2010		As above	SMBC/Solihull Community Housing options appraisal	National PSA	
	% of vulnerable households living in the private sector, including families with children, who live in homes that are in decent condition	Contact SMBC housing dept	National target: to increase the proportion (aspirational target to reduce the gap with the rest of the borough by half by 2020)		As above	SMBC Housing Dept	National PSA	

'LIVEABILITY' & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT								
Regeneration Objective	Indicators	Baseline Position	Target	In-Partnership Contribution	Strategic Context	Data Source	Rationale	Notes/Actions
<p>To improve liveability standards - including cleaner, safer and greener public spaces and improvement of the quality of the built environment</p> <p>To promote sustainable development and waste management</p>	Area of open space in the project area	160 ha of public amenity open space and parks in the project area	No net loss of open space by each 5-yearly control point (2010, 2015 and 2020)	Regeneration plans do not diminish the amount of green space in the area	Solihull Safer, Stronger Communities Fund Statement of Agreed Outcomes 2005/06-2007/08 Solihull Strategy for Parks and Open Spaces 1999-2004	SMBC Planning department	Availability of open and green space a key contributor to liveability.	
	% of residents of the project area are satisfied with and use local parks/play areas, open spaces	65% of resident survey respondents from the project area satisfied with parks and play areas; and 62% with open spaces - in 2004.	Aspirational target of 70% of project area residents satisfied with and use local parks and open spaces by 2015 and most (e.g. more than 75%) by 2020.	Development of an extended green network	As above Solihull Litter Strategy	North Solihull area residents' survey. Also gathered via BVPI User Satisfaction Survey although ward data not currently analysed and sample may be too small	National 'liveability' indicator in relation to open space	
	% of new buildings developed in the project area built to a "good" standard according to the BRE Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM)	N/A as applies to new build only	All new buildings developed in the project area by each 5-yearly control point meet the BREEAM "good" standard in the first control period and to improve on this subsequently in control periods 2 and 3.	Through design and build specification for all houses built by the Regen co to meet BRE ECO Homes 'very good' standard.	Solihull Environment Strategy	BRE Assessment	Environmental performance assessment method for new and existing buildings (and homes specifically - ECO Homes) identified as recognised by UK property and development sector.	
	% of waste generated in the project area that is recycled (LSPA 11)	Not currently available below borough level	18.8% of waste generated in the project area recycled (Borough target) by 2010 (LSPA 11)		Solihull Draft Waste Management Strategy 2004-2029	SMBC Community Services	SMBC Top 40 Best Value Performance Indicator and target (LSPA 11)	

TRANSPORT AND ACCESS								
Regeneration Objective	Indicators	Baseline Position	Target	In Partnership Contribution	Strategic Context	Data Source	Rationale	Notes/Actions
<p>To improve access to employment and key services</p> <p>To promote sustainable transport access</p>	% of population of the project area living within X mins journey time (at key travel times) (by public transport, cycling or walking) to sites of employment, retail, health and other key services (to be specified)	Not currently available	To be set once baseline position established		<p>West Midlands Local Transport Plan</p> <p>Solihull Cycling Strategy/ Walking Strategy</p> <p>Solihull Public Transport Strategy</p> <p>Solihull Green Travel Plan</p> <p>West Midlands Economic Strategy</p> <p>Regional Spatial Strategy</p> <p>Economic Development Strategy</p>	To be advised	Indicator of accessibility	
	Km of safe pedestrian and cycle route-way linking project area (including linking to sites of employment, retail and other key services - as above)	Km of safe pedestrian and cycle routes linking project area: 4Km on-road routes; 3Km off-road routes and 9Km advisory routes (those of reduce traffic flow)	To be identified as plans for the project area are developed.	Design layout to include provision for more sustainable forms of movement	As above	Highways department	Key element of sustainable access provision	

EDUCATION AND SKILLS								
Regeneration Objective	Indicators	Baseline Position	Target	In Partnership Contribution	Strategic Context	Data Source	Rationale	Notes/Actions
To improve levels of educational attainment in the project area and reduce the gap with the rest of the Borough	No. of schools in the project area where fewer than 65% of children achieve L4 or above at Key Stage 2 on average for different subject areas	5 schools in the project area where no fewer than 65% of children achieve L4 or above at Key Stage 2 on average for different subject areas (2004) (Solihull LEA)	No schools in north Solihull where fewer than 65% of children achieve L4 or above at Key Stage 2 by 2010	Provision of new, high quality primary schools Bringing together key community services within the community hubs which will be integrated with the new build primary schools	Building Schools for the Future	SMBC Education Dept/DfES School Performance Tables	SMBC Top 40 BVPI and national floor target (to reduce by 40% the number of schools where fewer than 65% of pupils achieve L4 or above at KS2)	
	% of pupils at secondary schools serving the project area aged 15 achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grade A*-C (BVPI 38) compared to the average for other schools in the Borough (and England average)	46% of pupils at secondary schools serving the project area aged 15 achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grade A* - C in compared to an average of 79% for the rest of the schools in the Borough (and an England average of 53.7%)	Reduce the gap between the % of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grade A* - C at secondary schools serving the project area compared to other schools in the Borough. (No specific target identified at this stage)	As above	Excellence in Cities Cluster	DfES School Performance Tables	SMBC Top 40 Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI 38) and target	

EDUCATION AND SKILLS (CONTINUED)

<p>To improve opportunities for adult learning and post 16 participation rates</p>	<p>% of working-age adults (aged 16 to 74) living in the project area holding a qualification at NVQ Level 2 or above compared to % residents of the rest of the Borough</p>	<p>26.7% of working age adults holding a qualification at NVQ Level 3 or above (25.9% in Chelmsley Wood and Fordbridge; 27.1% in Smith's Wood and 28.2% in Kinghurst) compared to 52.7% of residents of the rest of the Borough (and 47.6% in England) (2001 Census)</p>	<p>Aspirational target to reduce the current gap between the project area and the rest of the Borough by half to 39.7% of residents of the project area by 2020 (as measured by 2021 census) and 31% by 2010 (as measured by 2011 census) (and 35.3% by 2015 - measure via West Midlands household survey?)</p>	<p>Development of ILM model through Whitefriars Provision of better, accessible facilities via community hubs for provision of adult learning</p>	<p>Solihull Adult and Community Learning Strategic Development Plan, 2004/07 Solihull Economic Development Strategy</p>	<p>Census</p>	<p>To reflect national PSA (% of adults in the workforce who lack NVQ2 or equivalent).</p>	
	<p>% of adults living in the project area with basic skills needs compared to % of resident in the rest of the Borough</p>	<p>25.1% of adults living in the project area who have literacy needs (26.2% in Chelmsley Wood, 24.6% in Fordbridge, 23.4% in Kingshurst and 26.2% in Smith's Wood) compared to 22.2% across the Borough as a whole. 30% of project area residents have numeracy needs (30.3% in Chelmsley Wood; 29.2% in Fordbridge; 29.2% in Kingshurst and 30.1% in Smith's Wood) compared to 22.6% of residents across the Borough as a whole.</p>	<p>Aspirational target to reduce the gap between project area and the rest of the Borough by half, to 23.7% of adults with literacy problems by 2020 (24.6% by 2010, 24.1% by 2015), and 26.4% of adults with numeracy problems by 2020 (28.8% by 2010 and 27.6% by 2015)</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Basic Skills Agency Learning and Skills Council</p>	<p>Appropriate indicator of post-16 skills levels</p>	
	<p>% of school leavers aged 16-18 from schools serving the project area not in further education, employment or training (NEET) compared to the % of leavers from other schools serving the rest of the Borough</p>	<p>To be identified for project area (Borough baseline 24.6% of schools leavers aged 16-18 compared to 7.7% nationally in 2004)</p>	<p>To be set for project area. (Borough target to reduce rate to 11.6% by 2020).</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Connexions</p>	<p>Connexions target group</p>	

ENTERPRISE								
Regeneration Objective	Indicators	Baseline Position	Target	In Partnership Contribution	Strategic Context	Data Source	Rationale	Notes/Actions
To develop the local business base - particularly in growth sectors and including social enterprise	No. businesses per 1000 population	10.8 businesses per 1000 population in 2003 compared to 40.8 businesses per 1000 population for the rest of the Borough (and a Borough average of 35 businesses per 1000 population)	At current rates of increase - to achieve a rate of increase in the number of businesses of at least 4% per annum - achieving a target of at least 14 businesses per 1000 population by 2010; 17 by 2015 and 21 by 2020.	Development of ILM Additional business unit accom. Enterprise/social enterprise support Investment and business support	Solihull Economic Development Strategy 2003-2006 West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy East Birmingham, North Solihull Regeneration Zone	Annual Business Inquiry, ONS	ONS indicator. SMBC/Business Link should advise on target	

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME								
Regeneration Objective	Indicators	Baseline Position	Target	In Partnership Contribution	Strategic Context	Data Source	Rationale	Notes/Actions
To increase employment rates amongst local people - particularly those groups disadvantaged in the labour market (lone parents, ethnic minorities, people aged 50 and over, and those with the lowest qualifications) - particularly in more highly paid occupations	% of working age population of the project area in employment compared to the rest of the Borough (and national and regional averages)	55.0% of working age population of project area in employment compared to 65.4% in the rest of the Borough (59.7% in the West Midlands and 60.9% in England)	Aspirational target to reduce the gap between the rate for the project area compared to the rest of the Borough by half by 2020 - a 5.2% increase to 60.2 by 2020 (measured via the 2021 census) and a 2.6 point increase to 57.6% by 2010 (measured via the 2011 census)	Development of the ILM by Whitefriars Provision of quality employment sites in accessible locations Employment and Training Co-ordination activity	Solihull Economic Development Strategy 2003-2006	Census	National PSA to increase the employment rate - particularly amongst disadvantaged groups and in local authority areas with the poorest initial labour market position	
	% of working age population of the project area who are economically active compared to the rest of the Borough (and regional and national averages)	63.0% of working age population of the project area are economically active compared to 70.1% in the rest of the Borough (65.9% in the West Midlands and 66.9% in England) (2001 Census)	Aspirational target to reduce the gap between the rate for the project area compared to the rest of the Borough by half by 2020 - a 3.6% increase to 66.6% by 2020 (measured via the 2021 census) and a 1.8% increase to 64.8% by 2010 (measured via the 2011 census)	As above	As above	Census	The most comprehensive indicator of economic activity levels available at ward level.	
	Average earnings in project area compared to rest of Borough	Yet to be released by ONS	To be identified once baseline data collected.	As above	As above	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (via NOMIS)	Headline indicator of nature of employment (part-time/full-time; occupational categories)	
	% of children under the age of 16 living in households that are income deprived (i.e. in receipt of Income Support, Income based Jobseeker's Allowance, Working Families' Tax Credit or Disabled Person's Tax Credit below a given threshold). (IDACI score)	On average 38% children aged less than 16 in the project area are living in families that are income deprived compared to an average for the rest of the Borough of 8%.	Aspirational target to reduce the gap between the project area and the rest of the Borough by half by 2020 to 23% (to 33% by 2010 and 28% by 2015)	As above	As above	Indices of Deprivation (IDACI score)	National index of child poverty	

CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY								
Regeneration Objective	Indicators	Baseline Position	Target	In-Partnership Contribution	Strategic Context	Data Source	Rationale	Notes/Actions
To reduce levels of crime and disorder and fear of crime in the project area	Relative no. of recorded crimes per head of population in project area compared to Borough mean.	Relative no. of recorded crimes per head of population in project area 1.3 in 03/04 (1.6 in Chelmsley Wood, 1.3 in Fordbridge, 1.2 in Smith's Wood and 1.1 in Kingshurst) (a total 583 crimes per 1000 population) compared to Borough mean of 1.0	To reduce the gap in the rate of recorded crime between the project area and the rest of the Borough by half by 2020 - giving a reduction in the no. of crimes per head of 0.05 every 5 years - to 1.25 in 2010, 1.2 in 2015 and 1.15 in 2020.	Designing out crime principles to be applied in estate design to reduce crime and improve community safety - including closing off alleyways and extending back gardens to improve ability to detect crime Improved provision of community facilities	Solihull Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy Solihull Safer, Stronger Communities Fund Statement of Agreed Outcomes 2005/06-2007/08	Solihull Crime and Disorder Strategy Audit 2005-08 (Draft)	High rate of recorded crime in the project area wards compared to the Borough mean	
	Relative no. of burglaries per head of population in project area compared to Borough mean. (LPSA 9; QoL 16a, BV126)	Relative no. of burglaries per head of population in project area 1.5 in 03/04 compared to Borough mean of 1.0 (1.7 Smith's Wood, 1.5 Chelmsley Wood, 1.5 Fordbridge, 1.2 Kingshurst)	To reduce the gap in burglary rate between the project area and rest of the borough by a half by 2020 to give a rate for the project area of 1.25 (and 1.42 by 2010 and 1.34 by 2015)	See above	See above	See above	Local and national priority (SMBC Top 40 indicator LPSA 9; QoL 16a, BV126)	
	No. of recorded incidents of general disorder per 1000 population in the project area compared to the rest of the Borough	49.58 incidents of disorder - community problems per 1000 population reported to the Police in 2004 in Solihull North compared to 11.77 in the rest of the Borough (see caveat regarding figures)	Aspirational target to reduce the number of incidents of disorder occurring in the project area to reduce the gap with the rest of the Borough by half by 2020 to give a rate for the project area of 30.67 incidents per 1000 population by 2020 (and 43.28 by 2010 and 36.98 by 2015)	See above	Solihull Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 05-08	West Midlands Police Command and Control system	ASB - SMBC crime indicator and key issue identified in CDRP audit	
	Fear of crime index in the project area compared to the Borough mean	Average fear of crime index for the project area is on average 1.26 (1.36 Chelmsley Wood, 1.34 Fordbridge, 1.26 Smith's Wood, 1.09 Kingshurst) compared to a Borough mean of 0.83	Aspirational target to reduce the gap in fear of crime between the project area and the rest of the Borough by half by 2020 to an average index for the project area of 1.04 by 2020 (1.19 by 2010 and 1.12 by 2015)	As above	Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy Solihull Safer, Stronger Communities Fund Statement of Agreed Outcomes 2005/06-2007/08	See above (Fear of Crime Survey)	Key issue identified in CDRP audit	

COMMUNITY, LEISURE AND RETAIL FACILITIES

Regeneration Objective	Indicators	Baseline Position	Target	In-Partnership Contribution	Strategic Context	Data Source	Rationale	Notes/Actions
	% of resident survey respondents from the project area satisfied with key local services and facilities	52% of resident survey respondents satisfied with sports facilities; 24% satisfied with entertainment facilities; 12% satisfied with things for young people to do; 88% satisfied with access to libraries; and 75% satisfied with places for adult learning and out of school education	Increased % of residents expressing that they are satisfied with services by each 5 yearly control period - in particular with a 3% increase for every 5 yearly control period in the % of respondents satisfied with sports facilities and facilities for young people	Development of community hubs	North Solihull Regeneration Framework	North Solihull Area Residents Survey, 2004		

HEALTH								
Regeneration Objective	Indicators	Baseline Position	Target	In-Partnership Contribution	Strategic Context	Data Source	Rationale	Notes/Actions
To narrow health inequalities between the project area and the rest of the Borough	Standardised Mortality Rate due to Circulatory Disease in under 75s per 100,000 population	Average SMR due to circulatory disease per 100,000 population (under 75s) 151.41 in 2000-2002 in project area wards (170.18 Chelmsley Wood, 135.63 Fordbridge, 113.26 Kingshurst, 186.55 Smith's Wood) compared to average of 83.52 for the rest of the wards in the Borough	To be set for second tier indicators identified in first annual review of Solihull health inequalities strategy - 'A Focus on Solihull - the Inequality of Health 2004', Solihull PCT (see note)	Provision of improved opportunities for leisure and physical activity Space for community health initiatives in the community hubs Provide improved network of cycle and pedestrian routes	'A Focus on Solihull - the Inequality of Health 2004', Solihull PCT Solihull Physical Activity Strategy	Public Health, Solihull Primary Care Trust	Headline indicator of health levels	
	Cancer incidence Crude Rate	Average cancer incidence crude rate of 630.5 for the project area wards compared to an average rate of 747.1 for the rest of the Borough.	As above	As above	As above	As above	Council Top 40 indicators and government targets	
	Prevalence of key illnesses at practice level, such as diabetes, obesity, and CVD (to be specified)	To be identified	As above	As above	As above	As above	As above	Indicators of ill-health which are more likely to demonstrate change within the project period than SMRs

HEALTH (CONTINUED)

<p>Incidence of low birth weights in the project area compared to the rest of the Borough</p>	<p>7.53% of all births low birth weights (<2,500 grammes) in 2004 in the project area (7.34% Chelmsley Wood; 10.16% Fordbridge; 7.37% Kingshurst; 5.85% Smith's Wood) compared 6.85% of all births across the rest of the Borough</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>'A Focus on Solihull - the Inequality of Health 2004', Solihull PCT</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>As above</p>		
<p>Teenage conception rate per 1000 females aged 15-17 yrs old in the project area compared to the rest of the Borough</p>	<p>69.61 conceptions per 1000 females aged 15-17 yrs old in the project area in 2000 (65.99 Chelmsley Wood; 97.94 Fordbridge; 60.61 Kingshurst; 58.61 Smiths Wood) compared to 16.81 per 1000 in the rest of the Borough. (Borough average of 29.25)</p>	<p>To reduce the inequality in rates between the project area and the average borough ward rate by at least 25% by 2010 (alongside a 50% reduction in the rate of conceptions at borough level) - to an average rate of 59.52 conceptions per 1000 females in the project area by 2010</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Solihull Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and Action Plan 2004-06</p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>As above</p>		

ANNEX A: TECHNICAL NOTE

1. USE OF CENSUS DATA

Census data used for baseline figures - from the 2001 census - has been collected on the basis of 2003 administrative hierarchy (wards) which are based on aggregations of Output Areas (OAs) fitting into those UK administrative areas either existing or laid down in statute as at 01/01/2003. OAs were designed to fit into wards as at 01/01/2003, so any aggregations will be exact (as compared to figures based on 2004 administrative areas which are best-fit only. Future data collection should therefore be based on 2001 census output areas to ensure consistency in spatial definition so that change against the baseline position can be monitored robustly (i.e. not be influenced by future ward boundary changes).

Child poverty index (IDACI) data is collected on the basis of Lower Super Output Areas that make up the Census Output Areas for the project area (corresponding to 2003 administrative boundaries). The Lower Super Output Area codes corresponding to the project area wards are as follows:

- Chelmsley Wood - E01010126-131
- Fordbridge - E01010139-144
- Kingshurst - E01010145-149
- Smith's Wood - E01010234-240

2. WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL LIFESTYLE SURVEY

The West Midlands Regional Lifestyle Survey - a recently conducted household survey - represents a complementary source of data on a range of issues in the region including healthy lifestyles and quality of life indicators. Based on 58,000 household responses, the survey is particularly relevant for use at the local authority level, although data is also available at census output area level at a reasonable sample size. The data is expected to be made available to funding partners at the beginning of July 2005 for their use. Data relating to the north Solihull regeneration project area would represent a useful addition to the indicators currently identified in the monitoring framework.

3. TARGET-SETTING

A standard has been set for the monitoring framework as regards aspirational targets - to reduce the gap between the north Solihull and the rest of the Borough by half by 2020 - with interim milestones set on a proportional basis according to the five-yearly control periods (2010 and 2015). This 'rule of thumb' has been used where there are no existing targets in place which can be appropriately applied to north Solihull.

APPENDIX B: SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL MATRIX

SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES		Maintaining high & stable levels of economic growth & employment		Social progress which meets the needs of everyone				Effective protection of the environment				Prudent use of natural resources			Comments and recommendations
		Maintaining economic growth & employment	Encouraging regeneration	Promoting health & leisure	Improving safety	Meeting residents' needs	Promoting community identity & pride	Protecting wildlife	Enhancing local character	Improving the quality of the built environment	Enhancing the quality of the green environment	Minimising pollution	Waste minimisation & conservation of resources	Conserving energy	
REGENERATION PRINCIPLES															
COMMUNITY															
	Community engagement	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	Essential to promotion of sustainable communities
	Capacity building	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	
	Creating diverse local culture	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	?	0	0	0	Can enhance quality of area
	Benefits for vulnerable groups	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Building communities & social cohesion	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	
COMMUNITY HUBS															
	Community hubs	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	Provide a range of sustainable benefits
	Provision of local shops	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	Improved access
	Improved schools with community use	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	Improved facilities
	New leisure facilities	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	0	Improved access

KEY:

+ Towards sustainable development

-- Away from sustainable development

0 No impact / either

? Unable to assess impact

SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES		Maintaining high & stable levels of economic growth & employment		Social progress which meets the needs of everyone				Effective protection of the environment				Prudent use of natural resources			Comments and recommendations
		Maintaining economic growth & employment	Encouraging regeneration	Promoting health & leisure	Improving safety	Meeting residents' needs	Promoting community identity & pride	Protecting wildlife	Enhancing local character	Improving the quality of the built environment	Enhancing the quality of the green environment	Minimising pollution	Waste minimisation & conservation of resources	Conserving energy	
HOUSING															
	Extending quality & choice	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	
	A more balanced housing market	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	
	A high quality of building & design	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	Design will affect how the objectives meet the prudent use of natural resources requirement
	Recycling the value from new development into regeneration	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	0	0	As above
	Redevelopment of existing brownfield sites	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	As above
	Adaptability	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	?	+	0	
	Mixed use developments	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	?	?	As above
	Designing for life-long occupancy	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	
	Designing out opportunities for crime	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	
BUSINESS & INVESTMENT															
	Creation of a more diverse economy	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	
	Links with the wider area	+	+	0	0	+	?	0	+	0	0	--	+	--	Enhancing links is likely initially to have a negative impact depending on transport
	New business investment	+	+	?	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	

SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES		Maintaining high & stable levels of economic growth & employment		Social progress which meets the needs of everyone				Effective protection of the environment				Prudent use of natural resources			Comments and recommendations
		Maintaining economic growth & employment	Encouraging regeneration	Promoting health & leisure	Improving safety	Meeting residents' needs	Promoting community identity & pride	Protecting wildlife	Enhancing local character	Improving the quality of the built environment	Enhancing the quality of the green environment	Minimising pollution	Waste minimisation & conservation of resources	Conserving energy	
	Support for indigenous growth	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	0	0	0	
	Development of business and social enterprise	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	
	Encouragement of sustainable local businesses	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	
EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT															
	Access to jobs	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Increase employment for local people	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Training & development schemes	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Develop intermediate labour markets	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Training opportunities in construction	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	
	Support local people in setting up their own business	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	
BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT															
	Control of development in the Green Belt	--	+	0	--	--	0	0	+	+	+	--	+	0	Restricts housing / employment / recreation opportunities but development may be permitted to achieve regeneration objectives
	High quality, accessible parks & open spaces	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	
	High quality public realm	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	?	?	?	Design will determine

SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES	Maintaining high & stable levels of economic growth & employment		Social progress which meets the needs of everyone				Effective protection of the environment				Prudent use of natural resources			Comments and recommendations
	Maintaining economic growth & employment	Encouraging regeneration	Promoting health & leisure	Improving safety	Meeting residents' needs	Promoting community identity & pride	Protecting wildlife	Enhancing local character	Improving the quality of the built environment	Enhancing the quality of the green environment	Minimising pollution	Waste minimisation & conservation of resources	Conserving energy	
Protection of built & natural environment	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Use of sustainable materials	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Sustainable waste management	?	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	
Promote, protect & enhance biodiversity	--	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	May affect employment opportunities
Safeguard protected species & environments	--	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	May affect employment opportunities
Use of SUDS	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	
EDUCATION														
Modernisation of primary schools	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	
Increase educational attainment	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Improve opportunities for adult learning	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Extended Schools	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	?	0	0	0	0	
HEALTH & WELL BEING														
Effective delivery of local services	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	
Improve access to health facilities	0	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	
CRIME														
Reduce crime and fear of crime	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	
Incorporate 'Safer by Design'	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	

SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES	Maintaining high & stable levels of economic growth & employment		Social progress which meets the needs of everyone					Effective protection of the environment				Prudent use of natural resources			Comments and recommendations
	Maintaining economic growth & employment	Encouraging regeneration	Promoting health & leisure	Improving safety	Meeting residents' needs	Promoting community identity & pride	Protecting wildlife	Enhancing local character	Improving the quality of the built environment	Enhancing the quality of the green environment	Minimising pollution	Waste minimisation & conservation of resources	Conserving energy		
TRANSPORT															
Improve access to work & important services	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	?	+	Will depend on choice of transport mode & availability of good public transport	
Provide choice of sustainable transport modes	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+		
Local Agenda 21	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+		
Improve public transport	+	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+		
Minimise environmental impact	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+		

KEY:

- + Towards sustainable development
- Away from sustainable development
- 0 No impact / either
- ? Unable to assess impact

APPENDIX C: RELATED COUNCIL STRATEGIES

COUNCIL PLAN 2003/2006, UPDATE 2004

Each year the Council monitors progress of strategies to make the necessary amendments to plans to ensure quality services for everyone are continued to be provided. The plan is to be a living document that helps guide the work of the Council, the different challenges and delivery of the Vision.

COUNCIL RESULTS (PREVIOUSLY BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN)

The report sets the vision, values and results for Children's services, Solihull LEA (Ofsted), School Inspections (Ofsted), Fostering Services (NCSC), Adult and Community Learning (AL) and Housing & Council Tax Benefits (BFI). It also covers the social services performance review, major projects progress and CPA Improvement Plan. A range of indicators are also provided and analysed.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY "A PLACE FOR PEOPLE 2003-2013"

A Place for People describes the sort of place the Council wants Solihull to be in the future. It aims to address people's concerns now and to respect the needs of future generations. The Council has listened to the hopes and concerns of a wide range of people and organisations and gathered their views on what would improve the quality of life in the borough to inform the strategy. The strategy will aim to enhance the quality of life through action to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Borough.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Solihull Economic Development Strategy is the main focus for Economic Development activity. It is produced by the Solihull Business Partnership (SBP). SBP is the strategic body in Solihull for economic development. Its members are Solihull MBC, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry (of which Solihull Chamber is an affiliate) and Birmingham & Solihull LSC, all of which are represented on the SBP Board together with representatives of the local business community. It has consulted on its strategy with a stakeholder forum and has engaged a wider range of partners in action planning to underpin its strategy.

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2002 – 2007

The Education Development Plan (EDP) sets out Solihull's plans for school improvement for the period 2002-2007. The aim is for Solihull to be a Borough comprising lively, developing communities of individuals with a sense of belonging and an enjoyment of effective learning. Schools will be integral within the learning communities. On leaving full-time education, every pupil will have acquired

the knowledge, understanding and skills to form a firm platform for further development, enabling them to make their way in the world, continue to contribute to society and continue learning.

LIFELONG LEARNING DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2004 – 2007 & OPERATIONAL PLAN 2004 – 2005

The Lifelong Learning Partnership is a joint initiative from Solihull MBC; Solihull College; Solihull Sixth Form College; Connexions; Jobcentreplus; and the Learning and Skills Council. This three year strategic vision is based on a long-term commitment to develop a learning culture in Solihull. The aim is to widen learning participation; increase the level of skills and abilities within the borough; and promote greater collaboration between education providers to ensure the needs of learners, the community and employers are met.

ADULT & COMMUNITY LEARNING

Solihull MBC seeks to secure provision of, and access to, Adult and Community Learning (ACL) through:

- A partnering and subcontracting arrangement with Solihull College for the delivery of informal, personal development and non-accredited adult learning programmes.
- The development of a wide variety of community and other locations for the local delivery of learning.
- Support – both financial and in terms of capacity building activities - for community groups and other voluntary providers.
- Support for - and promotion of – complementary Information Advice and Guidance for adults across the Borough in other related areas of work.

This Strategic Development Plan, prepared with key partners Solihull College, is based on partnership strengths that were identified and highlighted in the Adult Learning Inspection report on ACL provision in Solihull. It reflects a philosophy and approach that has proved to be successful in constantly increasing the number of adult learners locally. While building on achievements, it also works to address weaknesses in provision and leadership and management.

SOLIHULL SURESTART PLAN 2004 – 2006

SureStart aims to provide children with integrated and high quality services so they can grow up to contribute positively to their communities and society as a whole.

This includes better outcomes for all children, reduction of poverty, increased opportunities for parents to effectively participate in the labour market, and better outcomes for communities, including less crime; higher productivity; a stronger labour market; and the building of a society.

SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN

The School Organisation Plan provides information regarding pupil population and school capacity, and draws conclusions regarding the potential need to add or remove school places. It also explains the need for school place planning and the principles underlying the process. The Plan sets out how the Council will secure sufficient education provision within Solihull in order to promote higher standards of attainment.

HOUSING STRATEGY 2004 - 2008

The purpose of the Housing Strategy is to develop clear objectives for housing activity and meet policy priorities. The Strategy also sets out the contribution from partner organisations and the community, targets, evaluation methods and how housing activity will support wider social, environmental and economic objectives. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) assesses whether housing strategies are 'fit for purpose'. Government Office for the West Midlands has passed Solihull's Housing Strategy as 'fit for purpose'. The Council will produce short annual updates on the implementation of the strategy and any new developments.

SOLIHULL HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

The strategy covers the period 2003 – 2008, but will be updated more regularly if required. The Homelessness Act 2002 has required all local authorities to produce a homelessness strategy. Solihull's Homelessness Strategy has been produced with the assistance of a wide range of organisations having an interest in homelessness. The Strategy identifies the need for four overall improvements:

1. To improve homelessness prevention.
2. To work more effectively with all relevant statutory and voluntary organisations.
3. To meet housing needs through the provision of permanent and temporary accommodation and supported housing.
4. To improve services to customers.

The detailed Action Plan develops each of these points in more detail. The Action Plan will be reviewed every twelve months to ensure actions remain relevant and to introduce new ones where necessary. The Action Plan itself will be monitored regularly and this will include reports to elected Members of Solihull Council and the Local Strategic Partnership.

EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY – NOVEMBER 2003

The Empty Homes Strategy discusses the national problem of empty dwellings, how Solihull can address the problem and aims for minimising the number of empty homes in the Borough.

SOLIHULL CRIME AND DISORDER STRATEGY

Solihull's Crime and Disorder Strategy was devised in 1999 and it ran for three years. The strategy covered a wide range of issues, including anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime. This new strategy evaluates and builds on the first period (1999-2002), specifies the targets for crime reduction and the key actions needed for improvement during 2002-2005.

ENERGY AND AFFORDABLE WARMTH STRATEGY 2003 – 2006

The Energy and Affordable Warmth Strategy outlines objectives, targets and methods for ending Fuel Poverty, in Solihull, by 2016.

SOLIHULL ARTS AND TOURISM ART STRATEGY

Arts and cultural activity make an essential contribution to the quality of life in all communities offering enjoyment, empowerment and personal development through creative experience. They play an important role in education, lifelong learning, social inclusion and economic development. Through these activities the arts contribute to achieving Solihull Council's Vision and Values. Solihull VISION - where well-being, pride and quality of life is enjoyed by all. Solihull VALUES - Respect, Learning, Equality, Integrity, Caring. Solihull Council's Strategy for the Arts forms a framework over the next five years within which the Arts Service will develop its work and whose basic principles can be adopted by others involved in the arts.

PLAY AREA STRATEGY 2003 – 2013 (DRAFT)

The purpose of this strategy is to set out the current provision of children's play equipment within the Solihull Borough. The aim is to identify any gaps in the provision, pressures on the existing facilities, any future trends and the best way forwards.

PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY

The aim of the Playing Pitch Assessment and Strategy is to identify current levels of provision in the area, across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors, and to compare this with current, and likely future levels of demand. This will help identify the need for new pitch facilities, and also suggest where there are too many facilities, perhaps in the wrong location. The analysis will help to underpin future planning policy and allocation, and help to support bids for external funding.

STRATEGY FOR PARKS AND OPEN SPACES IN SOLIHULL 1999 – 20004

The purpose of this strategy is to maximise the benefit derived from our parks and open spaces by creating accessible, attractive, clean, safe, varied and welcoming environments which contribute to the quality of life of people who live, work and visit Solihull.

STRATEGIC FACILITIES PLAN FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

This plan has been produced to consider the physical activity needs of local communities and compare this against the existing facilities. The plan reflects the Council's objectives in terms of improving the quality of life, closing the gap of inequality and allows the long term focus to be on the reduction of health inequalities.

SOLIHULL CYCLING STRATEGY

Solihull Council believes in a Cycling strategy that will create a culture where cycling will be a popular and mainstream mode of travel for local journeys. The strategy will incorporate cycle friendly safe, direct and convenient routes, secure parking facilities, recreational opportunities, education and encouragement measures to promote cycling.

ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY FOR SOLIHULL

The Council recognises the high quality of the Solihull environment and wishes to protect and enhance the special character of the Borough. The strategy aims to provide a high quality sustainable environment which is recognised as being safe, attractive, accessible, open, fair, diverse, clean, healthy and which provides social and economic opportunities for all sectors of the community.

NATURE CONSERVATION IN SOLIHULL

This strategy aims to protect, manage and enhance Solihull's natural environment for the benefit of wildlife and people. It will deliver the following benefits for Solihull:

- Safeguarding of plants and animals and the habitats in which they live.

- Provision of an attractive environment and a sense of place and well-being.
- Positive management of the natural environment.
- Access to wildlife and recreational opportunities.
- Increased public awareness of the value of nature conservation.
- Increased networking between the Council, voluntary organisations and the community.

LOCAL AGENDA 21

Local Agenda 21 is about creating communities where local people work alongside local authorities, businesses and other organisations to raise the "quality of life" of those living in that community, in ways that will not deny future generations a decent quality of life too. This approach is known as Sustainable Development.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY

Leading a physically active life brings many benefits to health and well-being and thus it is an important step along the way to achieving this shared vision. In a world of finite resources it makes sense that a strategic approach to promoting physical activity is taken, which encourages partnership and which is based on an analysis of need, evidence of what works and which has ownership by a wide range of stakeholders. This strategy is the first produced for Solihull, and is the result of extensive consultation with all of the numerous providers of and enablers for physical activity in the Borough. This strategy will provide the "joined up" strategic direction for development of services and facilities for all of those providers and enablers.

RACE EQUALITY SCHEME 2004 - 2005

Equality of opportunity in service delivery is about people's right to a fair and equal service that does not disadvantage any particular group, for example on the grounds of race or disability. Valuing diversity recognises that people have different needs.

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places a duty on public authorities to promote race equality. Part of that duty requires public authorities to produce a Race Equality Scheme setting out how public authorities will meet this duty. Solihull MBC is committed to fulfilling its obligations under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act. The Solihull's Race Equality Scheme aims to develop a scheme which is practical, feasible and can be built on by continuing

to work with partners and the community. The Council recognises that their approach to consulting and engaging with black and minority ethnic communities needs to be further developed so that they can positively respond to, and value, the needs of all citizens. The Scheme outlines the Council's plan for more effective mainstreaming of race equality within policy and service delivery.

SBP has recently developed its new strategy focussing on priorities for 2003-2006. A number of key challenges for Solihull are identified:

- Translating potential into success by maximising growth opportunities for the benefit of the whole Borough and wider region.
- Giving everyone the opportunity to share in this success.
- Addressing North-South inequalities – access to opportunity, employment, wealth, business investment and growth.
- Sustainability, recognising the value of Solihull's high quality environment in attracting investment and encouraging staff retention.
- Gaining the engagement of the wider business community in the regeneration and economic development agenda.
- Responding to Solihull's role in the regional economy.

With the forecast investment and growth and the scope for public sector intervention via the Regeneration Zone and European Funding, there is a unique opportunity for substantial change within Solihull. The role of the new strategy will be to focus on the major steps to be taken to bring about this change.

ENABLED NOT DISABLED

A joint strategy in meeting the needs of people with physical and sensory disabilities 2004.

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR REDUCING HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN SOLIHULL

Health improvement and the reduction of health inequalities is a top priority locally and nationally. Local health data shows that the Borough's population is on

average very healthy. Looking at averages however, hides any underlying variation, and across Solihull there are large gaps in health expectation and experience, caused by a range of social, environmental and economic factors. These gaps are known as health inequalities. The Local Strategic Partnership is committed to achieving this as part of its Community Strategy aims.

This document describes the local position and gives details of what the Local Strategic Partnership is going to do about health inequalities through partner organisations. It explains how health inequalities cannot be solved through medical and social care services alone and describes the essential roles of every organisation and individual that has an influence over the social, environmental and economic factors which create health inequalities.

CONTAMINATED LAND INSPECTION STRATEGY

The Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy sets out how the Council will contribute to improving the quality of life in Solihull by protecting and enhancing the environment of the Borough. The strategy sets out the requirements, aims, communication and procedures for dealing with contaminated land.

APPENDIX D: GLOSSARY

ACL	Adult and Community Learning
ADAPTABILITY	A place that can change easily.
AFFORDABLE HOUSING	Low cost market housing and subsidised housing irrespective of tenure, ownership or financial arrangements, available to people who cannot afford to buy or rent houses generally available on the open market.
ALMO	Arms Length Management Organisation – providing services on behalf of Solihull Council. In Solihull this is Solihull Community Housing (SCH).
AREA ACTION PLAN	Planning document prepared within the context of the LDF introduced as the new form of development plan by the Planning and Compensation Act 2004.
AWM	Advantage West Midlands. The Regional Development Agency for the West Midlands formulating sustainable economic development strategies.
BIODIVERSITY	The whole variety of life encompassing all genetic, species and ecosystem variations.
BROWNFIELD	Previously developed land and or buildings.
BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE	A central government initiative providing capital investment monies to rebuild and renew primary and secondary schools. North Solihull is the first wave of this programme.
CHP	Combined Heat and Power – Use of waste heat from power generation to provide heating for a building or neighbourhood.
CLUSTER / HUB	Locational concentration of inter-connected companies, specialist suppliers, service providers, firms in related industries and associated institutions in particular fields that compete but also co-operate.
COMMUNITY HUB	Development of new management practices in a modern distinctive building at the heart of the neighbourhood providing integrated services that benefit local people, including a range of community services such as health, education, leisure, sports and retail.
CONNECTIONS	Includes roads, streets, alleys, footpaths and /or cycleways.
CONNEXIONS	Government programme providing confidential advice, support and information for 13-19 year olds.

CONTEXT	The setting of a site or area, including factors such as traffic, activities and land uses as well as landscape and built form.
CHARACTER	May be defined through identifying distinguishing physical features and emphasising historical and cultural associations.
DEPRIVATION	Does not have the desired feature in question. Often used in relation to what an area is particularly lacking in positive features. For example lots of people do not have jobs and being in employment is seen as a positive thing.
DENSITY	Measure of a number of dwellings per hectare (ha).
DISTINCTIVE	The positive features of a place and its communities which contribute to its special character and sense of place.
DIVERSITY	A place with variety and choice.
ENCLOSURE	The use of buildings to create a sense of place.
EXCELLENCE IN CITIES	Government programme to support gifted, struggling and/or disruptive pupils.
EXCELLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY	Creation of new community training facilities attached to schools.
EXTENDED SCHOOL	Schools which offer a number of community services and after school care. A full service includes education, health and social care support, lifelong learning, parental and study support, sports and arts facilities and ICT training.
FLOOD PLAIN	Land adjacent to a watercourse over which water flows, or would flow but for defences in place, in times of flood.
FOCUS / FOCI (PL)	Centre of attention or activity.
FORM	The layout (structure and urban grain), density, scale (height and massing), appearance (materials and details) and landscape of development.
FORDBRIDGE PLUS	A Neighbourhood Pathfinder Project; a regeneration initiative.
GATEWAY	High profile entry point to an area.
GOWM	Government Office for the West Midlands.
GREEN BELT	Planning policy designation of land to be kept open to prevent urban sprawl and to protect the countryside.

HIGH TECHNOLOGY CORRIDOR	Established to diversify the regions business base. Specific corridors identified, within which cluster development closely related to the region's critical research and development capabilities and advanced technologies, will be promoted.
HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL MIX	Mixing of uses (such as residential, retail, business) or tenures (eg. owner-occupied, private or social renting). They may be mixed within a building (vertical) or between buildings across a defined area (horizontal).
HOUSING DENSITY	Measure of number of units per hectare.
HOUSING MARKET RENEWAL AREA	An English Partnerships initiative to develop strategic plans for (HMRA) whole housing markets which are failing.
ICT	Information and Communication Technology (computers).
INCUBATOR / STARTER UNITS	Small scale commercial units, often subsidised, to assist new enterprise. These may be associated with clusters.
IN-PARTNERSHIP CONSORTIUM	A new company that will be set up to partner Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council to bring about regeneration.
LEGIBLE / LEGIBILITY	The degree to which a place can be easily understood and traversed.
LANDMARK	A building or structure that stands out from its background due to height, size or some other aspect of design.
LANDSCAPE	The character and appearance of land including its shape, form, ecology, natural features, colours and elements and the way these combine.
LDF	Local Development Framework: the new form of development plan introduced by the Planning and Compensation Act 2004.
LEARNING CLUSTERS	Physical concentration of schools and other educational activity.
LIFT PROJECT	Local Improvement Finance Trust primary care centre. The first is being developed at Crabtree Drive, Fordbridge incorporating a clinic, medical centre, dental surgery, community health services and pharmacy.
LNR	Protected Local Nature Reserve through planning policy.
LOCAL AGENDA 21	Programme prepared by Councils to tackle environmental, social and economic problems to comply with internationally agreed sustainable development principles.

MARKET HOUSING	Housing either bought or rented in the private sector.
METRO	The name given to the light rapid transport system in the West Midlands.
MIXED COMMUNITY	Especially in respect of new housing, where there is a cross section of affordable and market, large and small housing available and designed to meet the needs of all sectors of the community.
MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT	A new development that makes provision for a variety of uses – eg. residential, retail and business.
MUA	Major Urban Area. The focus of urban renaissance which underpins the regional spatial strategy.
NATURAL SURVEILLANCE / PASSIVE SURVEILLANCE	The discouragement of wrong-doing by the presence of passers-by or the ability of people to be seen out of surrounding windows.
NEC	National Exhibition Centre
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS	More detailed plans at the neighbourhood level which will be prepared within the Strategic Framework set out by this document.
NODE	A place where activity and routes are concentrated; another word for a junction.
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification
PALETTE	Choice of colour and fabric of building materials.
PARK & RIDE	Long stay parking areas at the edge of a built up area linked by frequent transport links to the city centre.
PERMEABLE / PERMEABILITY	The degree to which an area has a variety of pleasant, convenient and safe routes through it.
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance Note (see below)
PPS	Planning Policy Statement- introduced by the Planning and Compensation Act 2004 – statutory planning guidance prepared by national government to replace Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs).
PUBLIC ART	Permanent or temporary physical works of art visible to the general public, whether part of the building or free-standing: can include sculpture, lighting effects, street furniture, paving, railings and signs.

PUBLIC REALM	The parts of a village, town or city that are available, without charge, for everyone to use or see, including streets, squares and parks.
QUALITY PUBLIC REALM	A place with attractive and successful shared public spaces.
RADBURN	A style of residential development popular during the 1960s: reversal of the traditional layout with backs of properties and high fences fronting onto the road with housing blocks geometrically arranged around parking courtyards, drying spaces or small green areas. Access to homes is via footpaths.
REGENERATION ZONE	Aspect of the Regional Economic Strategy that directs investment to those areas most requiring it.
RES	Regional Economic Strategy – 10 year economic strategy prepared by AWM to maximise the opportunity for sustainable economic growth in the West Midlands.
RETAIL USES	Includes shops, professional and financial services, and food and drink.
RPG11	Regional Planning Guidance. A planning document prepared and published by the Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM).
SCH	Solihull Community Housing
SINC	Protected Site of Importance for Nature Conservation through planning policy.
SMBC	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
SNAP	Special Needs Active Partnership
SOFT SKILLS	Includes confidence, self esteem, self worth, aspirations, goals, opportunities.
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SPORT ENGLAND	Organisation responsible for delivering the Government's sporting objectives.
STREET FURNITURE	Includes bus shelters, litter bins, seating, lighting, railings and signs.
SURESTART	Government programme to deliver the best start in life for every child by bringing together early education, childcare, health and family support.

SUSTRANS	Sustrans is a charity that works on practical projects to encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport. Sustrans is developing a National Cycle Network and other signed on-road cycle routes.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	Development that meets the needs of the people of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
SUSTAINABLE URBAN DRAINAGE SYSTEMS (SUDS)	A sequence of management practices and control structures designed to drain water in a more sustainable fashion than some conventional techniques. Mimics as close as possible the natural drainage from a site before development and to treat runoff to remove pollutants.
UDP	Unitary Development Plan. A statutory planning document prepared by Council to be replaced by the Local Development Framework over the next few years introduced by the Planning and Compensation Act 2004.
URBAN DESIGN	The art of making places. Urban design involves the design of buildings, groups of buildings, spaces and landscapes, in villages, towns and cities and the establishment of frameworks and processes which facilitate development.
URBAN OPEN SPACE	Parks, play areas, sports fields, commons, allotments, green corridors alongside rivers/canals/railways and other open areas vital to the cultural, aesthetic and historic heritage of urban life.
URBAN RENAISSANCE	The objective of addressing the challenges facing urban areas in the region and to maintain viable and sustainable communities.
WEST MIDLANDS	The standard planning region comprising the seven Metropolitan Authorities (Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Solihull, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton) and the four Shire Counties (Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire) and the three Unitary Authorities (Herefordshire, Stoke on Trent and Telford and Wrekin).

