

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

2005/06

DRAFT OCTOBER 2006

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local Development Scheme

- The latest LDS came into effect in April 2006 following revisions to take account of reprogramming of the Core Strategy preparation and new Planning Obligations SPD
- Bridge Street SPD adopted December 2005 in line with key milestones
- Statement of Community Involvement adopted April 2006 also in line with timetable

Population

- 2005 mid-year estimated population for Wyre Forest district is 98,510; an increase of just over 400 on the previous year; the largest component of change is from internal migration (from within the UK)
- Main increases were in 60-64 and 40-44 age groups. (+500 and +400)
- Largest decrease in 30-34 age group (-300)

Housing

- 386 dwellings completed in 2005/06; 5 units retained in flat conversions; 10 demolished
- 83% were built on previously developed land (brownfield) against a national target of 60%
- 350 dwellings were in the course of construction at the end of March 2006
- 25% of completions were at a density of over 50 per hectare, 22% were at under 30 per hectare
- 69 affordable housing units were completed in 2005/06 – 18% of total completions
- 60% of completions were 1-2 bed properties
- 85% of completions were in Kidderminster or Stourport-on-Severn
- Replacement ratio where house have been demolished is 1:3.1
- 45% of completions in Kidderminster were flats
- 82% of completions in Stourport-on-Severn were at the Timber Lane development
- 9 of the 14 units completed in Bewdley were affordable
- 23 of the 44 rural completions were in Blakedown village, 14 of these being on the site of the petrol station. There were only 6 barn conversions completed during the year (20 were completed the previous year)

Employment

- Unemployment averaged 2.4%, with an increase in the last quarter (up to 2.9%)
- The percentage of district jobs in manufacturing had fallen below 20% (latest published results). Almost 75% were in the service sector, many of these being part-time
- Only 1,952 sq.m was completed – at Wilden Industrial Estate - for B2 use with ancillary B1
- This was on a brownfield site
- Current land supply is 62.68 Ha.
- 13.9 Ha have been completed since 1996

Local Environment

- Broadwaters Park in Kidderminster retained a Green Pennant
- Local List for Stourport-on-Severn drawn up; 6 week consultation undertaken February – March 2006. Around 270 buildings and structures included in draft list

Transport

- Cycle route linking Bewdley Bypass to Stourport Road employment area via Burlish Top Nature Reserve completed. Further link from Bewdley under construction
- All non-residential development completed in 2005/06 has complied with adopted car parking standards

Retailing and Town Centres

- No new retail or leisure developments have been completed since Weavers Wharf in 2004
- Extension to Piano Building (phase 5 Weavers Wharf) now under construction
- Proposals for KTC3 (Worcester Street Kidderminster) currently being drawn up.

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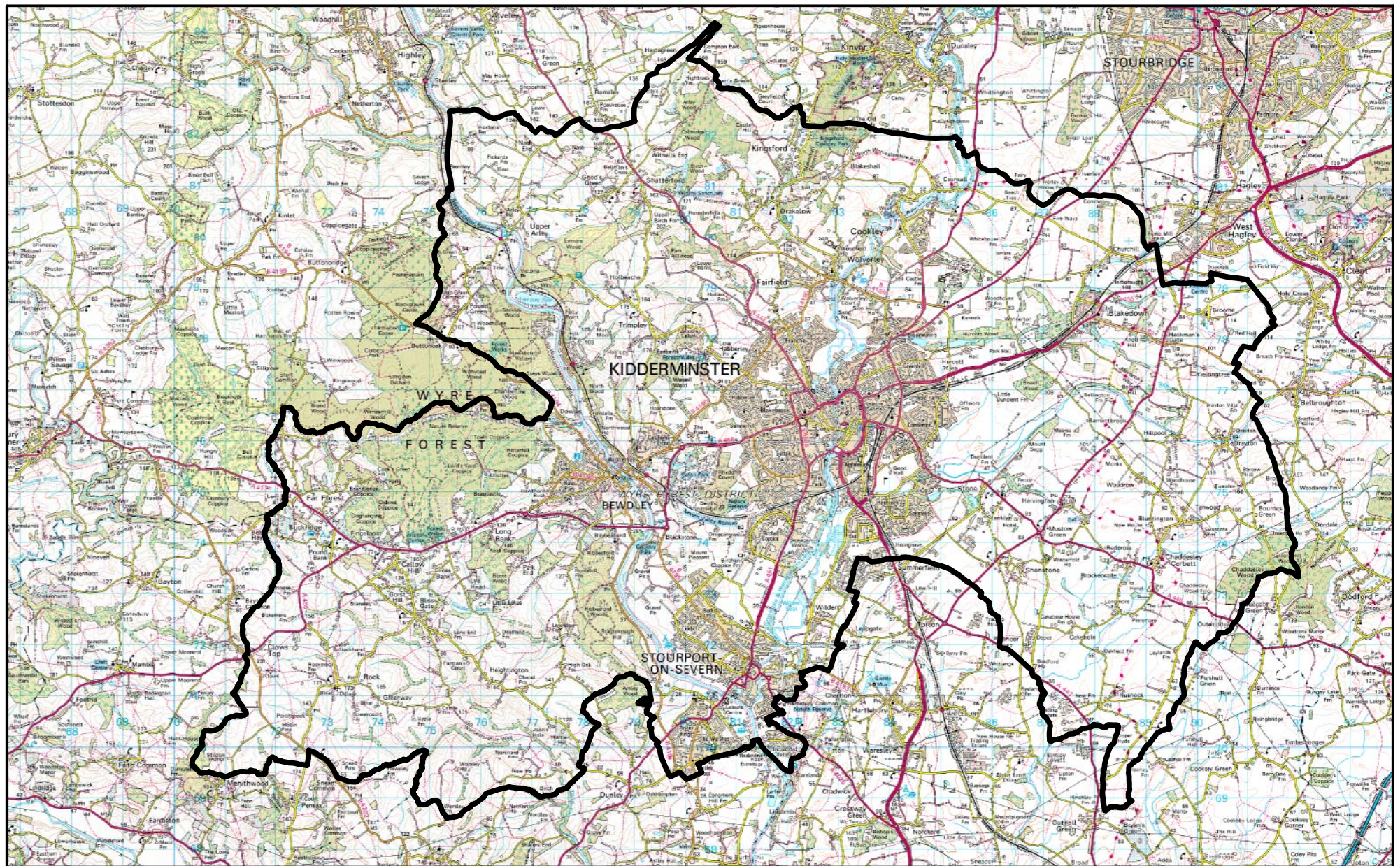
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MAP OF WYRE FOREST DISTRICT



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CHAPTER 1 GENERAL BACKGROUND

The District of Wyre Forest

- 1.1 Wyre Forest District is situated in North West Worcestershire and lies to the south west of the West Midlands conurbation. It covers an area of 75 square miles. In 2001, the population totalled 96,945 (2001 census) with 55,182 living in the principal town of Kidderminster. The three towns of Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn form a central triangle within the district and are surrounded by a number of outlying villages and hamlets.
- 1.2 The valleys of the Rivers Severn and Stour dominate the landscape. The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal runs alongside the River Stour through Kidderminster to Stourport where it joins the River Severn. The canal and rivers are valuable wildlife corridors and bring in low-impact tourism to the area. The predominantly rural area to the west of the River Severn is defined as an Area of Great Landscape Value and to the east of the River Severn, land outside the 3 main towns is given protection by the West Midlands Green Belt. (44% of the district's area is in the Green Belt).
- 1.3 Kidderminster is the main business and commercial centre in the district offering industrial, shopping, offices and leisure facilities. Kidderminster is famous as a centre for carpet manufacture. The numbers employed in the carpet industry have fallen in recent years and the town is continuing to diversify with successful companies involved with luxury boat building, ceramics, engineering and other hi technology industries. The town centre has recently undergone an extensive £60 million river and canal side redevelopment providing retail and leisure facilities. Kidderminster is also the terminus of the Severn Valley Railway.
- 1.4 Stourport-on-Severn was created as a canal port in 1766 when the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal was constructed. It was once one of the busiest inland ports in the Midlands. The Georgian town is now an inland resort with pleasure boats cruising on the canal and River Severn. Major investment is planned in the Stourport basins with the successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £1.7 million to restore historic buildings around the basins.
- 1.5 Bewdley is a small riverside town built along the banks of the River Severn. It contains many fine Georgian buildings, has an award-winning museum and is a popular tourist destination.
- 1.6 The district has good transport links with direct trains running to Birmingham, Worcester and London from Kidderminster. The motorway network is also accessible with the M5, M6 and M42 all within 30 minutes drive time. The district has a flourishing tourism industry with visitor attractions such as the West Midlands Safari Park, the Severn Valley Railway, the Wyre Forest itself and the riverside towns of Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley.
- 1.7 Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn have both received funding from Advantage West Midlands and the Countryside Agency under their Market Towns Initiative. This programme provides financial support towards projects that help support the viability and prosperity of towns. Market town partnerships with representation from business, public service and community

organisations have been set up in Bewdley (Opportunity Bewdley) and in Stourport-on-Severn (Stourport Forward). Bewdley also benefits from extra funding under the Rural Regeneration Zone initiative run by Advantage West Midlands.

- 1.8 Whilst reasonably prosperous, Wyre Forest District actually has the most deprived ward in Worcestershire and other areas have high levels of poverty, poor health, social exclusion and low educational attainment. Oldington and Foley Park Ward in Kidderminster is one of the 10% most deprived wards in England. Under the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Round 2 funding has been secured for this area. A total of £2.5 million will be injected into the community over a 7 year period. On average, £350,000 a year will be used by the community, working with service providers, to tackle some of the main areas of deprivation.
- 1.9 In 2004, a 10-year Community Strategy for the Wyre Forest was launched with the aim of improving the social, economic, health and economic well-being of the district and its population. The Wyre Forest matters partnership brings together representatives from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors. The Local Development Framework will provide a means for the delivery of the key priorities which have been identified in the Community Strategy that relate to the use and development of land.

Content of this report

- 1.10 The structure of the Annual Monitoring Report for 2005/06 is divided thematically along the lines of the Local Plan. Chapter 2 assesses the implementation of the Local Development Scheme. Chapter 3 outlines the Development Strategy for Wyre Forest District. Chapter 4 gives a brief analysis of revised population estimates and how they may impact on the District. Chapters 5 – 9 analyse the implementation of the policies for housing, employment, the local environment, transport and retail and town centres by using a number of output indicators. (see Appendix 1) The final chapter analyses policy use during 2005/06.

CHAPTER 2 IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

- 2.1 It is a statutory requirement that the AMR monitors plan-making performance for the monitoring year based on the Local Development Scheme. Since the monitoring year ends at 31st March, it is considered useful to show progress up to the end of October 2006.
- 2.2 A second revision was made to the Wyre Forest Local Development Scheme in April 2006, following on from the August 2005 revision. There are two key changes.
- 2.3 The timetable for the various Development Plan Documents (Core Strategy, Site Allocations, Development Control Policies and Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan) has been revised. Adoption of these documents has been put back by 2-3 months in order to await guidance on the number of new houses and the amount of employment land to be developed in the District up to 2026. This guidance will be provided by the Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2 Revisions.
- 2.4 The District Council has abandoned proposals for a separate Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on affordable housing and has decided to prepare a more comprehensive 'Planning Obligations' SPD. This will cover Section 106 Obligations in relation to affordable housing, transport infrastructure and services, education contributions, parks and play areas etc.
- 2.5 The Local Development Scheme (August 2005 revision) had a **Supplementary Planning Document on STC.4** – Bridge Street, Stourport-on-Severn programmed for adoption by December 2005. As reported in the previous AMR, consultation ran from 5th September to 17th October 2005. 262 responses were received from 77 respondents. These responses were generally in support of the proposals to regenerate the site. The Bridge Street Basins Link Development Brief was formally adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document on 14th December 2005. There have been no planning applications received relating to the redevelopment of the site.
- 2.6 The **Statement of Community Involvement** was submitted to the Secretary of State in September 2005 as reported in last year's AMR. A 6-week submission consultation period ran from 27th September to 8th November 2005 resulting in 5 representations objecting to the SCI. An Inspector was appointed to carry out a written representation examination to consider the soundness of the SCI. The Inspector's Report was received in April and the Statement of Community Involvement was formally adopted in April as per the LDS timetable.
- 2.7 A draft **Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document** was published for a six-week public consultation on 12th October 2006. It is programmed for adoption in March 2007. The Draft SPD sets out the policy context for the District Council's approach to seeking planning obligations and the process and procedures for securing them. It incorporates a table of thresholds based on the type of development proposed and outlines the level of contributions that will be sought.

Figure 1 Extract from Local Development Scheme

	2005												2006											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Statement of Community Involvement		1	1	1	2	2	3		4	4	4		5			6								
Development Plan Documents	2006												2007											
DPD: Core Strategy	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
DPDs: Site Allocation; DC Policies & Kidd. Central (AAP)								1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Supplementary Planning Documents	2006												2007											
SPD: Planning Obligations				1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	5									

Statement of Community Involvement

- 1 Scoping
- 2 Pre-submission Participation
- 3 Consideration of Representations
- 4 Submission to SofS & 6wks for representations
- 5 Independent examination
- 6 Adoption

Supplementary Planning Documents

- 1 Scoping
- 2 Preparation of draft proposals
- 3 Public participation on draft proposals
- 4 Consideration of representations
- 5 Adoption

Development Plan Documents

- 1 Scoping
- 2 Preparation of draft issues & options
- 3 Public participation on preferred options
- 4 Consideration of representations & preparation of submission proposals

2.8 The chart is based on the revised Local Development Scheme (April 2006). All milestones for the SCI and the Planning Obligations SPD have been reached in line with the published LDS. It should be noted that due to further slippage with the timetable for the Regional Spatial Strategy Review Stage 2, a further revision is likely. Public participation on the preferred options in the Core Strategy is now likely to be put back six months to January / February 2008.

CHAPTER 3 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

3.1 The Wyre Forest District Local Plan has an overall vision:-

“to establish a framework for achieving a sustainable balance between development necessary to meet the needs of the District and the conservation of the diverse character of the area’s built and natural environments. In striving to achieve this balance, the Plan will help to ensure a better quality of life for residents, visitors and future generations.”

3.2 The overall aim of the Local Plan is to encourage sustainable development. The Council will attempt to bring social, economic and environmental benefits to the area without too many adverse impacts. Each chapter of the local plan has a specific aim and associated objectives. The principal elements of the Development Strategy are to:

- accommodate the development needs of the District as set out in the Worcestershire County Structure Plan 1996-2011, in a sustainable manner by concentrating housing and employment development in the main towns of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn.
- place an emphasis on urban regeneration and recycling of land and buildings particularly for mixed use development in or adjacent to the main town centres.
- concentrate retail, commercial, leisure and office uses in Kidderminster Town Centre and to a lesser extent Stourport-on-Severn town centre.
- enable the diversification of the rural economy whilst generally limiting rural housing provision to local needs.
- conserve and enhance the District's environmental assets including the countryside, natural and built heritage.
- locate development so as to reduce the need to travel, provide a choice of travel modes, and support the provision of alternative modes to the private car.
- maintain the existing adopted Green Belt boundaries unless exceptional circumstances require otherwise.

3.3 This Annual Monitoring Report will assess whether the policies and objectives are meeting the above aims. The impact of the policies will be measured using a number of output indicators as explained in chapter 1.

CHAPTER 4 POPULATION DATA

- 4.1 During 2005/06 a number of updated data-sets relating to population were released. The mid-year population estimates for 2005 show a slight increase from 2004 of approximately 400 people for the district. The largest component of change comes from net internal migration. The table below shows population change from 2001 to 2005 by quinary age groups.

Table 1 Population estimates (000s)

ALL AGES	2001 census	2002 mid-year	2003 mid-year	2004 mid-year	2005 mid-year	Change 2001-2005
0-4	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	- 0.2
5-9	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.4	-0.3
10-14	6.1	6.3	6.2	6.1	5.9	-0.2
15-19	5.6	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.0	+0.4
20-24	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.1	+0.3
25-29	5.6	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.0	-0.6
30-34	7.2	7.0	6.8	6.5	6.2	-1.0
35-39	7.1	7.3	7.4	7.5	7.5	+0.4
40-44	6.2	6.4	6.5	6.7	7.1	+0.9
45-49	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	-0.1
50-54	8.0	7.5	7.1	6.8	6.6	-1.4
55-59	7.2	7.8	8.2	8.2	8.1	-0.9
60-64	5.6	5.7	6.0	6.4	6.9	+1.3
65-69	4.6	4.8	5.0	5.2	5.4	+0.8
70-74	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.1	+0.2
75-79	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	0
80-84	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.6	+0.3
85-89	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	0
90+	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	+0.1
TOTAL	96.9	97.3	97.8	98.1	98.5	+1.6

- 4.2 The largest increase has occurred in the 60-64 age group with 1,300 more people between mid-2001 and mid-2005. The largest decrease occurred in the 50-54 age group with a loss of 1,400 people. In the last year, the largest increase was in the 60-64 age group, and the largest decrease in the 30-34 age group.
- 4.3 In March 2006, 2003-based household projections were released for the West Midlands region. These show a far greater increase in the number of households forming than previously thought. This will have a knock-on effect on the scale and distribution of housing needed up to 2026. The number of households containing a married couple is expected to fall 12% 2001-2026, whereas the number of one-person households are expected to grow by 56% taking the total in that category above the number of households containing a married couple for the first time. The average household size is projected to fall from 2.41 persons in 2001 to 2.13 persons in 2026. This has enormous implications for the housing market.

- 4.4 The partial revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy will set out a preferred option for the number of houses to be provided in each local Planning Authority to 2026. Where housing is built is determined by land available now and in the future. To this end, a Housing Land Availability Assessment and Employment Land Review will be undertaken by the District Council in 2006/07.

CHAPTER 5 HOUSING

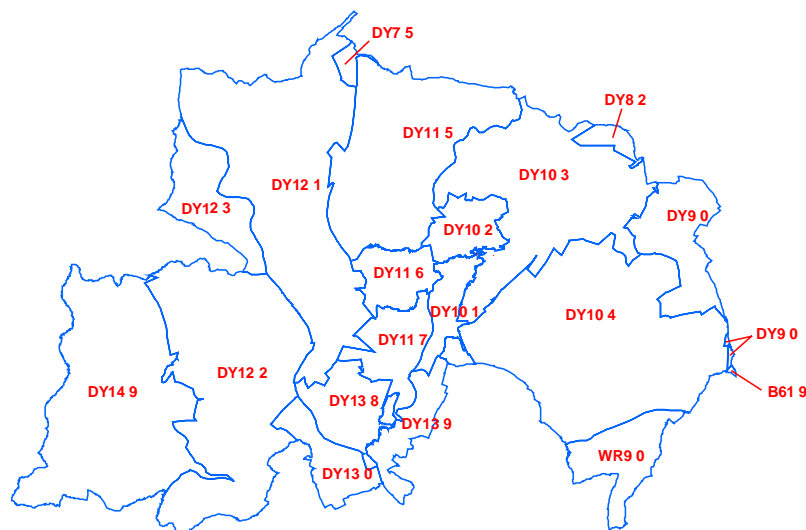
Table 2 **Property Sales 2005/06** Source: Land Registry - figures in red show number of sales

Postcode Sector / Location	Av. Price detached	Av. Price semi-detached	Av. Price terraced	Av. Price flat
DY10 1 central Kidderminster	£207k (26)	£145k (52)	£118k (87)	£87k (33)
DY10 2 east Kidderminster	£210k (22)	£141k (74)	£122k (70)	£91k (11)
DY10 3 Blakedown & Cookley	£329k (40)	£170k (41)	£123k (31)	£113k (20)
DY10 4 south-east Kidderminster & Chaddesley Corbett	£249k (58)	£155k (31)	£151k (29)	-
DY11 5 north Kidderminster & Wolverley	£256k (23)	£152k (81)	£122k (15)	£93k (11)
DY11 6 west Kidderminster	£237k (45)	£146k (61)	£116 (90)	-
DY11 7 south-west Kidderminster	£245k (18)	£128k (39)	£114k (27)	-
DY12 1 eastern Bewdley & Arley	£248k (21)	£209k (11)	£164k (18)	£141k (7)
DY12 2 western Bewdley	£247k (24)	£156k (31)	£166k (20)	£96k (12)
DY13 0 Stourport – Areley Kings	£246k (40)	£149k (32)	£134k (24)	-
DY13 8 Stourport west	£228k (36)	£151k (45)	£133k (30)	£122k (3)
DY13 9 Stourport east & Wilden	£282k (57)	£141k (52)	£138k (51)	£131k (29)
DY14 9 Villages west of Bewdley	£349k (11)	£229k (8)	-	-
Wyre Forest District	£256 (421)	£150k(558)	£128k(492)	£107k(126)

Table 3 **Average Price of Property Sales in Wyre Forest District**

Type	2002	2003	2004	2005
Detached	£179,000	£199,000	£244,000	£256,000
Semi-detached	£97,000	£119,000	£143,000	£150,000
Terraced	£80,000	£100,000	£123,000	£128,000
Flat	£64,000	£70,000	£104,000	£107,000

Figure 2 **Map of Postcode Sectors**



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- 5.1 House prices have continued to rise by up to 5% during 2005/06. This is much less than in the previous year where increases of 49% were seen in the price of flats, and over 20% for houses. The cheapest postcode sector to purchase property is central Kidderminster. The most expensive housing can be found in the villages west of the River Severn (DY14 9) followed by Chaddesley Corbett and Blakedown in the east of the District. For comparison, the average price of properties sold in England and Wales was £190,000. This makes the average price of property sold in 4 postcode sectors above the national average. Incomes in the Wyre Forest are still significantly below that of neighbouring districts, with median weekly gross earnings for residents 84% of the County average, and 81% of the West Midlands average (source: ASHE 2004). The above table shows that house prices have continued to rise, albeit at a much slower pace than in previous years. The mean household income for DY10 4 was £36,000 (the highest in the district – Wealth of the Nation 2006) with DY11 7 averaging only £29,000. This clearly has implications for accessing the local housing market.

Implementation of Housing Policies and objectives

- 5.2 The key aim of the Local Plan in relation to housing is

‘to enable the District’s housing needs to be met’.

The Worcestershire County Structure Plan 1996-2011 sets a target of 3,000 new dwellings to be provided in Wyre Forest between 1996 and 2011. The Structure Plan identifies Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn as the principal urban areas to accommodate new housing development. This housing provision is largely to cater for local needs arising out of new households rather than an increase in population.

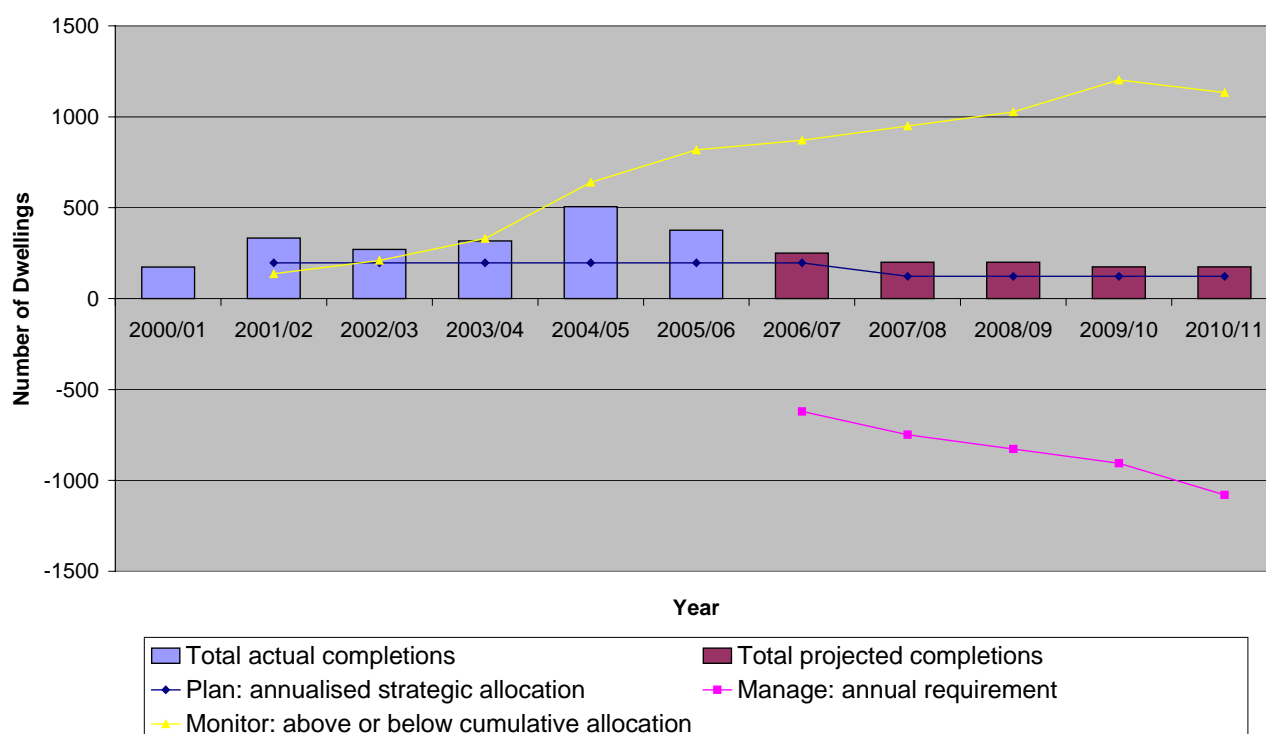
5.3 Core Output Indicators

Indicator 2a

- (i) net additional dwellings over the previous 5 year period = 1629
- (ii) net additional dwellings for 2005/06 = 376 (391 less 10 demolitions and 5 retained dwellings)
- (iii) projected net additional dwellings up to 2011 = 1000
- (iv) annual net additional dwellings requirement = 0
- (v) annual average number of net additional dwellings needed to meet requirements having regard to previous years’ performances = 0

- 5.4 The number of housing completions in 2005/06 was down on 2004/05 when 506 were completed. However, 376 completions was still more than in any other year since 1996. The main reason for this high figure was the 139 dwellings completed at the Timber Lane site in Stourport-on-Severn, following on from the 66 finished there in 2004/05.

Figure 3 Wyre Forest Housing Trajectory 2005/06



5.5 Indicator 2b

This shows the percentage of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land (brownfield). A target figure of 77% was set for 2005/06. 83% was achieved. This is slightly lower than last year. Part of the Timber Lane site is greenfield and there are 2 other greenfield sites (total 62 units) still to be completed, both in Kidderminster. This percentage is expected to improve next year with the greenfield part of Timber Lane now completed. Although barn conversions are counted as greenfield, applications are not coming through in such high numbers now.

Table 4 Housing Completions on Previously Developed Land

2005/06	% gross completions on greenfield sites	% gross completions on brownfield sites
Kidderminster	0	100
Stourport-on-Severn	34	66
Bewdley	0	100
Rural areas	18	82
District	17	83

Of the 350 dwellings under construction at the end of 2005/06, 87% were on previously developed land.

5.6 Indicator 2c

This indicator looks at densities of completed dwellings. PPG3 encourages building at higher densities to make the best use of land and support public transport. Policy H5 of the local Plan specifies minimum densities for developments in Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn town centres, near the station and along high frequency bus routes. Overall, 78% of dwellings were built at a density of more than 30 dwellings per hectare. This is the same as in 2004/05.

Table 5 Density of Completions

Gross completions 2005/06	<30 dwellings per hectare	30-50 dwellings per hectare	>50 dwellings per hectare
Kidderminster	18% (29)	38% (61)	44% (71)
Stourport-on-Severn	21% (36)	77% (130)	2% (4)
Bewdley	7% (1)	73% (11)	20% (3)
Rural areas	47% (21)	9% (4)	44% (20)
District	22% (87)	53% (206)	25% (98)

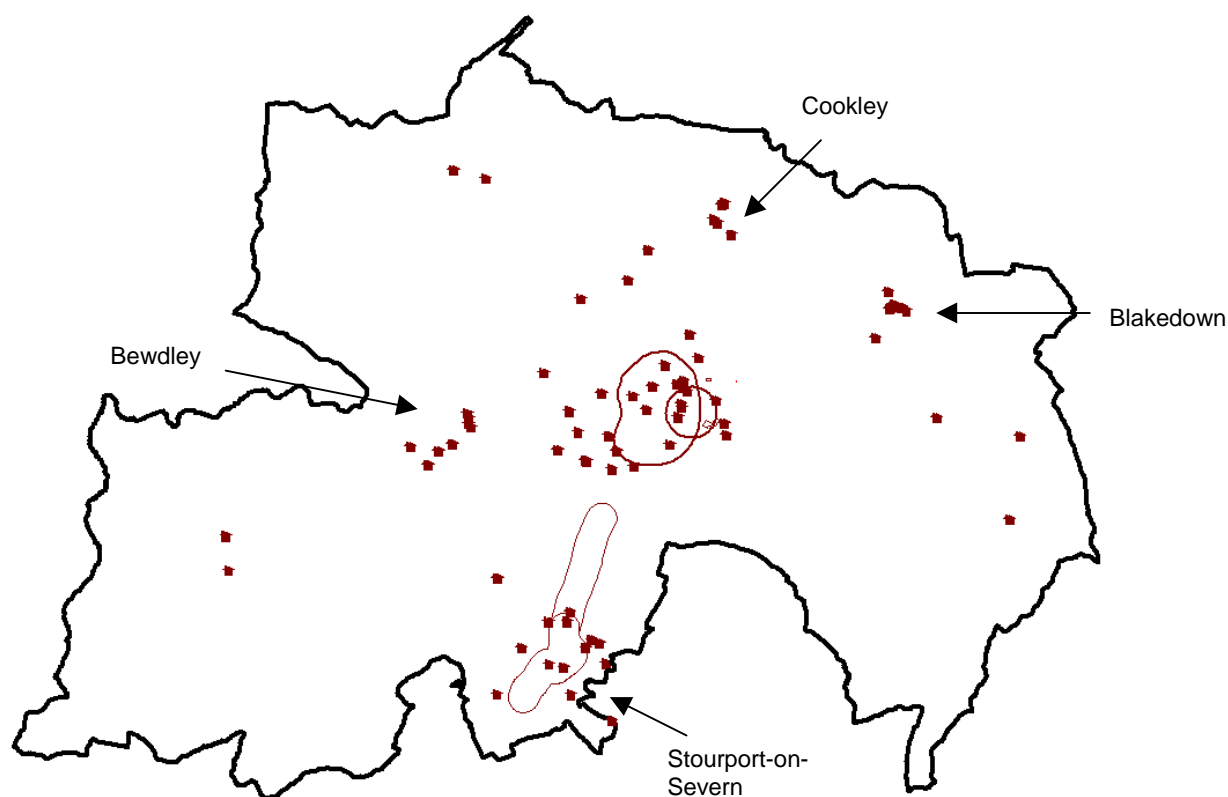
Table 6 Density of Completions based on Policy H.5

Location	Target density	Average density of completions 2005/06	Total no. completions 2005/06
Within Kidderminster Town Centre inset	70 dph	100 dph	1
Within 500m of Kidderminster Town Centre inset and Kidderminster railway station	50 dph	85 dph	112
Within Stourport-on-Severn Town Centre inset	50 dph	150 dph	4
Within 300m of bus stop on high frequency corridor in Kidderminster or Stourport-on-Severn	40 dph	41 dph	41
Elsewhere in settlements identified in Policy H.2	30 dph	38 dph	220

dph = dwellings per hectare

There is currently only one high frequency bus route (every 15 minutes) running between Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn. The following map shows the location of housing completions together with buffers around Kidderminster Station, Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn town centres and the high frequency bus route. The above table shows that 98% of completions were within designated areas.

Figure 4 Map of Housing Completions 2005/06



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5.7 Indicator 2d

This indicator looks at affordable housing provision. The Council generally seeks up to 30% affordable provision on housing sites of 15 or more units or 0.5 hectares. During 2005/06 69 units were provided, 21 of these being on a shared ownership basis (at Parkwood Court). This brings the total number of affordable dwellings provided in the district since 2001 to 240. Only the 14 units completed at Evergreen Way and Millgate Close on the Timber Lane development were provided as part of a Section 106 agreement. All the other developments were 100% affordable sites. At the end of March 2006 there were 8 shared ownership flats under construction. A number of 100% affordable sites are due to begin construction during 2006/07. There were 119 unimplemented permissions for affordable housing at the end of 2005/06.

Table 7 Affordable Housing Completions 2005/06

Site	No. of units	Houses	Flats
Cordle Marsh Road, Bewdley	2	3-bed	
Springside Place, Bewdley	5	2-bed	
Queensway, Bewdley	2	2-bed	
Broom Rise, Kidderminster	5	2-bed bungalows	
Parkwood Court, Kidderminster	33		2-bed
Drake Crescent, Kidderminster	3	2-bed	
St.Michael's Place, Kidderminster	5	2-bed	
Evergreen Way, Stourport-on-Severn	5	2x3-bed & 3x2-bed	
Millgate Close, Stourport-on-Severn	9	2x3-bed & 7x2-bed	
DISTRICT TOTAL	69	30x2-bed & 6x3-bed	33x2-bed

5.8 Local Output Indicators

The following table shows the distribution of housing types between the 3 towns and the rural areas for 2005/06.

Table 8 Housing Completions by Type and Location

Location	1-bed flat	2-bed flat	3-bed flat	1-bed house	2-bed house	3-bed house	4-bed house	Total
Kidderminster	26	46	0	1	47	30	9	159
Stourport	2	34	0	0	45	22	66	169
Bewdley	1	0	0	0	8	2	3	14
Rural Areas	0	14	0	1	5	11	13	44
Total	29	94	0	2	105	65	91	386

NB. Table does not include 5 retained units from residential conversions

32% of new homes were flats and 60% had only 1 or 2 bedrooms (this is LOI.2). Three in four new homes in Kidderminster had only 1 or 2 bedrooms. 85% of the total number of completions were in Kidderminster or Stourport-on-Severn. This reflects the Local Plan policy of concentrating housing provision within these two towns. (LOI.1)

5.9 Replacement rates

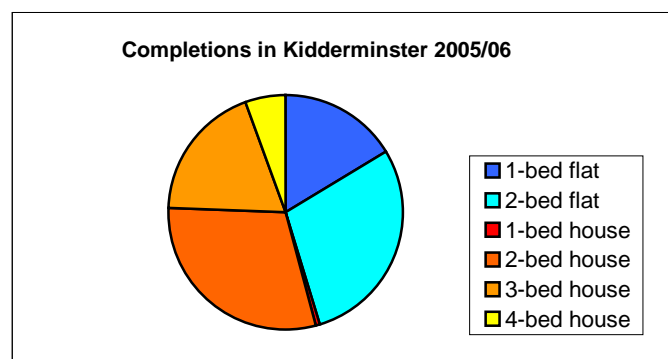
A total of 10 houses were demolished during 2005/06. 5 sites will have replacement dwellings on them (ie. one for one replacement) and 5 sites will be redeveloped for 26 dwellings in total, giving a replacement ratio of 1:3.1 (LOI.3)

5.10 Housing Completions in Kidderminster

In Kidderminster during 2005/06, a number of large developments were completed. These included the Cox Homes development at the

Horsefair (a mix of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom flats and houses), the final block of 12 apartments at Comberton Place, and the last 20 units on the College site at Hoo Road (12 of these were 3-bed houses).

Figure 5



5.11 2005/06 also saw the occupation of 33 2-bed apartments at Chapel Street. 21 of these were on a shared ownership basis with the other 12 being for rent. A gated development of 14 bungalows for sale to the over 55s was also completed. Building work started on a number of medium-sized housing schemes during the year, including 2 former garage sites at Land Oak and Greenhill. A greenfield development of 16 units off Hoo Road also started construction. Work also began on a mixed retail / residential scheme on the site of Comberton Hill Service Station just outside the town centre. A total of 170 dwellings were under construction at the end of March 2006.

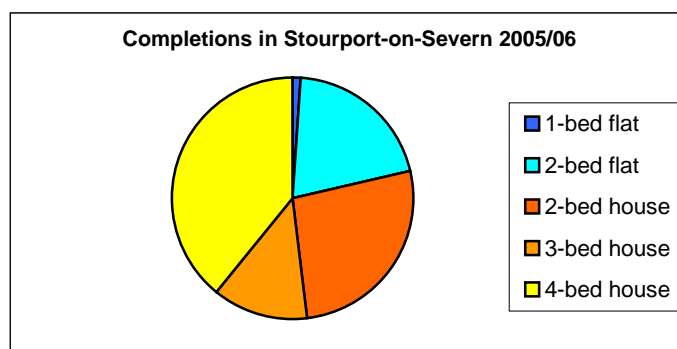
5.12 As can be seen from the above pie-chart, Kidderminster completions were dominated by smaller properties. A total of 159 dwellings were completed, 150 being new-build. Another 2 units were retained in subdivisions of existing dwellings.

5.13 Housing completions in Stourport-on-Severn

Timber Lane completions dominated in 2005/06, with 139 out of the 161 completed dwellings being on this allocated site. 34 of these were 2-bed apartments, 25 were 2-bed houses (10 for rent), 19 were 3-bed houses (4 for rent) and 61 were 4-bed houses. Together with the 66 dwellings completed at Timber Lane in 2004/05, this leaves only another 31 properties to be completed. All of these are 4 or 5 bed detached houses. A development of 14 2-bed terraced houses was also completed nearby.

- 5.14 Development began on the conversion of the telephone exchange off High Street into 12 apartments and the redevelopment of the Brindley Arms Public House for 28 apartments (including 8 shared ownership). A total of 97 dwellings were under construction at the end of 2005/06.

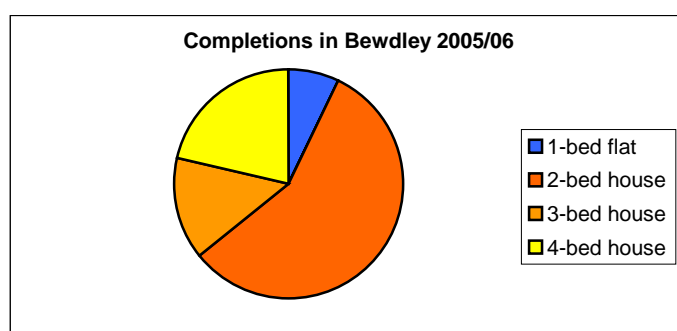
Figure 6



5.15 Housing completions in Bewdley

2005/06 saw the completion of 14 dwellings in Bewdley, including 9 affordable houses in Wribbenhall on the site of garage blocks (7x2-bed and 2x3-bed). This was the lowest total since 1996. There were 45 dwellings under construction at the end of the year. Two sites in Wribbenhall were started during the year; both were allowed on appeal. These will provide a total of 17 units.

Figure 7



5.16 Housing completions in rural areas

44 dwellings were completed during 2005/06 in the rural areas. 23 of these were in the village of Blakedown, including 14 apartments on the site of a petrol station. There were only 6 barn conversions completed this year, the lowest number since 2001. At the end of March 2006

there were 19 barns in the course of conversion, 3 of these were on the outskirts of Kidderminster. 84 rural permissions had not yet been implemented. 29 of these were barn conversions. At the end of 2005/06 there were 38 dwellings under construction outside of the 3 main towns.

Figure 8

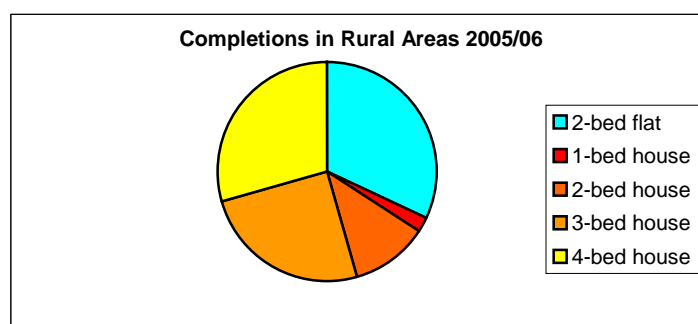


Table 9 Summary of Output Indicators

Output Indicator	Ambition	Progress
2a – number of dwellings provided	Target of 3,000 dwellings 1996-2011	2,825 units completed 1996 - 2006
2b – completions on previously developed land	Target set for 2005/06 77%	83% of 2005/06 completions
2c – density of housing development	Majority of dwellings at density of at least 30 per hectare	78% of completions at >30 units per hectare
2d – affordable housing provision	Target of 120 affordable homes to be provided 2004-2007	affordable homes provided, 69 during 2005/06
L1 - % housing completions in Kidderminster or Stourport-on-Severn	Majority of new dwellings to be built in 2 main urban areas	85% of 2005/06 completions were in Kidderminster or Stourport-on-Severn
L2 - % completed units with 1 or 2 bedrooms	Aim to cater for the increase in smaller households	60% of completions had only 1 or 2 bedrooms
L3 – replacement dwelling ratio	Make good use of land	Ratio of 1:3.1 achieved

Conclusion

- 5.17 A good mix of housing continues to be built in the District, with the number of affordable units provided being up on previous years. However, new housing sites are continuing to come forward at just under the threshold for providing any affordable units (15 dwellings or 0.5 Ha). The Council is still awaiting revised housing targets from the partial review of the Regional Spatial Strategy. The housing allocation of 3,000 dwellings is likely to be reached by the end of 2006/07. Wyre Forest District forms part of the South Housing Market Area along with the rest of Worcestershire and South Warwickshire. A housing market assessment is currently underway. This is very much a pilot study. It is hoped that an updateable evidence base can be amassed which will be used to underpin the local development framework. There is evidence of 'buy-to-let' in many of the completed schemes, particularly of 1 and 2-bed properties and more analysis needs to be done of how this impacts on the housing market locally.

CHAPTER 6 EMPLOYMENT

Table 10 Employee jobs

	Wyre Forest employee jobs		Wyre Forest %		Worcester- shire %		West Midlands %	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Total employee jobs	34,081	35,574						
Full-time	22,390	22,475	65.7	63.2	66.1	65.3	68.6	68.0
Part-time	11,690	13,099	34.3	36.8	33.9	34.7	31.4	32.0
Manufacturing	7,255	7,050	21.3	19.8	18.7	18.3	18.0	16.6
Construction	1,515	1,547	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.6	4.3	4.3
Services	24,844	26,535	73.0	74.6	76.2	76.3	76.3	77.8
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	9,566	9,852	28.1	27.7	25.7	25.1	23.8	24.8
Transport & communications	1,115	1,244	3.3	3.5	4.0	4.0	5.6	5.4
Finance, IT, other business activities	4,539	4,934	13.3	13.9	17.3	17.0	16.5	17.3
Public admin, education & health	8,061	8,961	23.7	25.2	23.6	24.8	25.6	25.8
Other services	1,563	1,544	4.6	4.3	5.7	5.4	4.8	4.5
Tourism-related	3,386	2,875	9.9	8.1	8.6	7.5	6.9	7.4

Source: Annual Business Inquiry employee analysis Dec.2004.

- 6.1 The above table shows how the Wyre Forest economy has changed in the twelve months since December 2003. The number of jobs has risen by nearly 1,500 but most of these have been part-time. The service sector has gained almost 1,700 jobs, whilst manufacturing has seen a loss of 200 jobs. Manufacturing now accounts for just below 20% of local jobs, whereas in 2001 it accounted for more than 1 in 4 jobs. However, 6 of the 10 largest employers are in the manufacturing sector, including Brintons carpets, Sealine Industries (luxury boat-builders) and Titan Steel Wheels (Source: Chamber of Commerce). The % of tourism related jobs has fallen significantly but is still above that for the West Midlands region.

Table 11 Unemployment data

Month	Worcestershire	Wyre Forest	Wyre Forest claimant count
April 2005	1.9%	2.1%	1028
May 2005	2.3%	2.2%	1064
June 2005	2.2%	2.0%	1064
July 2005	2.2%	2.2%	1069
August 2005	2.2%	2.3%	1122
September 2005	2.2%	2.3%	1116
October 2005	2.1%	2.1%	1056
November 2005	2.1%	2.3%	1137
December 2005	2.2%	2.4%	1194
January 2006	2.3%	2.7%	1325
February 2006	2.4%	2.9%	1423
March 2006	2.4%	2.8%	1384

Source: County Economic Summary – rates are expressed as a percentage of the 2001 Census economically active population

- 6.2 The second half of 2005/06 saw the number of claimants rise steadily to reach levels not seen since January 2001. 16% of the district's claimants in February 2006 lived in Broadwaters Ward in Kidderminster. This equated to 5.6% of the economically active population. In Oldington & Foley Park, 6.1% of the economically active population were claiming unemployment benefit.

Implementation of Employment of Policies and Objectives

- 6.3 The key employment aim of the Adopted Local Plan 2004 is

“to encourage economic prosperity and identify enough land to meet the District’s employment needs”

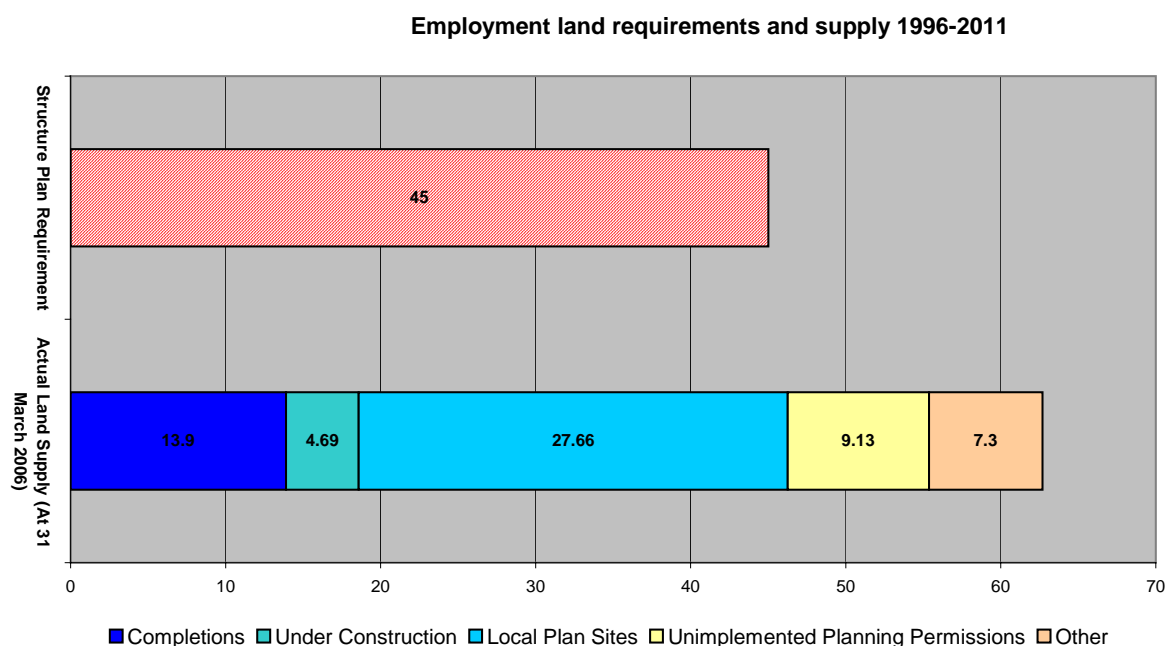
- 6.4 There are 6 six Core Output Indicators that relate to employment provision, 1a to 1f. **Core Output Indicator 1a** measures the amount of floorspace developed for employment by type during 2005/06. There was only one completion on a 0.52 Ha site at Wilden. This consisted of a single unit of 1952 sq.m, 224 sq.m for offices (B1) and 1728 sq.m for industrial use (B2). The following table (taken from the Employment Land Availability 1st April 2006) details the completed site.

Table 12 Completed Employment Sites 2005/06

Location	Planning Application	Development	Floorspace	Area (Ha)
Wilden Industrial Estate	WF/41/05	Industrial unit with ancillary offices	1952 sq.m	0.52

- 6.5 **Core Output Indicator 1b** measures the amount of land developed for employment in employment or regeneration areas as defined in the local plan. The above completion was in an allocated employment area.
- 6.6 **Core Output indicator 1c** shows the amount of land developed for employment use which was on previously developed land. The Wilden development was on previously developed land.
- 6.7 **Core Output indicator 1d** shows the actual employment land supply for the whole district. The Worcestershire County Structure Plan 1996-2011 requires the provision of ‘about 45 hectares’ of land in the Wyre Forest District for employment uses within Classes B1, B2 and B8 between April 1996 and March 2011.

Figure 9



6.8 During 2005/06 the amount of land available for employment use increased by 0.91 Ha. In total, 13.9 Ha of employment land has been completed since 1996, with 4.69 Ha under construction as of 1st April 2006. The type of use for each of the allocated sites is shown in the table below.

Table 13 Type of Use for Allocated Employment Sites

Type of site	Type of unit	Area (Ha)
Sites under construction	B1/B2 unit	1.03
	13 B1/B2 units	2.84
	B1 unit (conversion)	0.02
	2 B1/B2/B8 units	0.11
	10 B8 (incl. B1) units	0.69
Adopted local plan sites	17 B1/B2/B8 units EMP.2	3.12
	15 B1 units EMP.4	0.91
	B1/B2/B8 units EMP.1	5.63
	Lea Castle Hospital	6.0
	British Sugar Factory	12.0
Rushock Trading Estate sites	Outline p.p for B1/B2/B8 units on 5 plots	4.18
	Plot 6d lapsed permission	0.19
Other sites with outstanding planning permission	B1 use only on 2 sites	0.23
	B1/B2 uses on 3 sites	0.41
	B1/B8 uses on 1 site	0.07
	B1/B2/B8 uses on 5 sites	8.42
Other sites in areas allocated for B class uses	8 sites B1/B2/B8 uses	2.93

Table 14 Employment Land Availability Changes Over Time

Date	Completions Since April 1 st 1996	Under Construct-ion	Local Plan Sites	Unimplemented Planning permissions	Other	Total	Structure Plan Requirement
At 1 st April 2002	12.28	1.03	5.38	10.96	6.86	36.51	About 45 Ha
At 1 st April 2003	13.19	3.87	5.17	8.12	6.86	37.21	About 45 Ha
At 1 st April 2004	13.22	3.91	27.32*	9.08	8.33	61.86	About 45 Ha
At 1 st April 2005	13.38	3.89	27.32	9.36	7.82	61.77	About 45 Ha
At 1 st April 2006	13.9	4.69	27.66	9.13	7.3	62.68	About 45 Ha

Figures in Hectares

*excludes Phase II of British Sugar site

6.8 **Core Output indicator 1e** measures losses of employment land to other uses. During 2005/06 no sites were omitted from the Employment Land Availability schedule.

6.9 **Core Output indicator 1f** measures the amount of employment land lost to residential development. There were no residential completions during 2005/06 on land allocated for employment purposes in the District Local Plan.

Table 15 Summary of Output Indicators

Output Indicator	Ambition	Progress
1a	To increase uptake of employment sites	1952 sq.m floorspace completed 2005/06
1b	To increase uptake of employment sites in regeneration areas as defined in local plan	1952 sq.m completed in employment zone
1c	Maximise reuse of land and buildings	100% of 2005/06 completions on previously developed land
1d	Provide about 45 Ha for employment 1996-2011 as per Structure Plan	Employment Land Availability April 2005 showed total allocations of 62.68 Ha
1e	Minimal loss of employment land to other uses	No land lost to other uses during 2005/06
1f	Minimal loss of employment land to residential uses	No land zoned for employment lost to housing use in 2005/06.

Employment land supply in the District is sufficient but uptake has been very low.

CHAPTER 7 THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

THE LANDSCAPE

- 7.1 The natural environment is seen as one of the district's main assets. 57% of the District lies within the West Midlands Green Belt (land to the east of the River Severn). 45% is designated a Landscape Protection Area. In fact, all land outside of the urban areas is protected by one of these designations.
- 7.2 Two key objectives of the Adopted Local Plan are to retain the existing Green Belt boundary and prevent inappropriate development within it and to safeguard and enhance the District's landscape character and landmarks.

Table 16 Major Applications in the Green Belt 2005/06

ADDRESS	SIZE OF SITE (Ha)	SIZE OF DEVELOPMENT	PROPOSED USE	DECISION AT APRIL 2006	COMMENT IF GRANTED
West Midlands Safari Park (Rhinoceros House)	7.06	238 sq.m	Leisure	Approved	Extension to existing development
West Midlands Safari Park (drive-thru' tiger compound)	0.692		Leisure	Allowed on appeal	No reference to green belt policies by Inspector
Drakelow Tunnels, Kingsford Lane, Wolverley	14.09	387 sq.m	C2 residential institution	Application not determined	
Chaddesley Corbett, (rural exception scheme)	0.45	15 dwellings	Affordable housing	Application refused on highway grounds	
Yielding Tree Nurseries, Broome	0.68	6717 sq.m	Industrial – business units	Application not determined	
Rowberry's Nurseries, Lower Chaddesley Corbett	3.1	399 sq.m	Restaurant	Application not determined	

- 7.3 The above table shows that few 'major' applications are received in the Green Belt. Most are small-scale developments such as barn conversions, extensions and replacement dwellings. Green Belt policies were cited 298 times in 2005/06, 237 times as a reason for approval and 61 times as a reason for refusal. Landscape policies were cited 139 times as a reason for approval and 56 times as a reason for refusal. It must be remembered that several proposals never make it to committee as they are withdrawn beforehand if refusal seems likely.

NATURE CONSERVATION

7.3 The key aim of the Local Plan in relation to nature conservation is:

“to safeguard and enhance the distinctive natural environment of the District.”

7.4 6% of the district's land area is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. A variety of habitats are found locally including broadleaved mixed woodland, neutral grassland, acid grassland and heathland. The largest such designation is the Wyre Forest itself which straddles the county boundary with Shropshire. English Nature conducts a rolling six-year programme of site condition surveys. The results for those sites within the district are shown below.

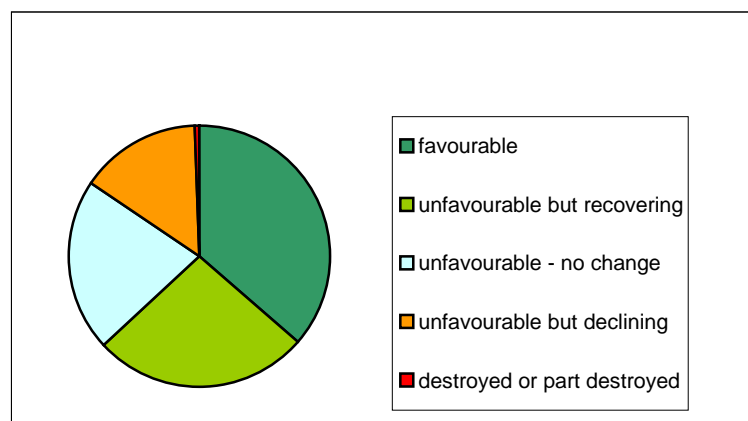
Table 17 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Name of site	Size in hectares	Condition(from English Nature surveys)
Areley Wood	16.95	Favourable
Bliss Gate Pastures	2.01	Favourable
Browns Close Meadow	2.67	Favourable
Buckeridge Meadow	2.59	Favourable
Devil's Spittleful	22.15 77.13	Unfavourable – no change Unfavourable but recovering
Dumbleton Dingle	1.49	Favourable
Eymore railway Cutting	0.22	Unfavourable , no change
Feckenham Forest	59.85	Mostly unfavourable but recovering
Hartlebury Common	0.77	Unfavourable - declining
Hurcott and Podmore Pools	14.89 6.76	Unfavourable Favourable
Hurcott Pasture	4.69	Unfavourable but recovering
Kinver Edge	9.65	Unfavourable but recovering
Puxton Marshes	7.66 5.27	Favourable Part destroyed where flood alleviation works have taken place
Ranters Bank pastures	2.18	Unfavourable but recovering
River Stour Floodplain	17.64	Favourable
Showground Meadow Callow Hill	0.83	Favourable
Stourvale marsh	9.28	Unfavourable – declining
Wilden Marsh	40.51	Unfavourable - declining
Wyre Forest	279.43 268.38 196.14 105.21	Favourable Unfavourable but recovering Unfavourable – no change Unfavourable – declining

7.5 During 2005/06, sites at Hurcott Pasture and Wyre Forest have been resurveyed. Hurcott Pasture has now moved from 'unfavourable-declining' to 'unfavourable-recovering'. Unfortunately, parts of the Wyre Forest have been found to be in a less favourable condition following re-survey. As a result of

this, only 63% of SSSIs by area were found to be in a 'favourable' or 'unfavourable but recovering' condition. This is slightly down on last year's figure of 67%. The Government has set a target of 95% of SSSIs by land area to be in favourable condition by 2010.

Figure 10 Condition of SSSIs in Wyre Forest District



- 7.7 There are also 8 local nature reserves in the district. The Council rangers have assessed these using the English Nature criteria. There have been mixed fortunes for the LNRs, for several reasons. A number of marshes have suffered from reduced water levels, possibly caused by low rainfall. Works have been undertaken at a number of sites, including Burlish Top (north of Stourport-on-Severn) where a new car park, interpretation boards and picnic areas have been provided. This has led to increased use and less anti-social behaviour. A heavy horses project has taken place in Habberley Valley to aid the clearance of felled trees. This has encouraged the growth of specific flora and improved invertebrate habitats. As a result of these changes, the percentage of Local Nature Reserves meeting Biodiversity Action Plan criteria has actually dropped from 51.5% to 36.9% in 2005/06. Conditions have declined at Redstone Marsh, but conditions at Burlish Top are improving all the time and should soon be in a favourable condition.

Table 18 Local Nature Reserves

Site	Size (Ha)	Habitat	Condition
Blake Marsh	4.33	Wet woodland / marsh	Unfavourable recovering
Burlish Top	38.90	Heathland	Unfavourable recovering
Habberley Valley	24.83	Ancient Woodland	Favourable
		Acid grassland	Unfavourable recovering
		Heathland	Unfavourable recovering
Half Crown Wood	5	Mixed woodland	Unfavourable recovering
		Meadow	Unfavourable declining
Hurcott Pool	41.03	Wet & mixed woodland	Unfavourable declining
Redstone Marsh	7.07	Marsh, wet grassland	Unfavourable declining

		Dry broadleaved woodland	Unfavourable no change
Spennells Valley	15.77	Wet woodland / marsh	Unfavourable recovering
		Dry acid woodland	Unfavourable declining
		Mixed woodland	Favourable
Vicarage Farm Heath	11.4	Heathland	Unfavourable no change

RIVERS AND FLOODPLAINS

- 7.8 The Rivers Severn and Stour are very important for nature conservation along with the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal to a lesser extent. Rivers, streams and canals provide wildlife corridor links between habitats. The natural flooding regime of major rivers sustains many important wetlands. The River Stour itself has been heavily polluted in the past due to industry but is now recovering. The associated wetlands around Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn are some of the best river valley marshlands in Worcestershire.
- 7.9 The rivers, although important for the flora and fauna they bring to the area, also bring the threat of widespread flooding to the district. A flood alleviation levee has recently been completed across Puxton Marshes. This will take excess water from the River Stour in times of flood thereby preventing flooding in Kidderminster town centre. The Environment Agency has been carrying out construction works in Bewdley to allow a demountable flood defence barrier to be put in place in times of flood. The final section of flood defences was finished in March 2006, although it was sufficiently completed to protect the quayside from flooding in November 2005.
- 7.10 **Core Output Indicator 7** monitors planning applications granted contrary to Environment Agency advice. This is a proxy measure of inappropriate development in the flood plain and development that adversely affects water quality. There were no such approvals in the District in 2005/06.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

- 7.11 The Adopted Local Plan contains no specific policy relating to renewable energy. Policy D.6, however, requires sustainable energy sources to be used, where practicable, including solar and wind energy, passive ventilation and the use of recyclable building materials. It was considered unnecessary to include a particular policy on renewable energy given the absence of any initiatives or proposals for renewable energy in the Wyre Forest. This will be considered further, in the light of latest guidance, as part of the Core Strategy.
- 7.12 **Core Output Indicator 9** measures renewable energy capacity installed by type. There have been no such installations in Wyre Forest during 2005/06. However, in recent months the authority has received a number of inquiries.

BROWNFIELD LAND

- 7.13 One of the Local Plan's main objectives is to make the best use of land by encouraging the reuse of previously developed or brownfield land and buildings. The local plan contains a number of brownfield sites where redevelopment is planned. Most of these are concentrated in the centre of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn and along the Stourport Road in Kidderminster. During 2005/06 residential development was completed on 9.6 Hectares (Local Output Indicator L5) with another 7.7 Hectares under construction. Initial decontamination work began on the Lichfield basin site in Stourport-on-Severn where planning permission has been given for the partial reinstatement of the canal basin and the construction of 141 new dwellings around the water's edge. (Site Res 7 in the Local Plan).

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

- 7.14 The three towns within Wyre Forest District are fortunate in having a number of parks and Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley also have extensive riverside parks alongside the River Severn. Core Output Indicator 4c measures the amount and percentage of total open space managed to Green Flag Award standards. The Green Flag Award is a marker of good quality management and parks are judged on 8 criteria – environmental protection, management, community involvement, consultation, sustainability, safety, cleanliness and accessibility.
- 7.15 A management plan has been produced for Brinton Park, Kidderminster. Self-assessment shows that it is not yet at the standard for a Green Flag award. Broadwaters Park, also in Kidderminster, has been awarded a Green Pennant for the second year running. This is the equivalent of a green flag for open spaces managed by voluntary groups.
- 7.16 Until a detailed open space audit is conducted, it will not be possible to give an accurate assessment of how many sites meet the criteria for a Green Flag. An open space audit will be completed during 2006/07 and the findings will be summarised in the next Annual Monitoring Report.

CONSERVATION AREAS

- 7.17 There are sixteen Conservation Areas in Wyre Forest District. Three in the urban areas, seven in the rural areas and one encompassing the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal and its immediate environment which runs through urban and rural areas including parts of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn town centres.
- 7.18 Conserving and enhancing the quality of the environment is a key element in the achievement of sustainable development. A high quality built, natural and historic environment will help to attract and retain investment and contribute to the quality of life of residents and visitors. Improving the quality of the environment in Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn town centres will discourage out-migration to the rural areas and encourage people to take up residence in the town centre redevelopment schemes.

- 7.19 The following table shows the distribution of Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings between the 3 towns and the rural areas. The number of statutorily listed buildings is an approximate figure as List Entries often refer to more than one building or structure.

Table 19 Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings

Location	Number of Conservation Areas	Number of Listed Buildings	Number of Locally Listed Buildings
Kidderminster	3 (1)	99	432
Stourport-on-Severn	4 ((3)	144	0
Bewdley	1 (1)	460	0
Rural areas	7 (1)	226	0

Note: the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area extends throughout the District from Cookley via Kidderminster to Stourport-on-Severn.
Numbers in brackets refer to the number of conservation areas with character appraisals

- 7.20 During 2005/06 work was undertaken on a Character Appraisal for Chaddesley Corbett Conservation Area, a small rural hamlet situated just off the Kidderminster to Bromsgrove Road. This was adopted in September 2005. Work also began on a Character Appraisal for the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal during the year.

THE LOCAL LIST

- 7.21 In the Local Plan, the Council stated its intention to draw up a list of locally listed buildings. A Local List for Kidderminster was approved in 2004 following consultation as to which buildings and structures should be included. A Locally Listed Building is one that has been recognised by the District Council as being of local interest, either for historical associations, or for its architectural style. Entries range from large houses to entire terraces, as well as public houses, offices and shops, chapels, walls and viaducts. Any works requiring planning permission will need to be sympathetic to protect the character and appearance of the building or structure. During 2005/06, a draft local list for Stourport-on-Severn was drawn up and consultation was undertaken in early 2006. Those listed include structures connected with the canal, ginnels and lamp-posts, as well as lodges and walls of large estates. Work is expected to start on a local list of buildings in Bewdley during 2006/07.

BUILDINGS AT RISK

- 7.22 A Buildings at Risk survey of statutorily listed buildings in the district was undertaken during 2005/06. This follows on from surveys undertaken in 1990 and 1996/97. Most buildings and structures have now been surveyed and a detailed analysis will be available for the next Annual Monitoring Report. The Piano Building (part of the Weavers Wharf development) is currently being converted into retail units with residential apartments above.

Table 20 SUMMARY OF OUTPUT INDICATORS

Output Indicator	Ambition	Progress
4c – amount and percentage of total open space managed to Green Flag Award standards	To improve the standard of local parks	Broadwaters Park awarded Green Pennant for second year running
7 – number of planning permissions granted contrary to EA advice	To minimise inappropriate development in the floodplain	No permissions granted contrary to EA advice in 2005/06
8 (i) change in priority species and habitats (ii) change in areas designated for intrinsic environmental value	To promote creation of appropriate new habitats	(i) No data available (ii) No new designations during 2005/06.
9 – renewable energy capacity installed	To encourage a shift towards renewable energy resources	No renewable energy installed in 2005/06
L4 - % Local Nature Reserves meeting Biodiversity Action Plan criteria	To safeguard and enhance indigenous biodiversity	Decreased from 51.5% in 2004/05/4 to 36.9% in 2005/06.
L5 – Ha of brownfield land redeveloped	To make the best use of land	9.6 Ha redeveloped for housing; 7.6 Ha under construction at 1 st April 2006
L6 – number of character appraisals prepared	To preserve and enhance conservation areas and listed buildings	Character Appraisal for Chaddesley Corbett completed September 2005. Work started on Staffs. & Worcs. Canal appraisal.
L7 – Number of buildings and structures added to Local Lists		Draft local List for Stourport drawn up. Includes approximately 270 buildings and structures (175 entries)

CHAPTER 8 TRANSPORT

Policies and Objectives

- 8.1 The key aim of the local plan in relation to transport is

“to reduce the need to travel, particularly by car, and to promote other ways of travelling.”

As stated in the housing chapter, locating as much development as possible within the town centres will help to reduce reliance on the private car and encourage greater use of public transport.

Rail

- 8.2 Kidderminster is served by Network Rail with direct services to Worcester, Stourbridge, Birmingham and London. There is also a small station at Blakedown on the Kidderminster-Stourbridge line. The service is well used with heavy use at peak periods. Kidderminster is also the terminus for the Severn Valley Railway, a restored steam railway that runs to Bridgnorth via Bewdley.

Cycling

- 8.3 The Wyre Forest Cycle Strategy was adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance in 2002. This sets out proposals for cycle routes within the district together with improvements to cycling infrastructure. Part of the Sustrans National Cycle Network passes through the district using the towpath of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. A link route from the Bewdley Bypass to the Stourport Road Employment Corridor in Kidderminster and canal was completed during 2005/06. This passes through Burlish Top Local Nature Reserve and Chestnut Wood. Plans are also been approved for a shared use path to link the Broadwaters area of Kidderminster via Springfield Park and the Stack Pool to Kidderminster town centre. Another cycle path through Brinton Park in Kidderminster to connect the Foley Park area with the town centre is also being planned. Policy TR.6 of the Adopted Local Plan promotes the provision of cycling infrastructure in all major new developments.

Buses

- 8.4 A Bus Quality Partnership has been established covering the Wyre Forest area. A key objective of the Connecting Wyre rural Bus Challenge Project is to provide later evening buses connecting Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn. These were reintroduced in June 2005. The District Council also operates a small park-and-ride scheme into Kidderminster town centre from Stadium Close on Hoo Road.

Air Quality Management Areas

- 8.5 Two out of Worcestershire's three air quality management areas are in the Wyre Forest at Welch Gate in Bewdley and Horsefair in Kidderminster. Both

these sites are major traffic bottlenecks and the poor air quality is directly attributable to the build up of traffic fumes in the narrow streets.

Core Output Indicators

- 8.6 There are two Core Output Indicators that relate to transport, 3a and 3b. **Indicator 3a** looks at the number of completed non-residential schemes which comply with parking standards. The only non-residential completions were for B2 industrial with ancillary B1 offices as outlined in the following table. This complied with the Local Plan parking standard of providing 1 parking space per 50 sq.m of floorspace for B2 use and 1 parking space per 25 sq.m of floorspace for B1 use.

Table 21 Parking at Completed Non-residential Schemes

Location	Development	Floorspace	No. of parking spaces
Polyplas Ltd. Wilden Industrial Estate	B2 industrial unit	1728 sq.m	35
Polyplas Ltd. Wilden Industrial Estate	Ancillary B1 use with above unit	224 sq.m	9

- 8.7 Easy access to employment, health, education, leisure and retail services is important for all sectors of society. The transport network should be able to offer all sections of the population opportunities to travel. This can be achieved by ensuring that new developments are easy to reach and there is adequate investment in the transport network. The County Council has undertaken accessibility mapping using Accession software.
- 8.8 **Indicator 3b** compares the number of completed residential schemes within 30 minutes public transport time (or walking time) of certain key basic services such as a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment centre and a major retail centre. All housing completions during 2005/06 have been plotted along with the bus routes operating at November 2005. The locations of Kidderminster Hospital, GP surgeries, first schools, and secondary schools have been plotted. From this, it has been possible to work out which of the housing sites are within 30 minutes travel time by public transport.
- 8.9 Those sites falling within the 2 top zones (most accessible or above average accessibility) are within 30 minutes' travelling time of the above services. The map overleaf shows that 369 units or 96% of dwellings completed during 2005/06 fell within 30 minutes travelling time by public transport of basic services.

Local Output Indicators

- 8.10 Policy TR.6 Cycling Infrastructure seeks to improve and protect cycling infrastructure within the District through ensuring that all new major developments include cycle facilities in their proposals. A number of local output indicators have been drawn up which monitor cycling facilities in the district.

- 8.11 There was one housing scheme and one employment scheme under construction in 2005/06 which included cycle parking facilities. These are required as part of the Worcestershire County Council parking standards for all major developments. Capacity for 6 bicycles is a minimum requirement. Local Output Indicator **L8** measures the number of developments under construction which provide facilities for cyclists.

Table 22 New Developments Incorporating Cycling Facilities

Location	Type of Provision
10 industrial units, Foley Business Park, Stourport Road, Kidderminster	Cycle parking for 10 bikes
8 dwellings at Bewdley Service Station, Kidderminster Road, Bewdley	Cycle parking for 6 bikes

- 8.12 Policy IMP of the Adopted Local Plan sets the background for the use of planning obligations to provide for related environmental works, infrastructure, community facilities and services. The transportation policies within the Local Plan set out the requirements for developer funding towards walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure in appropriate circumstances.

- 8.13 During 2005/06 funding for a sustainable transport project was received via a Section 106 Agreement from one development scheme.

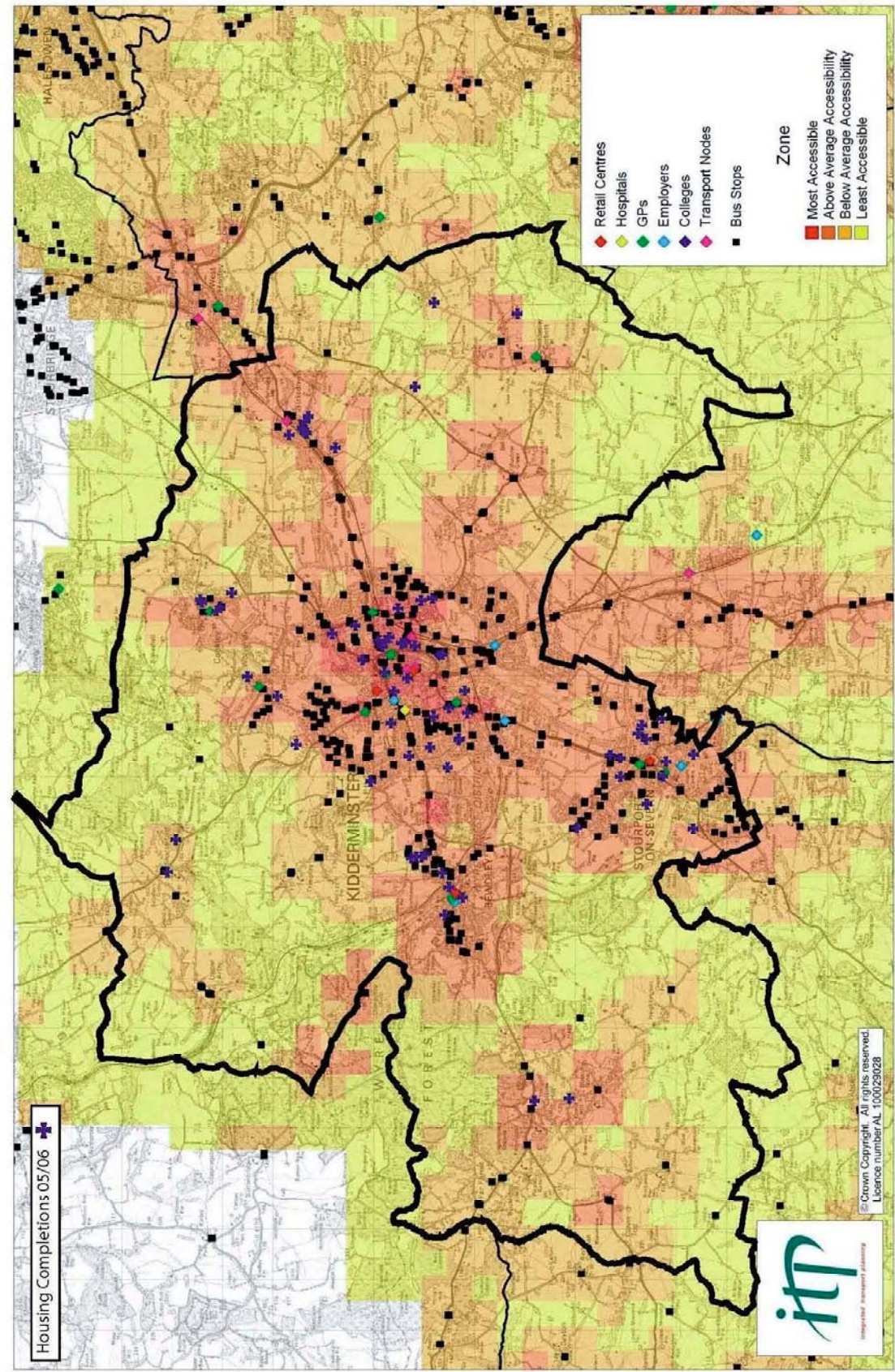
Table 23 S.106 Agreements relating to Sustainable Transport

Application Site	Amount	Contribution towards
Station Hill Service Station, Comberton Hill, Kidderminster	£4,500	Cycle route

Table 24 Summary of Output Indicators

Output indicator	Ambition	Progress
3a – Amount of completed non-residential development complying with car parking standards	To apply parking standards as maxima as set out in PPG.13	100% of non-residential completions complied with parking standards
3b – Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of: GP surgery Kidderminster Hospital A primary school A secondary school Areas of employment A major retail centre	To locate new residential development within accessible locations for public transport	369 dwellings or 96% within 30 minutes travelling time by public transport
L8 – number of developments under construction providing cycle parking	To encourage less reliance on the private car	2

Figure 11: Accessibility Map of Housing Completions 2005/06



CHAPTER 9 RETAIL AND TOWN CENTRES

Wyre Forest Retail Hierarchy

Major County Centre - Kidderminster

Town Centre - Stourport-on-Severn

District Centre - Bewdley

Local Centres – Various (17 in Total)

9.1 The Retailing section of the Adopted Local Plan sets out the Council's approach and policies towards the District's retail offer. The Strategy aims to:

- Sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of existing designated centres within the district by focusing new development within those centres wherever possible;
- Provide opportunities to improve the range and variety of shopping facilities;
- Conserve and enhance the special character of the shopping environments of Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley centres and;
- Reduce the need to travel.

Policy PA.11 of the Regional Spatial Strategy provides the basis for the regional hierarchy and the polycentric network of 25 regional centres (including Kidderminster)

9.2 Total retail floorspace has remained relatively constant throughout the year. There are currently developments under construction in Kidderminster (Piano Building at Weavers Wharf) that will increase floorspace by about 2,700 sq.m. There have been no new retail developments completed in 2005/06.

9.3 Further details can be found in the Wyre Forest District Retail Monitoring Report April 2006.

Leisure Development

9.4 One of the key objectives of the Local Plan is to promote the evening economy to complement the retail function of the town centres. The continued mixed-use of former factory premises in Green Street, Kidderminster (Policy KTC.4) has continued with the introduction of a small warehouse cinema which opened in April. Proposals for the redevelopment of the KTC.3 site on Worcester Street are currently being drawn up. This is likely to be a mixed residential, retail and leisure scheme, with the potential for a multiplex cinema and bowling alley.

Office Development

9.5 During 2005/06 there were 8 approvals for offices (use class A2 or B1). These were mostly for change of use to A2 financial services. 6 of these approvals are for sites in Kidderminster or Stourport-on-Severn town centres and one lies within the Comberton Hill local centre. The only out-of-town development is the approval for 15 B1 units on the Sandy Lane Industrial Estate in Stourport-on-Severn.

Residential uses in Town Centres

- 9.6 Policy TC.2 aims to encourage the use of upper floors of town centre buildings for residential use. During 2005/06 there was only 1 residential conversion completed in Kidderminster town centre. Policy H.5 states that within Kidderminster Town Centre a density of 70 dwellings per hectare should be achieved. This conversion achieved a density of 100 dwellings per hectare. Four flats were also created using the upper floors of shops in Comberton Hill Local Centre (Kidderminster) and Stourport town centre. A total of 35 residential units were being created from conversions of town centre buildings at the end of March 2006. Planning permission had been granted for conversions to 63 more residential units with 35 approved in a town centre redevelopment scheme.

Table 25 Core Output Indicators for Local Services

Output indicator	Ambition	Progress
4a – completed retail development	Concentrate new retail development in Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn town centres	0 Ha completed in 2005/06
4a – completed office development	Concentrate new office development in or adjacent to town centres	0 Ha completed in 2005/06
4a – completed leisure development	Promote town centre sites as preferred locations for commercial leisure development	0.15 Ha completed in 2005/06
4b – percentage of 4a in town centres	Promote town centre sites as preferred locations for retail, commercial, commercial-leisure and mixed use development	100% completed in town centres in 2005/06

CHAPTER 10 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

10.1 The following table shows the frequency at which local plan policies were cited as reasons for approval or refusal of planning applications during 2005/06. Certain policies have extremely high usage especially some of the design policies, whilst others have not been used at all. This is probably simply because no relevant planning applications were received and not because the policies are no longer relevant. This is particularly the case with site specific policies.

Policy	Total Usage	No. Used for Approval	No. Used for Refusal
HOUSING			
H1 Housing Provision	3	2	1
H2 Residential Locations	113	80	33
H3 Phased Release of Proposed Housing Sites	0	0	0
H4 Housing Developments: Dwelling Mix	6	4	2
H5 Housing Density	29	20	9
H6 Backland Development	19	14	5
H7 Sub-division of Existing Dwellings	3	3	0
H8 Non Residential Development in Residential Areas	12	10	2
H9 Other Provision for Housing	17	11	6
H10 Affordable Housing	10	8	2
H11 Affordable Housing Exception Schemes in Rural Areas	2	1	1
H12 Houses in Multiple Occupancy	0	0	0
H13 Residential Homes	0	0	0
H14 Gypsy Sites - Existing Provision	1	1	0
H15 Gypsy Sites - Future Provision	0	0	0
H16 Residential Caravans and Mobile Homes	2	2	0
H17 Residential Moorings: Staffs. & Worcs. Canal	0	0	0
H18 Accommodation for Dependants	6	4	2
TOTAL	223	160	63
EMPLOYMENT			
E1 Employment Land Provision	8	8	0
E2 Employment Development Proposals	24	22	2
E3 British Sugar Factory	0	0	0
E4 Lea Castle Hospital	0	0	0
E5 Rushock Trading Estate	0	0	0
E6 Areas Allocated for Mixed Uses	1	1	0
E7 Development involving Hazardous or Dangerous Substances	2	2	0
E8 Employment Development in the Rural Area outside the Green Belt	1	1	0
E9 Employment Development in the Green Belt	2	2	0
E10 Business Development Outside Allocated Areas	7	7	0
TOTAL	45	43	2
DESIGN			
D1 Design Quality	667	568	99
D2 Tall Residential and Commercial Buildings	10	7	3
D3 Local Distinctiveness	512	425	87

D4	Design (existing trees)	76	58	18
D5	Design of Development in the Countryside	74	56	18
D6	Safeguarding of Resources by Design	2	2	0
D7	Sustainable Drainage	7	6	1
D8	Designing for Materials Recycling	0	0	0
D9	Design for Movement	15	10	5
D10	Boundary Treatment	106	76	30
D11	Design of Landscaping Schemes	69	56	13
D12	Public Art	0	0	0
D13	Design of Private and Communal Amenity Spaces	25	17	8
D14	Street Furniture	1	1	0
D15	Car Park Design	19	17	2
D16	Design for Community Safety	7	6	1
D17	Design of Residential Extensions	463	417	46
D18	Design of Non Residential Extensions	48	39	9
D19	Designing for Adaptability	2	2	0
TOTAL		2101	1763	338

Advertisements

AD1	Local Character, Amenity & Safety	31	27	4
AD2	Built Heritage	14	10	4
AD3	Advertisement Hoardings	2	2	0
AD4	Shared Signs	0	0	0
AD5	Advance Warning Signs	0	0	0
AD6	Free Standing Signs	5	4	1
TOTAL		52	43	9

NATURAL RESOURCES

NR1	Development of Greenfield Land	4	3	1
NR2	Contaminated Land	9	8	1
NR3	Development Adjacent to Landfill Sites	1	1	0
NR4	Land Stability	4	3	1
NR5	Floodplains	28	26	2
NR6	Development adjacent to Watercourses	4	2	2
NR7	Groundwater Resources	16	14	2
NR8	Water Supply	12	9	3
NR9	Sewage Disposal	36	30	6
NR10	Air Quality	16	13	3
NR11	Noise Pollution	38	31	7
NR12	Light Pollution	6	6	0
NR13	Development adjacent to High Voltage Overhead Power Lines	0	0	0
NR14	Development adjacent to Hazardous Establishments	1	1	0
NR15	Recycling Facilities	0	0	0
TOTAL		125	147	28

COUNTRYSIDE

LA.1	Landscape Character	72	51	21
LA.2	Landscape Protection Area	106	78	28
LA.3	The Severn Valley	1	1	0
LA.4	The Stour Valley	0	0	0
LA.5	Streams and Pools Systems East of Kidderminster	0	0	0
LA.6	Landscape Features	11	6	5
LA.7	Landscape Impact of Highway Works	2	1	1
LA.8	Landscape Impact of Strategic Road Proposals	1	0	1
LA.9	New Trees and Woodlands	2	2	0

		TOTAL	195	139	56
Greenbelt					
GB.1	Control of Development in the Green Belt		131	100	31
GB.2	Development in the Green Belt		83	72	11
GB.3	Outdoor Sport and Recreation		11	9	2
GB.4	Major Developed Sites in the Green Belt		0	0	0
GB.5	Re-Use of Existing Industrial Premises in the Green Belt		1	0	1
GB.6	Protection of Visual Amenity		72	56	16
		TOTAL	298	237	61
Areas of Development Restraint					
DR1	Areas of Development Restraint		0	0	0
		TOTAL	0	0	0
Agriculture					
AG.1	Agricultural Land Quality		2	1	1
AG.2	Agricultural and Forestry Workers' Dwellings		0	0	0
AG.3	Agricultural and Forestry Workers' Dwellings – Removal of Conditions		0	0	0
AG.4	New Agricultural Buildings		5	4	1
AG.5	Intensive Livestock Units		1	1	0
AG.6	Development Adjacent to Livestock Units		0	0	0
AG.7	Farm Shops		0	0	0
AG.8	Farm Diversification		3	3	0
		TOTAL	11	9	2
Re-Use and Adaptation of Rural Buildings					
RB.1	Re-use and Adaptation of Rural Buildings – Conversion Criteria		29	18	11
RB.2	Re-use and Adaptation of Rural Buildings – Appropriate Uses		15	13	2
RB.3	Re-use and Adaptation of Rural Buildings – Impact of Existing Uses		12	11	1
RB.4	Re-use and Adaptation of Rural Buildings – Operational Space		14	12	2
RB.5	Re-use and Adaptation of Rural Buildings- – Extensions and Curtilage Buildings		15	11	4
RB.6	Provision for Protected Species		14	12	2
RB.7	Listed Buildings		12	9	3
		TOTAL	111	86	25
Chalets					
CH.1	Extensions and Improvements to Permanently Occupied Chalets		0	0	0
CH.2	Extensions to Holiday Chalets		1	1	0
CH.3	Change of Nature of Occupation		0	0	0
CH.4	Replacement		3	2	1
		TOTAL	11	9	2
Development involving Horses					
EQ.1	Development for Commercial Equestrian Activities		1	1	0
EQ.2	Stables and Field Shelters for Leisure Activities		6	3	3
EQ.3	Landscape Impact of Development Involving Horses		6	4	2
		TOTAL	13	8	5
HERITAGE					
Listed Buildings					
LB.1	Development Affecting a Listed Building		112	87	25
LB.2	Repairs, Alterations, Extensions and Conversions		111	89	22
LB.3	Fixtures and Fittings		54	43	11
LB.4	Parks and Gardens		4	4	0
LB.5	New Development Affecting the Setting of Listed Buildings		48	42	6
		TOTAL	329	265	64

Conservation Areas and Other Areas

CA.1	Development in Conservation Areas	87	70	17
CA.2	Demolition in Conservation Areas	10	7	3
CA.3	Shopfronts in Conservation Areas and in relation to Listed Buildings	11	8	3
CA.4	Trees and Hedgerows in Conservation Areas	6	5	1
CA.5	Highways Works in Conservation Areas	5	5	0
CA.6	Other Areas of Special Character or Appearance	7	5	2
	TOTAL	126	100	26

Archaeology

AR.1	Archaeological Sites of National Importance	0	0	0
AR.2	Archaeological Sites of Regional, County or Local Importance	2	2	0
AR.3	Archaeological Evaluations and Mitigation Measures	1	1	0
AR.4	Discovery of Archaeological Remains during Development	0	0	0
	TOTAL	3	3	0

Historic Landscapes

HL.1	Historic Landscapes	0	0	0
	TOTAL	0	0	0

Enabling Development

ED.1	Enabling Development	0	0	0
	TOTAL	0	0	0

Conservation, Enhancement, Management And Interpretation Of Heritage Assets

HA.1	Conservation, Enhancement, Management And Interpretation Of Heritage Assets	0	0	0
	TOTAL	0	0	0

NATURE CONSERVATION

NC.1	Areas of National Importance	4	3	1
NC.2	Areas of Regional, County or Local Importance	4	3	1
NC.3	Wildlife Corridors and Stepping Stones	4	4	0
NC.4	Protected Species	8	7	1
NC.5	Biodiversity	2	2	1
NC.6	Landscaping Schemes	6	4	2
NC.7	Ecological Surveys and Mitigation Plans	2	1	1
NC.8	Public Access	1	1	0
	TOTAL	32	25	7

TRANSPORT

TR.1	Bus Infrastructure	0	0	0
TR.2	Interchange Improvements at Kidderminster Railway Station	1	1	0
TR.3	Sustainable Transport Route	0	0	0
TR.4	Access to Rail Freight	0	0	0
TR.5	Lorry Route Network	1	1	0
TR.6	Cycling Infrastructure	2	2	0
TR.7	Provision for Pedestrians	6	5	1
TR.8	Highway Network	1	1	0
TR.9	Impacts of Development on the Highway Network	272	210	62
TR.10	Environmental Impact of Highway Works	6	6	0
TR.11	Developments Fronting Unmade Roads	0	0	0
TR.12	Area Wide Traffic Management Schemes	0	0	0
TR.13	The Horsefair, Kidderminster	2	0	2
TR.14	A449 and A451 Kidderminster – Wall Heath and Stourbridge	0	0	0
TR.15	Proposed Stourport Relief Road	0	0	0
TR.16	Environmental Impact of Major Road Schemes	0	0	0
TR.17	Car Parking Standards and Provision	230	184	46

TR.18	Transport Assessment of New Development	1	1	0
TR.19	Implementation of Travel Plans	3	1	2
TR.20	The Location of Telecommunications Equipment	2	1	1
	TOTAL	527	413	114

LEISURE RECREATION & TOURISM

Leisure and Recreation

LR.1	Parks, Public Open Spaces and Other Open Space Areas	8	7	1
LR.2	Amenity Space	2	1	1
LR.3	Children's Play Space	0	0	0
LR.4	Allotments	0	0	0
LR.5	Informal Countryside Facilities	0	0	0
LR.6	Stour Valley Country Park	2	1	1
LR.7	Hurcott Pool and Woods	0	0	0
LR.8	Public Rights of Way	15	7	8
LR.9	Outdoor Sports Pitches and Playing Fields	8	8	0
LR.10	Minster Road Outdoor Sports Area	0	0	0
LR.11	Noisy or Intrusive Sports	1	1	0
LR.12	Airborne Sports	1	1	0
LR.13	Water Sports	0	0	0
LR.14	Golf Courses and Related Developments	3	2	1
LR.15	Staff Accommodation for Golf Facilities	0	0	0
LR.16	Arts, Entertainment and Museum Facilities	0	0	0
LR.17	Commercial Leisure Developments	1	1	0
LR.18	Dual Use Developments	0	0	0
	TOTAL	41	29	12

Tourism

TM.1	Tourism Development	5	5	0
TM.2	Development of Hotels and Guest Houses	1	1	0
TM.3	Extensions to Hotels and Guest Houses in the Green Belt	1	1	0
TM.4	Conversions to Tourism Uses in the Green Belt	1	1	0
TM.5	New Holiday Caravan and Chalet Sites	0	0	0
TM.6	Improvement of Existing Holiday Caravan and Chalet Sites	1	1	0
TM.7	Farm Tourism	0	0	0
TM.8	The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal	0	0	0
TM.9	Stourport-on-Severn Tourist Information and Heritage Centre	0	0	0
	TOTAL	9	9	0

COMMUNITY

CY.1	Mixed Uses	1	1	0
CY.2	Community Facilities	9	7	2
CY.3	Kidderminster Hospital	0	0	0
CY.4	Education Facilities – Developer Contributions	8	7	1
CY.5	Existing Education Sites	7	7	0
CY.6	Cemeteries	0	0	0
	TOTAL	25	22	3

RETAILING

RT.1	Sequential Approach	2	2	0
RT.2	Primary Shopping Areas: Groundfloor Uses	11	11	0
RT.3	Bewdley District Centre	7	5	2
RT.4	Edge-of-Centre Retail Proposals	12	12	0
RT.5	Retail Parks and Major Stores	0	0	0
RT.6	Local Centres and Other Groups of Shops	8	6	2

RT.7	Small Shop Change of Use	2	2	0
RT.8	Outside the Identified Centres	2	2	0
RT.9	Petrol Filling Stations	1	1	0
RT.10	Demonstrating 'need' at the community level	0	0	0
RT.11	Factory Outlets and Tourism Shops	0	0	0
RT.12	Horticultural Retailing	0	0	0
RT.13	Food and Drink	7	7	0
TOTAL		52	48	4

TOWN CENTRES

TC.1	Town Centre Strategies	2	2	0
TC.2	Town Centre Uses	21	21	0
TC.3	Commercial Leisure Facilities	0	0	0
TC.4	Key Movement Corridors	0	0	0
TC.5	Town Centre Car Parking Areas	4	4	0
KTC.1	Town Centre Redevelopment Area	0	0	0
KTC.2	Bromsgrove Street	0	0	0
KTC.3	Worcester Street Enhancement Area	0	0	0
KTC.4	Green Street Mixed Use Area	6	6	0
STC.1	Lichfield Basin (Severn Road Phase One)	1	1	0
STC.2	Carpets of Worth (Severn Road Phase Two)	0	0	0
STC.3	Cheapside (Severn Road Phase Three)	0	0	0
STC.4	Bridge Street / Basins Link	0	0	0
STC.5	Canal Basins Area	1	1	0
STC.6	Vale Road (West)	0	0	0
TOTAL		35	35	0

IMPLEMENTATION

IMP.1		4	1	3
TOTAL		4	1	3

Source: WFDC Decisions determined from
1/04/2005-31/03/2006

Table 26 Most Frequently Used Policies in 2005/06

Policy No.	Policy Name	No. of times used
D.1	Design Quality	667
D.3	Local Distinctiveness	512
D.17	Design of Residential extensions	463
TR.9	Impacts of development on the Highway Network	272
TR.17	Car Parking Standards and Provision	230
GB.1	Control of Development in the Green Belt	131
H.2	Residential Locations	113
LB.1	Development Affecting a Listed Building	112

LB.2	Repairs, Alterations, Extensions and Conversions	111
D.10	Boundary Treatment	106
LA.2	Landscape Protection Area	106
CA.1	Development in Conservation Areas	87
GB.2	Development in the Green Belt	83
D.4	Design (existing trees)	76
D.5	Design of Development in the Countryside	74
GB.6	Protection of Visual Amenity	72
LA.1	Landscape Character	72
D.11	Design of Landscaping Schemes	69
LB.3	Fixtures and Fittings	54
D.18	Design of Non-Residential Extensions	48
LB.5	New Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building	48

- 10.2 64 policies were not used during 2005/06 to determine planning applications. Of these, 13 were leisure and tourism policies, 8 related to the countryside, 9 to town centres and 8 to transport issues. 18 of the unused policies were site specific ones that will come into play when planning applications for those particular sites are forthcoming. The council is currently considering which Local Plan policies it wishes to save beyond the 3 years saved period (ie. September 2007).
- 10.3 The District Council also receives large numbers of informal General Enquiries. It is not possible at present to identify the policies cited in response to such enquiries for monitoring purposes.

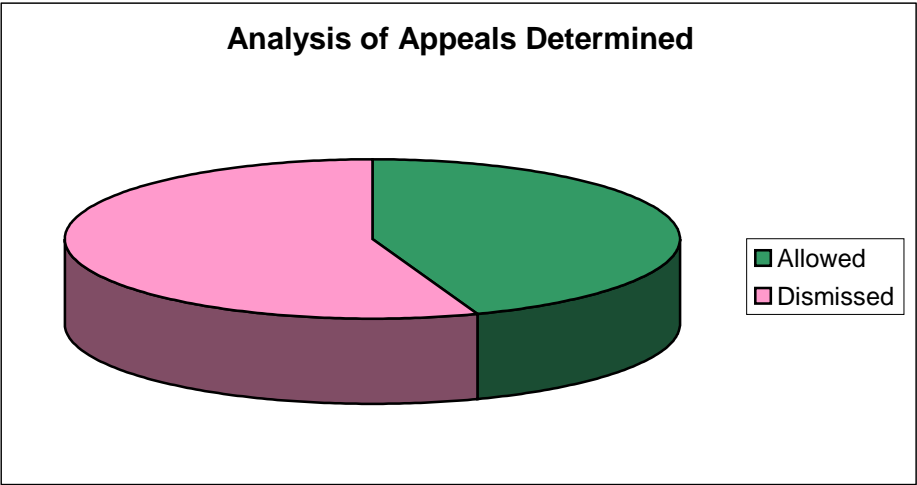
Appeals Determined 2005/06

- 10.4 A total of 45 planning appeals were determined during the financial year 2005/06. Of the 20 appeals allowed by the Planning Inspectorate, 6 were for residential development, 5 were householder applications and 4 were telecommunication developments. 5 applications were categorised as 'other' – including equestrian developments and the tiger compound at the Safari Park.

Table 27

	Total No. of Appeals	% of Total Appeals
Allowed	20	44
Dismissed	25	56
	45	

Figure 12



Departures

10.5 There has only been one departure approval during 2005/06 for the redevelopment of the former St.Ambrose Infants School site for housing.

APPENDIX 1

CORE OUTPUT INDICATORS

	Description of Indicator	LDF	RSS
	BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT		
1a	amount of floorspace developed for employment by type	✓	✓
1b	amount of 1a in employment or regeneration areas	✓	✓
1c	Amount and percentage of 1a which is on previously developed land	✓	✓
1d	employment land available by type	✓	✓
1e	losses of employment land in (i) employment / regeneration areas and (ii) Local Authority area	✓	✓
1f	amount of employment land lost to residential development	✓	
	HOUSING		
2a	Housing trajectory showing:		
	(i) net additional dwellings over the previous 5yr period or since the start of the relevant DPD period, whichever is the longer;	✓	✓
	(ii) net additional dwellings for the current year	✓	✓
	(iii) projected net additional dwellings up to the end of the relevant DPD period or over a ten year period from its adoption, whichever is the longer;	✓	✓
	(iv) the annual net additional dwelling requirement; and	✓	✓
	(v) annual average number of net additional dwellings needed to meet overall housing requirements, having regard to previous years' performances.	✓	✓
2b	percentage of new dwellings on previously developed land	✓	✓
2c	percentage of new dwellings completed at: (i) less than 30 dwellings per hectare (ii) 30 – 50 dwellings per hectare (iii) Above 50 dwellings per hectare	✓	✓
2d	Affordable housing completions	✓	✓
	TRANSPORT		
3a	Amount and percentage of completed non-residential development complying with car parking standards set out in the LDF	✓	✓
3b	Amount and percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of GP, hospital, primary school, secondary school, areas of employment and major retail centre.	✓	
	LOCAL SERVICES		
4a	Amount of completed retail office and leisure development	✓	✓
4b	Amount and percentage of completed retail office and leisure development in town centres	✓	✓
4c	Amount and percentage of eligible open spaces managed to green flag award standard	✓	

	FLOOD PROTECTION AND WATER QUALITY		
7	number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the EA on either flood defence grounds or water quality	✓	✓
	BIODIVERSITY		
8	change in areas and populations of biodiversity importance, including: (i) change in priority habitats and species (by type); and (ii) change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value including sites of international, national, regional or sub-regional significance	✓ ✓	✓ ✓
	RENEWABLE ENERGY		
9	Renewable energy capacity installed by type	✓	✓

Source West Midlands Regional Assembly
LDF – Local Development Framework
RSS – Regional Spatial Strategy

The above table shows the very high cross-over of requirement between local and regional monitoring. The Core Output Indicators were revised by ODPM in October 2005. (Local Development Framework Core Output Indicators Update 1/2005).

LOCAL OUTPUT INDICATORS

	Description of Indicator
	HOUSING
L1	% housing completions in Kidderminster or Stourport-on-Severn
L2	% completed units with 1 or 2 bedrooms
L3	Replacement dwelling ratio
	LOCAL ENVIRONMENT
L4	% Local Nature Reserves meeting Biodiversity Action Plan criteria
L5	Hectare of brownfield land redeveloped
L6	Number of character appraisals prepared
L7	Number of buildings and structures added to local lists
L8	Number of developments under construction providing cycle parking

APPENDIX 2**WYRE FOREST HOUSING TRAJECTORY DATA**

	Total actual completions (net of demolitions)	Total projected completions	Plan: annualised strategic allocation	Manage: annual requirement	Monitor: above or below cumulative allocation
2000/01	174				
2001/02	333		197		136
2002/03	271		197		210
2003/04	317		197		330
2004/05	506		197		639
2005/06	376		197		818
2006/07		250	197	-621	871
2007/08		200	122	-749	949
2008/09		200	122	-827	1027
2009/10		175	122	-905	1202
2010/11		175	122	-1080	1133

See Chapter 5 for housing trajectory graph.