

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2004/05
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local Development Scheme

- Came into effect 27/03/05
- Revised version came into effect 30/08/05
- Statement of community involvement submitted to Secretary of State 27/09/05
- Supplementary Planning Document on STC.4 Bridge Street, Stourport-on-Severn published September 2005.

Population and Census

- District population 96,970 (2001 Census)
- 3 towns – Kidderminster (55,182), Stourport-on-Severn (19,713), Bewdley (9,178)
- 2004 mid-year estimate 98,100; projected to fall to 95,500 by 2011; number of households expected to continue to rise with more 1-person households in particular
- Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 ranks areas on a scale of 1 to 32,482 with 1 being the most deprived. The Rifle Range area in Kidderminster is ranked 1,728 (16 on educational deprivation) and the Horsefair in Kidderminster 2,972.

Housing

- 520 dwellings completed in 2004/05; 9 retained in flat conversions; 14 demolished
- 86% were built on previously developed land (brownfield)
- 379 dwellings were in the course of construction at the end of 2004/05
- 22% of completions were at under 30 per hectare, 30% were at over 50 per hectare
- 58 affordable housing units completed 2004/05
- 62% of completions were 1-2 bedroom properties
- 88% of completions were in Kidderminster or Stourport-on-Severn
- Replacement ratio where houses have been demolished is 1:2.9
- Almost 40% of completions in Kidderminster were flats
- 67% of completions in Stourport-on-Severn were at the Timber Lane site
- 67% of completions in Bewdley were conversions
- Almost half the rural completions were barn conversions

Employment

- In 2003, 21% of jobs in the district were in manufacturing sector with carpets, ceramics and boat building dominant
- Unemployment in 2004/05 was around 2%
- Only 811 sq.m or 0.16 Ha was completed in 2004/05, all for B1 office uses
- All completions were on previously developed land
- Structure Plan requires 'about 45 Ha', current supply is 61.77 Ha
- 13.38 Ha completed since 1996
- no land zoned for employment in the local Plan has been lost to residential development

Local Environment

- 57% of District covered by West Midlands Green Belt
- 6% designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest – broadleaved mixed woodlands, neutral grassland, acid grassland, heathland and wetland
- 8 Local Nature Reserves including Half Crown Wood which was designated in December 2004
- No planning permission granted contrary to advice of Environment Agency
- Broadwaters Park in Kidderminster has a Green Pennant awarded by the Civic Trust
- Residential development was completed on 16 Ha of brownfield land in 2004/05
- Local List for Kidderminster approved October 2004
- SPGs on Design Quality and Shop-front Design Guidance within Historic Areas adopted end of June 2004

Transport

- Link cycle route from Bewdley to Stourport Road corridor via Burlish Top Nature Reserve under construction
- Rural Bus Challenge funding used to support local bus services
- Travel Plan for Kidderminster College being implemented
- All non-residential development completed 2004/05 has complied with adopted car parking standards
- Kidderminster rail station is second busiest in Worcestershire
- 2 of Worcestershire's 3 Air Quality Management Areas are in the District at Welch Gate in Bewdley and at Horsefair in Kidderminster

Retailing and Town Centres

- Kidderminster contains the majority of the retail floorspace (almost 70,000sq.m)
- Stourport-on-Severn contains about 20,000sq.m
- No new retail or leisure development since Weavers Wharf opened in March 2004
- Local Plan aims to encourage residential uses in town centres – 10 units completed in Kidderminster 2004/05, 19 have planning permission and 71 have approval subject to Section 106 agreements