



Tamworth Borough Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal

Post Consultation Scoping Report

Tamworth Borough Council

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

Glossary	
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	A systematic process required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive, aimed at appraising the social, environmental and economic effects of plan strategies and policies and ensuring that they accord with the objectives of sustainable development.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	A process required by EU Directive 2001/42/EC (known as the SEA Directive) and the SEA Regulations (Statutory Instrument No. 1633) for the formal assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	An assessment in accordance with the Habitats Regulations (The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (SI No. 2010/490)) to ascertain the significance of potential impacts of a plan on relevant European sites. The assessment determines whether the plan would adversely affect the integrity of the sites in terms of its nature conservation objectives. Where negative effects are identified, other options should be examined to avoid any potential for damaging effects.
In Combination Effects	Where policies, plans or projects effecting the same area might affect European sites in combination with each other.
Local Plan	The Local Plan forms part of the statutory development plan for the Borough and informs decisions on planning applications.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	First published in March 2012, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF is supported by the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). The NPPF was most recently updated in December 2024.
Policies Map	A map accompanying the Local Development Framework (LDF) showing areas of protection and identifying locations for land use and development proposals included in the adopted Development Plan Documents.
Green Belt	A designated area of open land around a city or urban area where development is restricted in order to limit urban sprawl, protect the natural environment, preserve the character of rural communities and encourage the regeneration of urban land (brownfield sites).
Circular Economy	A circular economy is a regenerative system in which resource input, waste, emissions, and energy leakage are minimized by slowing, closing, and



Glossary	
	narrowing material and energy loops. This is achieved through long-lasting design, maintenance, reuse, remanufacturing, refurbishment, recycling, and composting.



1.0 Introduction

Tamworth Borough Council is preparing a Local Plan, to manage the future development and growth of the area. It is intended that the plan will cover the period between 2022 and 2043.

The Tamworth Borough Council Local Plan (TBCLP) will replace the existing Tamworth Borough Council Local Plan 2006-2031 (adopted 2016)¹. The Local Plan will reflect relevant legislative requirements, as well as those of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)² and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)³.

The Tamworth Borough Council Local Plan will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) ([see section 1.2](#)). SLR Consulting Ltd will be working closely with the Council's planning policy team to address Stage A of the SA process.

This Scoping Report is the first output of the SA. The purpose of the scoping stage is to establish the scope and intended approach to the SA, so that the SA tests the sustainability of the Local Plan using relevant and up to date information.

This Scoping Report provides baseline information on the environmental, social, and economic characteristics of the plan area, including the likely evolution of the baseline position which would occur without the plan. The Scoping Report also sets out a methodology and framework for the assessment of the Local Plan and its alternatives, as well as identifies the potential significant effects that the assessment will need to focus on. It has been prepared for consultation with the statutory consultees⁴ and the key stakeholders (as follows) in order to agree the scope of the SA:

- Tamworth Borough Council Departments (climate change);
- Neighbouring authorities (Lichfield District Council and North Warwickshire Borough Council);
- Staffordshire County Council Departments (sustainable transport, public health, and education);
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust; and
- NHS Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board.

1.1 What is Sustainability?

International and national bodies have set out broad principles of sustainable development. Resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly⁵ defined

¹ Tamworth Borough Council Local Plan 2006-2031 [Pre-submission Local Plan for public consultation \(this document\)](#) (Accessed 24/07/2025)

² Department for Communities and Local Government, The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024 [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (Accessed 23/05/25)

³ National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance> (Accessed 23/05/25)

⁴ Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England

⁵ United Nations, General Assembly, Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987



sustainable development as '*meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*'.

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy Securing the Future⁶ sets out five 'guiding principles' of sustainable development:

- Living within the planet's environmental limits;
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- Achieving a sustainable economy;
- Promoting good governance; and
- Using sound science responsibly.

The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The whole of the NPPF constitutes the Government's view of what sustainable development in England means in practice for the planning system. The NPPF states the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across the different objectives)⁷:

- *An Economic Objective - to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;*
- *A Social Objective - to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and*
- *An Environmental Objective - to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.*

1.2 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

SA of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) is required under Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The SA must incorporate the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations). The SEA Regulations transpose the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) into English law and applies to a range of plans and programmes, including DPDs. The purpose of the SEA Directive is to ensure a high

⁶ The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy, Securing the Future, 2005

⁷ Department for Communities and Local Government, The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024 [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (Accessed 23/07/25)



level of environmental protection and to integrate the consideration of the environment into the preparation and adoption of plans, with a view to promoting sustainable development. Within the context of local planning in England, it is accepted practice to integrate the requirements of SA and SEA into a single assessment process as set out in the NPPG (updated 2020)⁸.

The purpose of SA is to appraise the environmental, social and economic effects of plans and programmes. The SA 'testing' of the DPD policies and their reasonable alternatives will help to develop the most sustainable policies and proposals as an integral part of the plan's development. Guidance for SA sets out an objectives-led, staged process. The Local Plan objectives, policies and development sites will be appraised against a set of SA objectives to identify whether there is the potential for significant effects (either positive or negative) and recommendations will be put forward to mitigate any significant negative or uncertain effects.

⁸ National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) [Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal) (Accessed 23/07/25)



2.0 The Tamworth Borough Council Local Plan

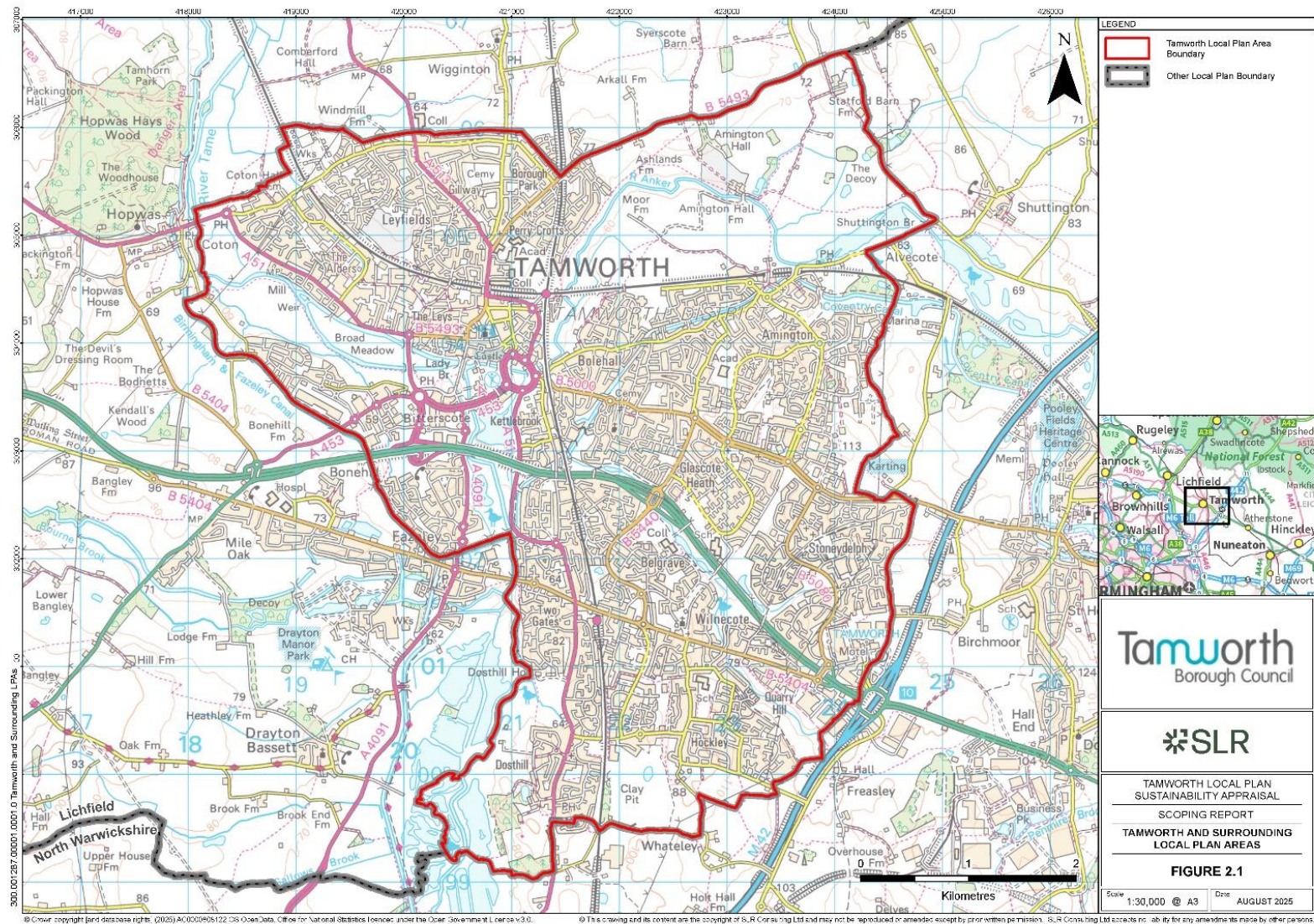
2.1 Tamworth Borough

Tamworth Borough is a large market town located in the south-eastern corner of the county of Staffordshire. It is one of ten Staffordshire authorities. The Borough falls within the West Midlands region and is one of 18 authorities that make up the West Midlands Combined Authority, of which Tamworth Borough is a non-constituent member. It is situated 18 miles to the northeast of Birmingham and borders the local authorities of Lichfield and North Warwickshire.

The Borough has a land area of approximately 31km², making it one of the smallest Boroughs in England, as highlighted in Figure 2-1. The Borough is also predominately urban with much of the Borough already being developed (in some instances up to the boundary), and greenfield land is limited.



Figure 2-1: Tamworth, and its surrounding Local Planning Authorities



2.2 Scope and Content of the Tamworth Borough Council Local Plan

The TBCLP will replace the existing Tamworth Borough Council Local Plan 2006-2031 (adopted 2016)⁹.

The TBCLP will form the development plan for the period 2022-2043. It will set out an overall vision, key objectives and a spatial strategy for the Borough and will include strategic policies accompanied by a range of detailed policies and proposals to support this.

One of the key requirements for producing a new Local Plan will be to identify sufficient land for housing, economic development and other uses to meet the identified needs of the Borough, whilst at the same time ensuring that such land can be readily brought forward for development, including to enable Tamworth Borough Council to demonstrate a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites. In addition, the plan will be expected to include policies to determine applications for development proposals; to ensure new/enhanced infrastructure is delivered (i.e. healthcare facilities, schools, community facilities) where appropriate; deliver affordable housing, encourage good design; protect and enhance the natural, built, and historic environment, as well as address the causes and impacts of climate change, with the ultimate aim for achieving sustainable development.

The current Local Plan includes a local housing requirement of 250 dwellings per annum, with 177 per annum to be delivered within Tamworth and the rest to be delivered within the neighbouring areas of Lichfield and North Warwickshire. The starting point for calculating housing need for the new Local Plan is the revised standard method introduced in December 2024, meaning that the new Local Plan will include a local housing requirement of 445 homes per annum. The annual housing need proposed is therefore greater than the average annual delivery rate over the past decades, as well as the availability of land. Tamworth Borough Council has raised concerns that there may be a potential need to release Green Belt for development, or to export housing need to neighbouring authorities through the duty to co-operate process, in order to meet this target.

⁹ Tamworth Borough Council Local Plan 2006-2031 [Pre-submission Local Plan for public consultation \(this document\)](#) (Accessed 24/07/2025)



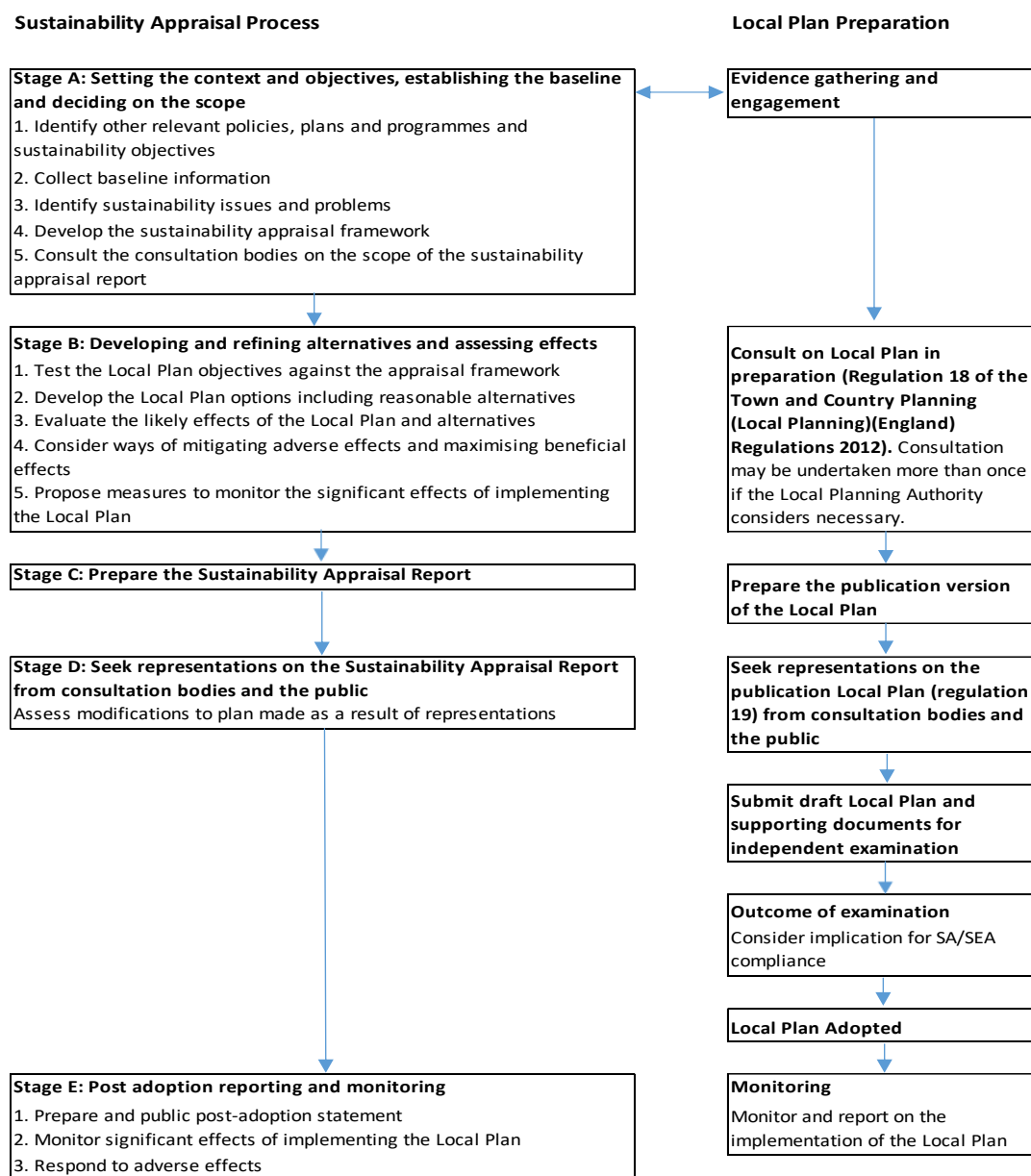
3.0 Approach to the SA

3.1 SA Process and Requirements for Scoping

The SA process is presented in

Figure 3-1 and is based on guidance set out in Planning Practice guidance for SEA and SA. As shown in

Figure 3-1, the SA and plan making processes will occur in tandem, with clear



points of feedback between the two processes. Plan making is iterative; thus the SA will also be an iterative process.



Figure 3-1: Sustainability Appraisal Process¹⁰

This Scoping Report is a part of Stage A of the SA process (scoping) and fulfils the requirements to¹¹:

- Identify environmental, social and economic issues and objectives contained in other strategies, plans and programmes that are relevant to the Local Plan area;
- Provide baseline information on the environmental, social, economic health and equality characteristics of the area; and
- Outline an appropriate framework for carrying out the SA, including objectives and indicators, against which the effect of the plan options and policies will be appraised, mitigated and monitored.

Stage A of the SA process is carried out in conjunction with evidence gathering and engagement in the Local Plan preparation process.

The requirements of the SEA Regulations¹² with regards to scoping are as follows:

- *“when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the [environmental] report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies.” (Part 3, Paragraph 5); and*
- *“where a consultation body wishes to respond to a consultation under paragraph (5), it shall do so within the period of 5 weeks beginning with the date on which it receives the responsible authority’s invitation to engage in the consultation.” (Part 3, Paragraph 6).*

These requirements will be met through the consultation on this report.

Scoping Methodology

The following text sets out the approach taken to complete the Stage A tasks outlined in **Figure 3-1**.

¹⁰ *Adapted from Planning Practice Guidance: Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal [sea1_013.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

¹¹ Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal [Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal - GOV.UK](#) (Accessed 25/05/25)

¹² The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (SEA) Regulations 2004 [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#) (Accessed 25/05/25)



Task A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives

The legislative context in which the Local Plan is being prepared can best be understood through a review of related policies, plans, and programmes (PPP).

The SEA Regulations require information on:

- *“an outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes” (Schedule 2, Paragraph 1); and*
- *“the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation” (Schedule 2, Paragraph 5).*

The review process ensures that the new Local Plan complies with existing PPP at international, national and regional levels of governance and also reinforces and supports local plans and strategies. The process entails identifying and reviewing those PPP and environmental protection objectives that are directly relevant to the Local Plan (focusing on social, economic, health and equalities matters). Carrying out this review at an early stage of plan development allows for any inconsistencies or constraints within the new Local Plan to be addressed. It also provides the context for the SA and informs the development of the SA framework (see Chapter 17 of this report).

For practical reasons, the scoping task of identifying related PPP cannot yield an exhaustive or definitive list of legislative/non-legislative documents. The review has been focused to ensure that only policies that are current and have direct relevance to the Local Plan are reviewed. In some cases, where lower-level plans include the objectives set out at a national or international level, then the national and international plans have not been included.

An outline of relevant PPP and their objectives is provided in Appendix A and a summary of the key messages / objectives is provided in Table 4-1 (see Chapter 4 of this report).

Task A2: Collecting baseline information

The SEA Regulations¹³ require a description of the following to be presented:

¹³ Schedule 2 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2004



- *“the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme” (Schedule 2, Paragraph 2);*
- *“the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected” (Schedule 2, Paragraph 3); and*
- *“the likely significant effects on the environment... on issues such as (a) biodiversity; (b) population; (c) human health; (d) fauna; (e) flora; (f) soil; (g) water; (h) air; (i) climatic factors; (j) material assets; (k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; (l) landscape” (Schedule 2, Paragraph 6).*

Baseline data enables a characterisation of the plan area to be developed, including the sensitivity of the environment. Gaining an understanding of this information allows the impacts of the plan to be assessed and its performance to be monitored after adoption. Baseline information can put the plan area into context in relation to a national or regional situation or in relation to adjacent areas.

It is therefore necessary to collect sufficient information about the current baseline state of Tamworth and to predict the future environmental and socio-economic trends to allow effects to be adequately predicted and monitored. The detailed baseline information has been compiled in a series of topics in line with published guidance¹⁴ to include comparators, targets, trends, and indicators.

The following twelve chapters (Chapters 5 to 16 of this report) set out the current data (including historic and future trends), the evolution of the baseline without the plan, key sustainability issues and data gaps for each topic. Data gaps identify information which is missing, limited or, for example, studies which are due to be updated or published in the future. Data has been collated from published sources available at the time of writing this Scoping Report. It is worth noting that whilst every effort has been made to collate all data of relevance, the data presented is not exhaustive due to time constraints.

Task A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems

Through consideration of the baseline data and the evolution of the baseline without the plan, a set of key sustainability issues have been identified at the end of each of the topic chapters.

Task A4: Developing the SA assessment framework

The preparation of this Scoping Report has culminated in the presentation of an SA Framework of objectives (in Chapter 17 of this report), against which the Local Plan

¹⁴ A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2005 ODPM ISBN 1851127887



and its reasonable alternatives will be tested. Further details of how the SA Framework has been developed can be found in Chapter 17 and in Appendix B.

Engagement on Tasks A1 to A4

During September 2025, a series of engagement interviews were conducted with key representatives from Tamworth Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council, and Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board in order to make the scoping exercise more informed and robust for use by Tamworth Borough Council.

The engagement covered a range of thematic areas including economic development and regeneration, health, education, transport, environmental health, climate change, ecology, and the historic environment. A one-hour virtual meeting was held with each group of stakeholders, during which we presented the current draft of the Scoping Report. This included an overview of the baseline data, identified sustainability issues, and any existing data gaps. Stakeholders were invited to provide feedback on the completeness and relevance of the information presented, including suggestions for any additional content or areas for expansion. We also sought their views on the draft SA framework to ensure it was robust and fit for purpose. Following this engagement, the Scoping Report was updated to incorporate additional baseline data and sustainability issues, which would not have been identified had the engagement not taken place. Minor amendments were also made to the language within the SA framework to make it more relevant to local issues. Information added to the Scoping Report from the engagement exercise is shown throughout the report in **red text**.

A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA

This Scoping Report for the new Tamworth Borough Council Local Plan was consulted on for a period of 5 weeks. Comments received on the Scoping Report were used to prepare a post-consultation version of the Scoping Report and to finalise the SA Framework and inform the next stages of the SA. Information added to the Scoping Report from the consultation exercise is shown throughout the report in underlined text.

3.2 Structure of this Report

The SEA Regulations set out topics which must be considered in a SEA and Table 3-1 demonstrates where these are covered by the topics adopted for this SA.

Table 3-1: Tamworth Borough New Local Plan SA Topics Compared with SEA Topics

SA Topics Adopted for this Assessment	SEA Regulations Topics Required to be Considered
Economy & Employment	Not required by SEA regulations



SA Topics Adopted for this Assessment	SEA Regulations Topics Required to be Considered
Population & Equalities	Population
Health	Human Health
Housing	Material Assets
Transport & Accessibility	Material Assets
Air, Noise & Light	Air
Climatic Factors	Climatic Factors
Biodiversity, Geodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Biodiversity, flora and fauna
Cultural Heritage	Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological
Landscape and Townscape	Landscape
Soils, Water & Minerals	Water Soil
Waste	Not required by SEA regulations

4.0 Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes

4.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the policy context in which the Tamworth Borough Local Plan is being prepared.

A detailed outline of the policy documents, the objectives and the targets reviewed is set out in Appendix A. Table 4-1 below outlines the key messages of the PPP.

The key messages provide a summary of the PPP review and have been used to inform an SA Framework of objectives and sub-objectives which will guide the subsequent appraisal process (see Chapter 17).

4.2 Summary of Key Messages

Table 4-1 sets out the key messages drawn from the review of PPP. The messages presented in Table 4-1 are reflected within the detailed proposed SA Framework which can be found in Appendix B. A simplified version of the proposed SA Framework can be found in Chapter 17 of this document.

Table 4-1: Key Messages of the PPP

SA Topic	Key Messages from Review
Economy and Employment	- Planning policies should set criteria for or identify strategic sites for local and inward investment and seek to address potential barriers to investment. - Planning policies should be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan, allowing for new and flexible working practices.



SA Topic	Key Messages from Review
	• Support economic growth and productivity across Tamworth, having regard to local policies for economic development and regeneration, particularly in Lower Gungate. • Encourage long term investment in economic capital, including infrastructure, skills and knowledge. • Promote a dynamic economy that encourages innovation and diversification. • Encourage the use of previously developed land. • Create jobs and prosperity. • Secure investment to deliver world class infrastructure and connectivity. • Provide a balanced mix of town centre uses across the Borough. • Regenerate Tamworth town centre and transform it into a vibrant centre. • Boost the visitor economy (including the tourism and nightlife economy).
Population and Equalities	• Ensure fair and equal access to services and support irrespective of race, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, socio-economic status or pregnancy/maternity. • Provide opportunities for members of the community to mix and meet. • Ensure an integrated approach to housing and community facilities and services. • Improve social mobility and reduce social exclusion. • Tackle poverty and inequality. • Reduce crime and help residents feel safe.
Health	• Planning policies should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places. • Improve accessibility to health services. • Improve public health and wellbeing by providing effective support for mental and physical health issues. • Connect people with nature. • Deliver high quality open spaces that meet the needs of local residents and are accessible to all. • Promote healthier lifestyles and reduce obesity. • Increase the proportion of people regularly exercising by prioritising active travel in the design of new development. • Support all residents to live independently.
Housing	• Meet future housing need. The NPPF requires local authorities to use their evidence base to ensure that their Local Plan meets the full, objectively assessed needs for market and affordable housing in the housing market area, and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development, as far as is consistent with the policies set out in the NPPF, including identifying key



SA Topic	Key Messages from Review
	sites which are critical to the delivery of the housing strategy over the plan period. • Ensure that housing growth requirements are accommodated in the most sustainable way. • Enable housing growth and deliver a mix of high-quality housing of varying size and tenure in order to meet local family housing needs. • Ensure there is an adequate number of affordable housing. • Reduce the number of empty homes. • Provide a mix of housing that will be attractive to older people and those with care needs, including new mixed tenure 'care ready' age designated housing. • Ensure there is an adequate supply of adapted households, specifically wheelchair user dwellings. • Reduce homelessness.
Transport and Accessibility	• Make the fullest possible use of public transport and active travel (walking and cycling); make cycling and walking a natural choice for shorter journeys. • Encourage sustainable transport and reduce the need to travel. • Create places that are safe, secure and attractive which minimise the scope for conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. • Contribute to tackling climate change by developing and promoting low carbon travel choices. • Support the move to low emission vehicles. • Have an integrated, well managed and inclusive rights of way and access network. • Local planning authorities should support the expansion of electronic vehicle networks.
Air, Noise & Light	• Ensure that air quality is maintained or enhanced and that emissions of air pollutants are kept to a minimum. • Reduce air pollution contributions by developing and promoting low-carbon travel choices. • Minimise pollution and other adverse effects on the local and natural environment. • Limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light, and noise pollution from development, on local amenity and nature conservation.
Climatic Factors	• Continue to cut greenhouse gas emissions in order to mitigate the climate emergency declared by Tamworth Borough Council. • Promote low carbon economies and adopt proactive strategies to mitigate carbon emissions in line with the Climate Change Act; achieve a 100% reduction by 2050. • Increase resilience to climate change impact through the location, mix and design of development.



SA Topic	Key Messages from Review
	• Reduce the need to travel and provide sustainable transport to help mitigate climate change by reducing emissions. • Support energy efficiency and other sustainability improvements (such as the re-use of buildings) in order to improve the resilience of homes and buildings to climate change. • Encourage the provision of renewable energy. • Include natural flood management (e.g. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) where possible to provide additional benefits to residents (such as biodiversity enhancement) compared to traditional hard engineered flood solutions. • Avoid development in areas of flood risk. • Improve flood awareness and emergency planning. • Support adaptive water resource management to respond to climate change and increasing demand. • Maximise the potential of Green Infrastructure in providing climate change mitigation.
Biodiversity, Geodiversity, Flora & Fauna	• Identify, protect and enhance biodiversity and ecological corridors, including international, national and local designated sites (statutory and non-statutory), protected and priority species, habitats and wildlife networks. • Minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity in line with NPPF and the Environment Act 2021. • Recognise the wider benefits of ecosystem services. • Biodiversity creation and enhancement in and around development should be designed at the landscape level and led by local understanding. • Maintain and restore priority habitats, including lowland wood-pasture and parkland, heathlands, wetlands, woodlands, rivers, and species-rich farmland, to ensure future resilience. • Create buffer zones around high-quality habitats. • Maximise the potential of Green Infrastructure within urban and rural areas to reduce the impact of climate change and act as stepping stones within the ecological networks. • Protect and enhance natural greenspace with regards to its cultural and public connection, and its accessibility. • Maintain and enhance geodiversity through the management of sites, areas and wider landscapes. • Increase recognition of our geodiversity in development policies. • Restore and enhance waterbodies to improve biodiversity. • Provide public education on biodiversity and the value of local habitats.
Cultural Heritage	• Conserve and enhance the significance of international, national and local designated and non-designated heritage assets, including locally significant historic buildings and heritage assets and their settings.



SA Topic	Key Messages from Review
	• Conserve and enhance historic character and local distinctiveness. • Improve the condition of heritage 'at risk' in the Borough. • Maintain and enhance access to cultural heritage assets. • Ensure development in or adjacent to Conservation Areas or Listed buildings (and their settings) respects their character and context and enhances the quality of the built environment. • Preserve and enhance the significance of Conservation Areas in Tamworth Borough. • Ensure that any alterations or repairs to traditional buildings preserve and where possible, improve the character and appearance of the building. • Promote the use of sustainable materials. • Protect the historic environment for the benefit of our own and future generations. • Maximise the economic and social impact of heritage and to ensure that current and future generations can enjoy and benefit from it.
Landscape and Townscape	• Maintain and enhance the overall quality and diversity of landscape character across the Borough. • Seek to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness. • Protect and enhance valued landscapes, biological and geological conservation interests and soils. • Recognise the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services. • Conserve and enhance the natural beauty of landscapes. • Seek to protect Green Belt across the Borough where possible.
Soils, Water & Minerals	• Sustainably manage soils. • Protect soil quality and avoid soil pollution, particularly during construction. • Encourage the use of previously developed (brownfield) land. • Remediate land contamination. • Prevent pollution of groundwater. • Ensure that water quality is improved or maintained where possible. • Ensure national and localised water quality and wastewater targets are met. • Promote the effective delivery of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure. • Improve water efficiency and minimise the amount of water lost through leakage. • Promote sustainable and water efficient development. • Promote the efficient supply and use of minerals.
Waste	• Ensure the design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management. • Manage waste in line with the waste hierarchy. • Meet national, regional and localised waste targets including those on landfill, reuse and recycling.



SA Topic	Key Messages from Review
	• Provide protection to the local environment and residents, whilst ensuring the provision of waste management facilities in accordance with Government policy and society's needs. • Encourage and support the Circular Economy where possible. • Promote the use of sustainable materials.



5.0 Economy and Employment

5.1 Baseline

5.1.1 Employment Rates

Within the Borough, 77.8% of the working population (16-64 years) was economically active between January 2024 and December 2024. This is slightly lower than the average across Staffordshire (80.2%), but similar to the average across the West Midlands (77.4%) and Great Britain (78.5%)¹⁵.

Unemployment rates within the Borough stood at 3.3% in 2023¹⁶, which is lower than the average for Great Britain (3.7%), but higher than Staffordshire (1.2%)¹⁷. As shown in Table 5-1, unemployment rates in Tamworth have fluctuated over time, but are currently the lowest they have been in recent years. Unemployment rates for Staffordshire and Great Britain follow similar patterns.

Table 5-1: Change in Unemployment Rates in Tamworth Over Time¹⁸

Year	Tamworth (%)	Staffordshire (%)	Great Britain (%)
2005	4.0	3.2	4.9
2008	5.3	4.4	5.7
2011	10.0	8.1	8.0
2014	4.3	4.7	6.2
2017	3.8	4.1	4.4
2020	4.7	5.3	4.7
2023	3.3	1.2	3.7

There is a significant proportion (22.4%) of working age residents in the Borough who are unemployed and have never worked. This figure is significantly higher than the national average, however, is not dissimilar to the figures for neighbouring authorities, such as North Warwickshire (21.2%) and Lichfield (18.5%)¹⁹.

As highlighted by [Section 6.1.2](#), Tamworth is expected to experience a large increase in resident age between 2021 and 2043 (a predicted increase of 73.7% within the 81 years and over age group), and minimal increases to the young,

¹⁵ Nomis: Labour Market Profile - Tamworth <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157180/report.aspx> (Accessed 29/09/2025)

¹⁶ ONS Labour Market Overview - Tamworth [Tamworth's employment, unemployment and economic inactivity - ONS](#) (Accessed 04/08/2025)

¹⁷ Varbes: Economy of Staffordshire [Staffordshire Economy | Labour Market & Industries](#) (Accessed 04/08/2025)

¹⁸ Nomis: Labour Market Profile - Tamworth [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) (Accessed 29/09/2025)

¹⁹ ONS Census Maps [Employment history - Census Maps, ONS](#) (Accessed 22/07/2025)



working age population (21-30 years). This will subsequently mean that a significant proportion of the population within the Borough will not be of working age.

5.1.2 Number of Jobs and Sectors of Employment

In 2022 there were a total of 29,400 jobs in Tamworth. Between 2017 and 2022, the total number of jobs in the Borough grew by 3%²⁰. The job density is therefore 0.65 jobs per working-age person²¹. This is lower than the average job density across Staffordshire (0.80) and Great Britain (0.88).

During 2024, a total of 1,688 enterprises in Tamworth posted 12,132 job vacancies. The median salary of these vacancies was £28,000²². This is lower than the regional and national averages (£33,003 and £35,106 respectively).

Tamworth has held a steady level of apprenticeships between 2017 and 2022, at approximately 550. The number of higher level apprenticeships has doubled during this time period however. The most common apprenticeships are within business, administration and law (31%), and health, public services and care (27%)²³.

The Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (2025) identifies a requirement for up to 1,900 new jobs in Tamworth by 2043, supported by a mix of manufacturing and logistics uses.

The leading sectors of employment for people living in Tamworth include:

- Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (23.3%);
- Manufacturing (13.3%);
- Administrative and support service activities (10.0%);
- Transportation and storage (7.5%);
- Education (6.7%);
- Human health and social work activities (5.8%);
- Professional, scientific and technical activities (5.8%);
- Construction (5.8%); and
- Accommodation and food services activities (5.8%).

5.1.3 Average Weekly Earnings

Average weekly earnings in 2024 for people who work full time in Tamworth were lower than the average in Staffordshire and across Great Britain, as shown in Table 5-2²⁴. They were also lower than in neighbouring authorities of Lichfield and North Warwickshire, suggesting that it is more economically advantageous to work outside

²⁰ [Tamworth Locality Profile 2024](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

²¹ [Appendix 2 Economic Development Strategy.pdf](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

²² [Appendix 2 Economic Development Strategy.pdf](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

²³ [Tamworth Locality Profile 2024](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

²⁴ Nomis: Labour Market Profile - Tamworth (Accessed 31/07/2025) [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)



of the Borough. Average weekly earnings for male residents were significantly higher compared to female residents in the Borough.

Table 5-2: Average Weekly Earnings (£), 2024²⁵

	Tamworth	Lichfield	North Warwickshire	Staffordshire	Great Britain
Full time	685.40	792.30	727.70	715.60	729.80
Male full time	724.30	814.50	736.40	754.10	777.50
Female full time	610.90	744.60	694.30	669.20	673.20

As shown in Table 5-3, average weekly earnings have increased over time in the Borough. This is particularly the case for female full-time workers, who have experienced a £252.10 increase in average weekly earnings between 2009 and 2024. In comparison, men experienced a £198.30 increase. This has meant that the gender pay gap in the Borough has reduced from a £167.20 difference per week between male and female full time average weekly earnings, to a £113.40 difference.

Table 5-3: Change in Average Weekly Earnings in Tamworth Over Time (£) ²⁶

	2009	2012	2015	2018	2021	2024
Full time	465.70	480.80	478.90	520.70	559.50	685.40
Male full time	526.00	535.80	529.40	559.50	619.60	724.30
Female full time	358.80	356.30	420.90	486.60	479.80	610.90

5.1.4 Skills

A large majority of the job vacancies in Tamworth are low skilled employment opportunities. This is due to adult skill levels being well below the average²⁷. As highlighted in Section 6.1.8, residents in Tamworth have much lower qualification levels than regionally and nationally, with only 21.9% of the population having Level 4 or higher qualifications. As a result of this, the business survey contained within the Tamworth Economic Development Strategy Action Plan (2025)²⁸ highlighted that the biggest workforce challenge identified by business was being unable to recruit people with the right skills. This is a significant issue as the survey also identified that

²⁵ Nomis: Labour Market Profile - Tamworth [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

²⁶ Average Weekly Earnings in Tamworth Over Time [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

²⁷ [Appendix 2 Economic Development Strategy.pdf](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

²⁸ [Appendix 2 Economic Development Strategy.pdf](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)



the top factor positively influencing businesses in Tamworth is good skills among staff.

5.1.5 Standard Occupation Classification

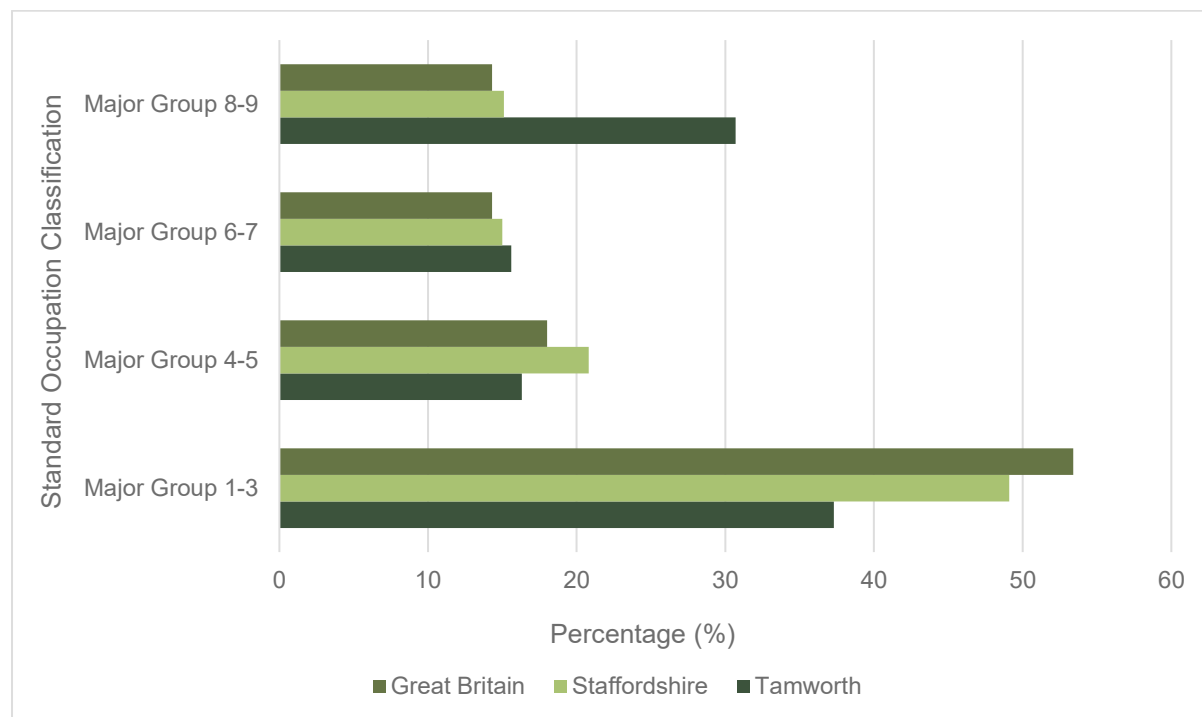


Figure 5-1: Employment by Standard Occupation Classification Group within Tamworth, Staffordshire and Great Britain²⁹³⁰

²⁹ The SOC was used in Figure 5-1 as a result of sample size numbers being too small for reliable estimates of more specific job descriptions.

³⁰ Nomis Labour Market Profiles <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157180/report.aspx#supply> (Accessed 22/07/2025)



As highlighted in

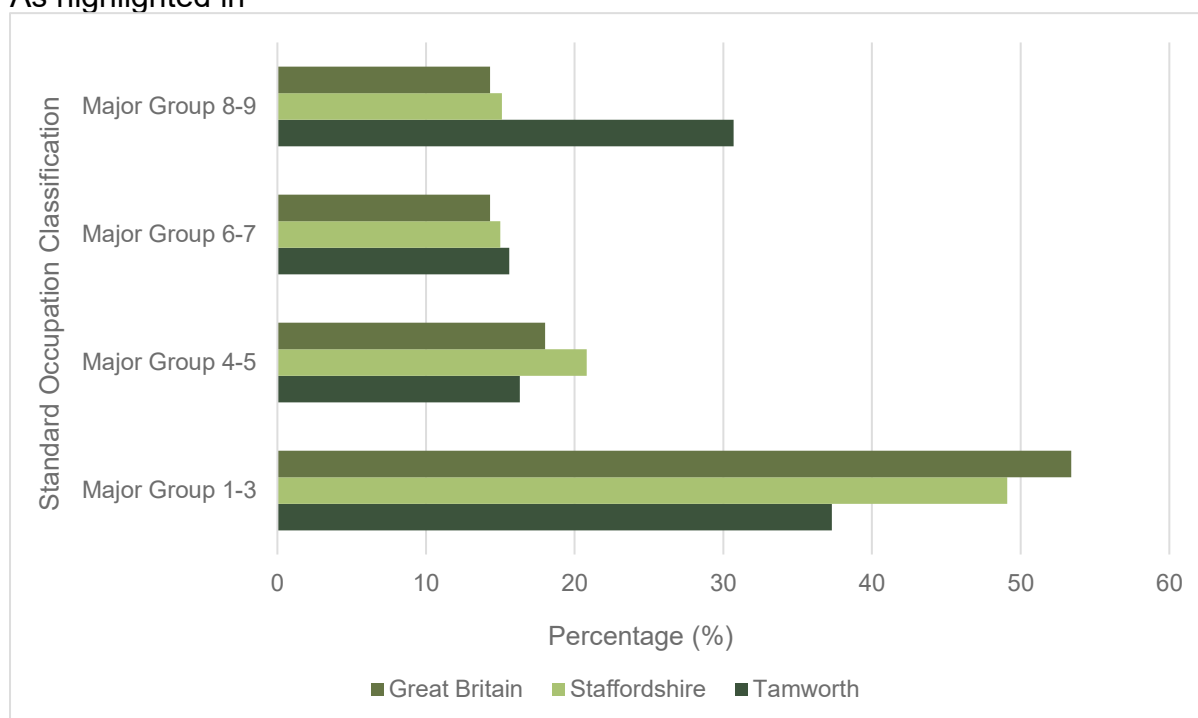


Figure 5-1, the most common Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) Group in Tamworth between April 2024 and March 2025 was Major Group 1-3 (managers, directors and senior officials; professional occupations; and associate professional occupations). Of this group, the majority of people work in professional occupations. However, despite SOC Major Group 1-3 being the most common employment sector in Tamworth, the percentage of workers in this sector is 37.3% which is below the county (49.1%), regional (49.8%) and national average (53.0%)³¹.

Tamworth's rates of employment in SOC Major Group 8-9 (30.7%) are roughly double that of Staffordshire (15.1%), the West Midlands (16.8%) and Great Britain (14.7%), with a similar split share across employment in SOC 8 (process plant and machine operatives) (14.7%), and SOC 9 (elementary occupations) (16.1%). Employment rates in the SOC Major Group 4-5 (16.3%), representing administrative and secretarial occupations alongside skilled trade jobs, are similar to those in SOC Major Group 6-7 (15.6%), which includes catering, leisure and other service occupations as well as sales and customer service roles. However, the percentage of Tamworth's workforce in SOC 4-5 is 1.7% lower than the national average and conversely 1.3% higher than the national average for SOC 6-7.

5.1.6 Enterprises

In 2024, there were 2,220 enterprises located within Tamworth Borough. This equates to 282 businesses per 10,000 persons. This is below the county (371

31 Nomis Labour Market Profiles [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) (Accessed 04/08/2025)



businesses per 10,000 persons), regional (323 businesses per 10,000 persons) and national (407 businesses per 10,000 persons) averages³².

86.5% of the 2,220 enterprises employ fewer than ten people. In 2024, the proportion of micro, small, medium and large enterprises within Tamworth was similar to the average across Staffordshire (89.0%, 9.0%, 1.5% and 0.4% respectively)³³. As shown in Table 5-4, the number of each type of enterprise (micro, small, medium and large) has not changed drastically between 2012-2024.

Table 5-4: Type of Enterprises in Tamworth³⁴

	Micro (%)	Small (%)	Medium (%)	Large (%)
2012	85.4	12.1	2.1	0.4
2015	86.2	11.5	2.0	0.3
2018	87.5	10.6	1.7	0.2
2021	86.9	10.8	1.9	0.4
2024	86.5	11.0	2.0	0.5

In 2023, business start-ups accounted for approximately 10.3% of Tamworth's enterprises. This was slightly below regional (11.2%) and national levels however (11%), which has been a continued trend since 2018³⁵. Between 2018 and 2023 business deaths have risen by 2% from approximately 9% of Tamworth's enterprises to around 11%. The rate of business closures in 2023 was below regional (12.5%) levels, however above national levels (10.7%).

Despite over 10% of Tamworth's enterprises being start-ups, the business survey contained within the Tamworth Economic Development Strategy Action Plan (2025)³⁶ highlighted that there is a need for more good quality units for start-ups, especially within the retail and industrial sectors, as well as office space for small and medium sized businesses, and large-scale warehousing and manufacturing space. The lack of warehousing and manufacturing space is a consequence of a lack of ability to expand or invest in existing units. This has meant that the stock of available units is low and is typically older than units than can be found elsewhere. This has led to a large number of businesses moving outside of the Borough to operate in newer and larger units.

As shown in Table 5-5, the most common sector for enterprises in Tamworth to be located in was distribution and hospitality (30.1%), followed by banking, finance and insurance (19.2%), and public admin, education and health (15.0%). These industries are consistent with the regional average. There are very few agriculture,

³² [Appendix 2 Economic Development Strategy.pdf](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

³³ Nomis Labour Market Profiles: Tamworth [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) (Accessed 04/08/2025)

³⁴ Nomis Labour Market Profiles: Tamworth [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

³⁵ [Appendix 2 Economic Development Strategy.pdf](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

³⁶ [Appendix 2 Economic Development Strategy.pdf](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)



fishing, energy and water enterprises within the Borough (0.5%), following a fall in these enterprises over the last six years³⁷.

Table 5-5: Total Employment by Industry (%) (2024)

Industry	Tamworth	Staffordshire	West Midlands	Great Britain
Agriculture, fishing, energy and water	0.5	2.0	2.1	1.9
Manufacturing	13.7	11.4	10.1	7.5
Construction	6.0	5.8	4.4	4.8
Distribution and hospitality	30.1	25.4	22.8	21.5
Transport and communications	11.2	10.0	9.0	9.5
Banking, finance and insurance	19.2	17.0	20.6	23.2
Public admin, education and health	15.0	23.6	26.7	27.1
Other services	4.3	4.7	4.4	4.5

The Tamworth Economic Development Strategy Action Plan (2025)³⁸ highlights that manufacturing and transport and communications could be key areas for economy growth, due to being the industries most benefitted by Tamworth's good transport links/corridors.

Staffordshire County Council offers a number of support programmes to businesses in Tamworth, including³⁹:

- Get started and grow: funded packages of support in marketing, social media, HR, finance and legal advice for small businesses up to five years old;
- Start-up loans: interest free loans of £3,000 to £5,000 available for businesses up to five years old;
- My own boss: fully funded business coaches who can offer support to those thinking of starting their own businesses but do not know where to start; and
- Staffordshire jobs and careers: fully funded, managed recruitment service for businesses of all sizes in Staffordshire.

³⁷ [Appendix 2 Economic Development Strategy.pdf](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

³⁸ [Appendix 2 Economic Development Strategy.pdf](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

³⁹ [Appendix 2 Economic Development Strategy.pdf](#)



5.1.7 Commuting Patterns

As highlighted by Table 5-6, distances travelled to work by Tamworth residents is widely varied. The majority of workers that travel for work commute out of the Borough (40.0%), while around a quarter of residents (24.7%) remain within the Borough. These commuting patterns reflect the Borough's strategic location and its strong links to nearby employment centres such as Birmingham, Lichfield, and North Warwickshire⁴⁰. There is a greater number of people who travel from Tamworth to nearby areas for work compared to the number of people who travel into the Borough⁴¹. According to the most recent census, 4,823 people commuted to North Warwickshire, followed by Birmingham (2,857 people) and Lichfield (2,419 people). The largest movement into Tamworth was 1,661 people from Lichfield, followed by North Warwickshire (1,629 people) and Birmingham (1,228 people).

[Section 9.1.5](#) outlines details of the methods of transport used to commute to work by Borough residents.

Table 5-6: Distance Travelled to Work (2021)

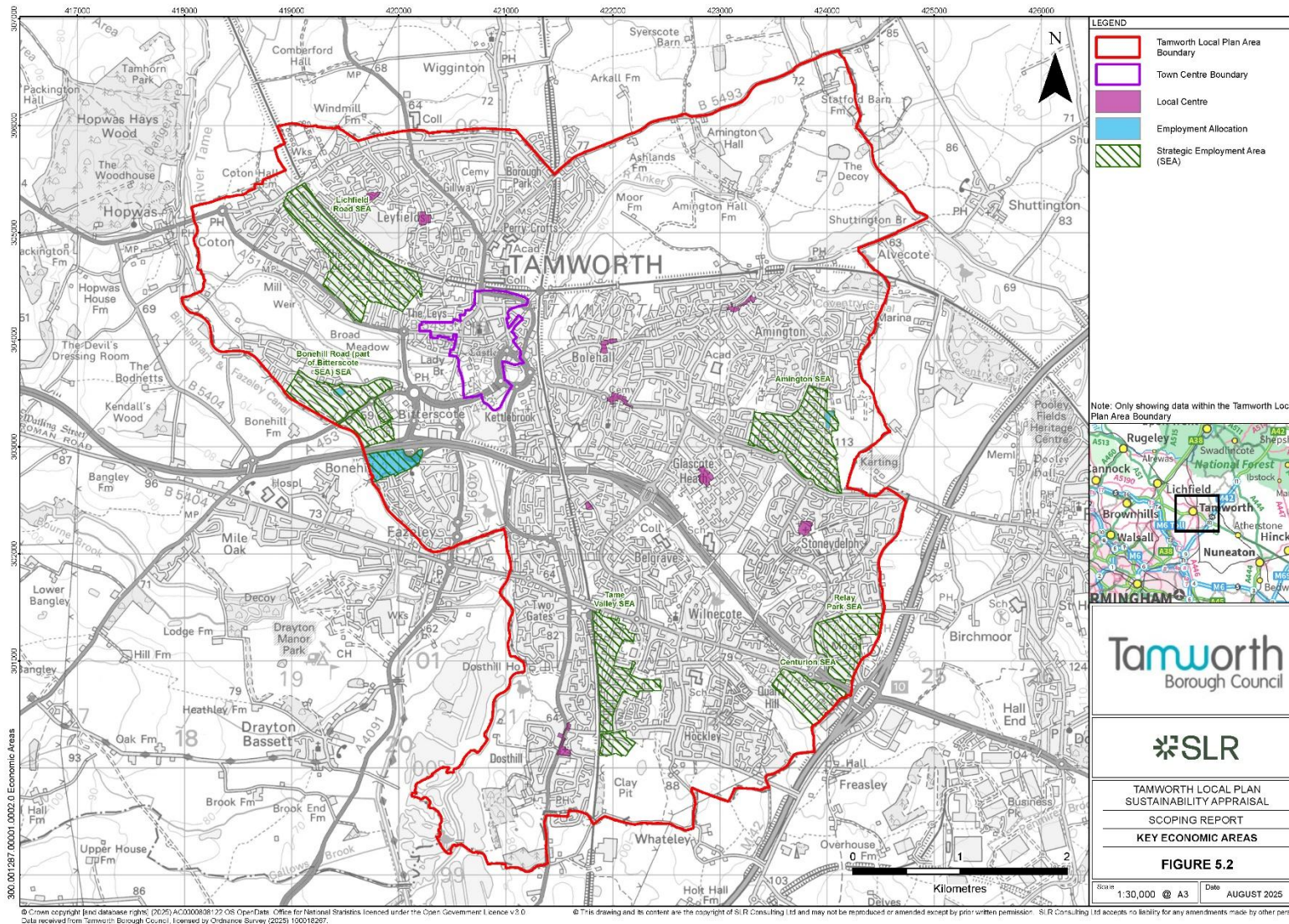
Distance	%
Within Tamworth	24.7
In other Staffordshire Districts	9.2
In Stoke on Trent	0.1
In West Midlands	12.2
Work from Home	35.3
Other	18.5

40 WMCA: West Midlands Futures [West Midlands Economic Geography](#) (Accessed 30/07/2025)

41 ONS: Visualising people flows [Origin-destination data explorer - Census 2021 - ONS](#) (Accessed 21/10/2025)



Figure 5-2: Key Economic Areas in Tamworth



5.1.8 Town and Local Centres

The town centre is highly important to the overall perception of Tamworth, due to the small size of the Borough. The business survey contained within the Tamworth Economic Development Strategy Action Plan (2025)⁴² highlighted that businesses within the Borough consider the town centre to be the main threat to Tamworth's economy, due to a lack of new development and support for businesses currently within the town centre.

Within Tamworth town centre, retail provision is characterised by a mix of traditional high street units and larger format stores, including Ankerside Shopping Centre. The shopping centre has drastically declined in recent years, with a large amount of floorspace adjoining the Castle Grounds being vacant. Tamworth Borough Council are in the process of deciding how to manage the Shopping Centre.. There is currently no identified capacity for significant new comparison or convenience retail floorspace within the town centre, with future demand likely to be met through repurposing existing units, infill development, and extensions to established premises. Within Tamworth town centre there is expected to be capacity of 11,000m² of gross comparison retail floorspace in 2026⁴³.

Retail provision is also supported by nearby out-of-centre retail destinations such as Ventura Retail Park. While Ventura Retail Park remains a key driver of footfall, its dominance has contributed to a decline in the vitality of the historic town centre, which has experienced increasing vacancy rates and a shift away from comparison retail. This trend reflects broader structural changes in consumer behaviour, including the sustained growth of online shopping and evolving retailer business models.

As highlighted in Table 5-7 below, the town centre is supported by a network of nine local centres, each with different levels of viability⁴⁴.

Table 5-7: Tamworth's Local Centres

Local Centre	Description
Fontenaye Road, Coton Green	Contains between 5-7 facilities (okay levels of viability)
Masefield Drive, Leyfields	Contains between 5-7 facilities (okay levels of viability)
Amington Road, Bolehall	Contains between 5-7 facilities (okay levels of viability)
Caledonian Centre, Glascode	Contains 10 or more facilities (strong levels of viability)
High Street, Dosthill	Contains between 5-7 facilities (okay levels of viability)

⁴² [Appendix 2 Economic Development Strategy.pdf](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

⁴³ Tamworth Town centre & Retail Study 2024 [TAMWORTH TOWN CENTRE & RETAIL STUDY 2024](#) (Accessed 30/07/2025)

⁴⁴ Tamworth Town centre & Retail Study 2024 [TAMWORTH TOWN CENTRE & RETAIL STUDY 2024](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)



Local Centre	Description
Ellerbeck, Stonydelph	Contains between 8-10 facilities (good levels of viability)
Glascote Road	Contains between 8-10 facilities (good levels of viability)
Tamworth Road, Amington	Contains between 5-7 facilities (okay levels of viability)
Exley, Field Farm Road	Contains between 5-7 facilities (okay levels of viability)

There are also 14 neighbourhood centres within Tamworth:

- Chartwell;
- Cedar Drive;
- Lakenheath;
- Fazeley Road;
- Tamworth Road, Two Gates;
- Farm Park Road;
- Pennymoor Road;
- Scott Road;
- Glascote Road;
- Hockley Road;
- Beachamp Road;
- Wilnecote Road;
- Watling Street, Wilnecote; and
- Bowling Green Avenue.

The Tamworth Town Centre and Retail Study (2024)⁴⁵ highlights that Tamworth Borough Council should continue to allocate a network of local and neighbourhood centres in its new Local Plan, in order to provide these locations with appropriate policy support against applications for new commercial development. Consideration should also be given to supporting new local centre facilities in the north-eastern and south-eastern parts of the Borough, south of Amington and in Wilnecote to assist in enabling residents' day to day needs to be met in a sustainable manner.

5.1.9 Regeneration

Tamworth town centre is currently undergoing a £21.65 million regeneration programme, led by Tamworth Borough Council and supported by the Future High Streets Fund⁴⁶. The programme includes a suite of infrastructure, housing, and employment projects focused on revitalising the town centre, including the restoration of historic buildings, the creation of a new enterprise centre, and public realm improvements linking key destinations. Additional investment from South

⁴⁵ [TAMWORTH TOWN CENTRE & RETAIL STUDY 2024](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

⁴⁶ Tamworth Borough Council: Future High Streets Fund [Future High Streets Fund | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 30/07/2025)



Staffordshire College is delivering a new education facility, contributing to a combined investment of over £40 million in the town centre⁴⁷.

Lower Gungate has been identified as a key area for regeneration, which is likely to focus on residential development. This should subsequently support the viability of the town centre by attracting more people and footfall into the centre of Tamworth.

5.1.10 Tourism and the Visitor Economy

In 2023, a number of tourism feasibility studies were carried out which highlighted that Tamworth has a diverse and well-established tourism offering, particularly around its heritage and history. However, Tamworth only captures about 5% of the visitors to Staffordshire and 92% of visits are day visits. As a consequence of this, it was recommended that Tamworth develop a clear tourism brand that can be promoted and co-ordinated by a formal tourism development group⁴⁸. The development of tourist infrastructure (e.g. a museum), improved accommodation offer, and increased number of events held in the Borough could also be catalysts to enabling the visitor economy⁴⁹.

5.1.11 Remote and Hybrid Working

The COVID-19 pandemic encouraged a shift towards remote and hybrid working. In Tamworth in 2021, 21.6% of residents worked mainly at or from home⁵⁰. This figure remains lower than neighbouring authorities such as North Warwickshire (26.5%) and Lichfield (32%), and the national average (32%)⁵¹.

A key aspect of successful remote working is having access to reliable and high-speed broadband. Tamworth is well connected digitally, with an average of 83.8% gigabit broadband availability. This is lower than the regional average (94%), but higher than the national average (79%). The West Midlands Digital Roadmap (2024-2027)⁵² sets out aspirations for the West Midlands to:

- Become the UK's best-connected region;
- Use digital public services to build a fairer, greener and healthier region; and
- Realise the potential of digital to transform the economy and build economic resilience.

5.2 Key Sustainability Issues

The following key sustainability issues have been identified:

47 Tamworth Borough Council: Planning application submitted to restore and renovate historic Market Street properties [Planning application submitted to restore and renovate historic Market Street properties | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 30/07/2025)

48 Tourism in Tamworth 2023: Feasibility Study and Recommended Strategy (Accessed 30/09/2025)

49 Tamworth Wider Place Investment: Feasibility Study and Recommendation Strategy (Accessed 30/09/2025)

50 ONS Census 2021 - [Office for National Statistics](#) (Accessed 07/08/2025)

51 ONS Census 2021 [Travel to work, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#) (Accessed 16/07/2025)

52 West Midlands Digital Roadmap (2024-2027). [West Midlands Digital Roadmap 2024-2027](#) (Accessed 22/05/2025).



- There is a need to reduce the number of unemployed residents and encourage them to re-enter the workforce, particularly working age residents in the Borough who are unemployed and have never worked;
- The projected loss in the young and working age population, as well as an ageing population, may have an impact on Tamworth's ability to sustain the economy and workforce levels;
- Job density in the Borough is lower than county and national averages, suggesting that there are limited employment opportunities;
- There are significant wage inequalities between men and women in the Borough, with average weekly earnings in 2024 higher for men compared to women;
- A significant number of job vacancies in the Borough are low skilled and low wage. There is need for Tamworth's economy to become more diverse and resilient, and attract higher wage industries into the Borough;
- Employment in professional occupations in Tamworth is significantly lower than the regional and national average, and less than a quarter of Tamworth's workforce is qualified to Level 4+. This highlights the Borough's reliance on a relatively narrow range of industries and the need to diversify the local economy.
- There is a high reliance on micro businesses, which creates vulnerability in the instance of business death and job loss. There is a need to support small and medium-sized enterprises in the borough to improve business survival rates.
- There is a need to provide more good quality units for start-ups, especially within the retail and industrial sectors, as well as office space for small and medium sized businesses, and large-scale warehousing and manufacturing space;
- Only ¼ of residents work within the Borough, with the remaining commuting outside of the Borough to work. Greater employment opportunities that are appropriate for local people and their skills may encourage the retention of Tamworth's workforce, and lower levels of outward commuting;
- There is a need to continue investing in Tamworth's historic town centre, to ensure that it rebuilds its role as a sustainable local service and employment centre;
- The town centre is facing high vacancy rates, particularly within Ankerside Shopping Centre, due to out-of-centre retail pressures (e.g. Ventura Retail Park) and shifting consumer habits to online shopping;
- The viability and vitality of Tamworth's centres must be protected and enhanced, and they need to be able to adapt to changing needs;
- There is a need to support regeneration efforts within the town centre, including at Lower Gungate, in order to attract more people and improve viability;



- There is a need to support and enhance the role that tourism plays in the economy;
- There is a need to increase economic activity across the Borough;
- The Borough has a constrained supply of new employment land, including retail floor space and large-scale manufacturing and warehouse space. It is therefore unlikely that significant new sites will be identified for employment, and that the focus is more likely to be on the redevelopment of existing sites; and
- It is important that good digital connectivity is maintained to support growing businesses and remote working.

5.3 Likely Evolution without the Local Plan

Without the plan, there will be a lack of control over where employment uses are located across the Borough, leading to the potential for speculative development in locations that are less appropriate for employment uses, including main town centre uses. There may also be a potential loss of employment floorspace due to pressures from other uses, such as housing.

The Borough is likely to see continued decline in economic activity, particularly within the town centre, driven by out-of-centre retail competition, limited investment, and changing consumer habits. Vacancy rates may rise further, reducing the diversity and resilience of local retail provision.

Without the Plan, Tamworth's economy may continue to be reliant on a narrow selection of industries and as a result, lower-skilled and paid roles are likely to persist. A low proportion of residents in professional occupations compared to regional and national averages is also likely to continue, further limiting productivity and economic mobility.

Business growth may stagnate, with the local economy remaining dominated by micro-enterprises and vulnerable to external shocks. High levels of economic inactivity and unemployment among residents with no work history could persist, placing pressure on public services and reducing overall workforce participation.

5.4 Data Gaps

Some of the economic data (e.g. average weekly earnings and unemployment rates) is updated regularly and therefore the baseline data provided in this report is based on a snapshot of available data at the time of writing the report.

Tamworth Borough Council is in the process of developing a new asset management strategy to cover the period through to 2029/30. A Town Hall Feasibility Study is also underway to determine the most economically viable use for Tamworth Town Hall.



6.0 Population and Equalities

6.1 Baseline

6.1.1 Population

The latest Census data from 2021 records the population of Tamworth Borough as 78,600. This equates to a population density of approximately 2,581 residents per km²⁵³. As demonstrated in Figure 6-1, this represents an increase of 1,800 (2.4%) from 2011⁵⁴. This is lower than the population change recorded in the neighbouring authorities of North Warwickshire (4.9%) and Lichfield (5.7%).

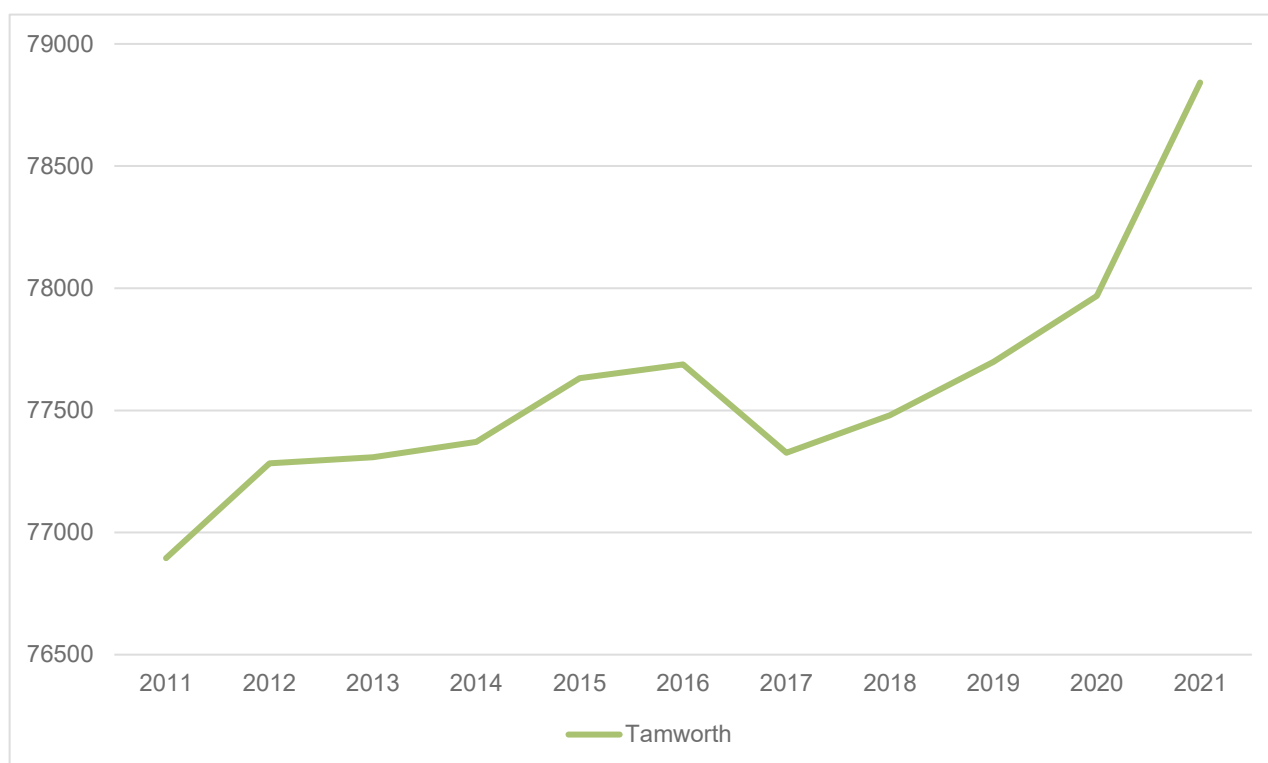


Figure 6-1: Population Change in Tamworth

By 2043, the Borough's population is expected to increase by 10,827 (12.1%) bringing the population total to 89,427⁵⁵.

⁵³ [Tamworth population change, Census 2021 – ONS](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

⁵⁴ ONS Census 2021 [How your area has changed in 10 years: Census 2021 - Office for National Statistics](#) - Tamworth (Accessed 25/07/2025)

⁵⁵ [Mid-year population estimates and re-scaled population estimates using national population projections for local authorities in England by sex and single year of age, 2018 to 2043 - Office for National Statistics](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)



6.1.2 Age

Between 2011 and 2021, the number of residents aged between 0-10 years increased by 5.1%⁵⁶. A similar increase (4.8%) is expected within this age group between 2021 and 2043. This may lead to an increase in demands for school places, childcare and recreational facilities for children.

A smaller increase occurred between 2011 and 2021 for early working age adults (specifically 21-30 years), with populations only increasing by 1.9%. As shown in Table 6-1 and Figure 6-2, an even smaller increase is expected within this age group between 2021 and 2043 (1.1%). This suggests that young professionals will move out of the Borough in order to live somewhere that caters more effectively to their career goals/social lives.

Populations of older working age adults (specifically 31-50) are expected to experience relatively large increases between 2021 and 2043 (more than 14.5%). This is slightly higher than the increase experienced between 2011 and 2021 (approximately 10.9%)⁵⁷.

Between 2011 and 2021, an ageing population trend was evident in Tamworth, as the number of Tamworth residents aged 70-74 years increased by 51%, and the number of Tamworth residents aged between 75-79 years rose by 48%⁵⁸. As highlighted in Table 6-1 and Figure 6-2, a similar trend is expected between 2021 and 2043; the largest increase in resident age is predicted to be within the 81 years and over age group (a predicted increase of 73.7%). There is subsequently likely to be a significant increase in demand for accessible homes, health services and supported living arrangements from an increase in older residents. Changes to health and social care systems will be needed in order to provide appropriate care for the ageing population⁵⁹.

Table 6-1: Projected Change in Population by Age

Age	2021 Population ⁶⁰	2043 Population Projection ⁶¹	Percentage Change
0 to 10	10,089	10,576	4.8
11 to 20	8,852	8,915	0.7
21 to 30	9,741	9,845	1.1
31 to 40	10,690	12,545	17.4

⁵⁶ [Data Viewer - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) (30/09/25)

⁵⁷ [Data Viewer - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) (30/09/25)

⁵⁸ ONS Census 2021 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E07000199/> (Accessed 29/07/2025)

⁵⁹ Ready for Ageing? [Microsoft Word - FINAL Public Services Report \(parliament.uk\)](#) (Accessed 29/07/2025)

⁶⁰ Office for National Statistics (2021). Census 2021 - Population estimates by age and sex, Tamworth. Available from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census> (Accessed 29/09/2025)

⁶¹ [Mid-year population estimates and re-scaled population estimates using national population projections for local authorities in England by sex and single year of age, 2018 to 2043 - Office for National Statistics](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)



Age	2021 Population ⁶⁰	2043 Population Projection ⁶¹	Percentage Change
41 to 50	9,993	11,457	14.7
51 to 60	10,693	11,840	0.7
61 to 70	8,755	9,755	1.4
71 to 80	6,883	9,363	36.0
81 and over	2,954	5,131	73.7

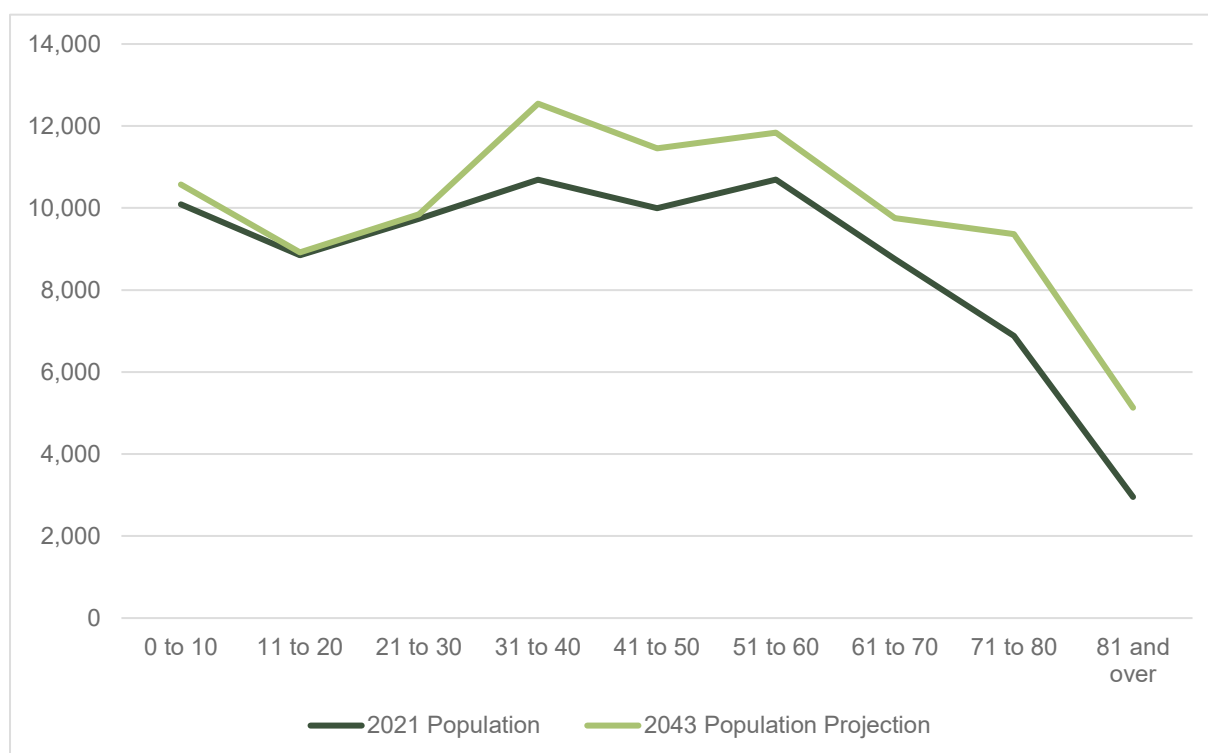


Figure 6-2: Projected Change in Age

6.1.3 Gender

Figure 6-3 presents the gender split by age in Tamworth. In 2021, the estimated female population of Tamworth was 39,893 and the male population was 39,737. The difference between male and female population sizes is relatively small across most age groups, with a slightly higher number of males in the younger age groups (particularly ages 0–20). However, from age 61 onwards, the population shows a higher proportion of females compared to males, with the disparity becoming more pronounced in the 71 to 80 as well as the 81 and over age bands.



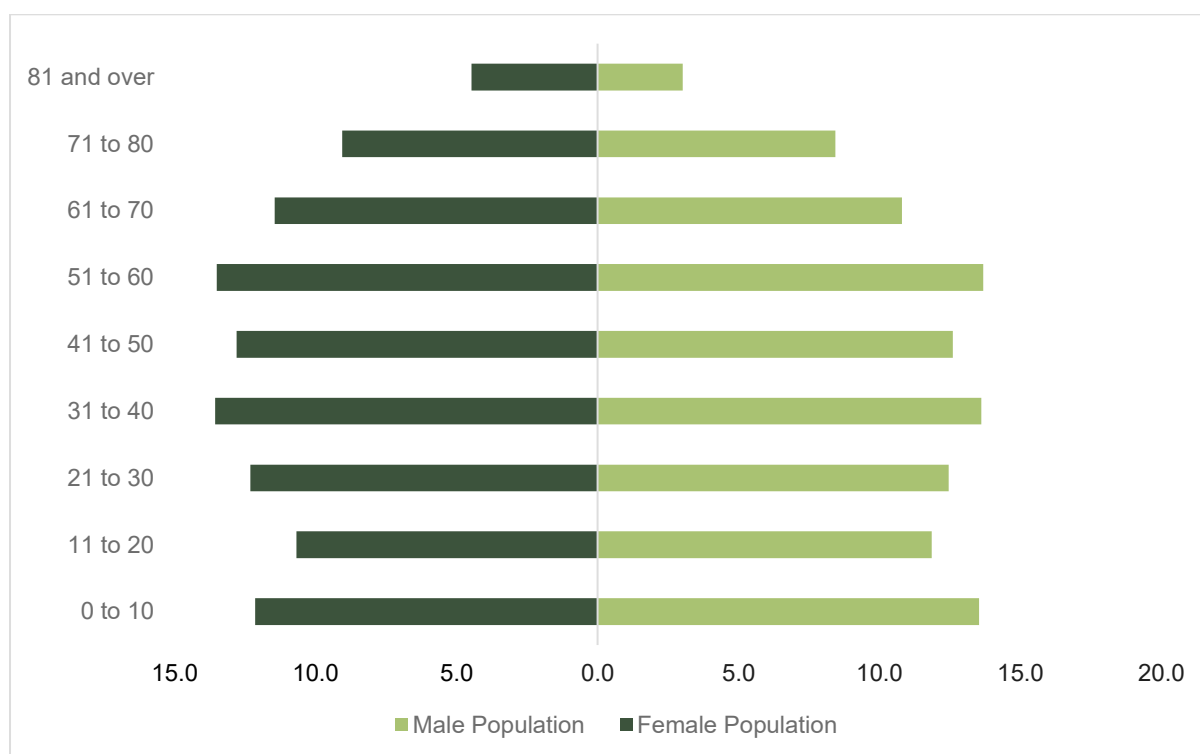


Figure 6-3: Gender Split by Age

Table 6-2 highlights the projected gender split by age in the Borough by 2043. In 2043, the estimated female population of Tamworth is anticipated to be 45,290 and the male population 44,137. Similarly to the 2021, the difference between male and female population sizes is relatively small across most age groups. However, there are a slightly higher number of males in the younger and middle age groups (particularly ages 0–40). From age 41 onwards, the population shows a higher proportion of females compared to males, with the disparity becoming more pronounced in the 61 to 70, 71 to 80 and the 81 and over age bands.

Table 6-2: Projected Gender Split by Age

Age Group	2021 ⁶²		2043 ⁶³	
	Female Population	Male Population	Female Population	Male Population
0 to 10	4848	5241	5141	5435
11 to 20	4262	4590	4230	4685
21 to 30	4916	4825	4836	5009

⁶² Office for National Statistics (2021). Census 2021 - Population estimates by age and sex, Tamworth. Available from: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census> (Accessed 29/07/2025)

⁶³ [Mid-year population estimates and re-scaled population estimates using national population projections for local authorities in England by sex and single year of age, 2018 to 2043 - Office for National Statistics](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)



Age Group	2021 ⁶²		2043 ⁶³	
	Female Population	Male Population	Female Population	Male Population
31 to 40	5416	5274	6041	6504
41 to 50	5109	4884	5874	5583
51 to 60	5393	5300	6022	5818
61 to 70	4571	4184	5185	4570
71 to 80	3614	3269	4973	4390
81 and over	1784	1170	2988	2143

6.1.4 Sexual Orientation

The 2021 Census recorded that whilst 5.6% of Tamworth's population did not disclose, 2.3% of residents stated that they belonged to the LGBTQ+ community, and 92.1% regarded themselves as heterosexual⁶⁴.

6.1.5 Ethnicity

Tamworth is not a particularly diverse Borough, with a large majority (95.8%) of residents identified as White⁶⁵. In the 2021 Census, 1.9% of residents identified themselves as being mixed or multiple ethnic groups, 1.4% identified as Asian, 0.6% identified as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African. The remaining 0.4% identified themselves as 'other'. The ethnicity makeup of the Borough is highlighted in Figure 6-4.

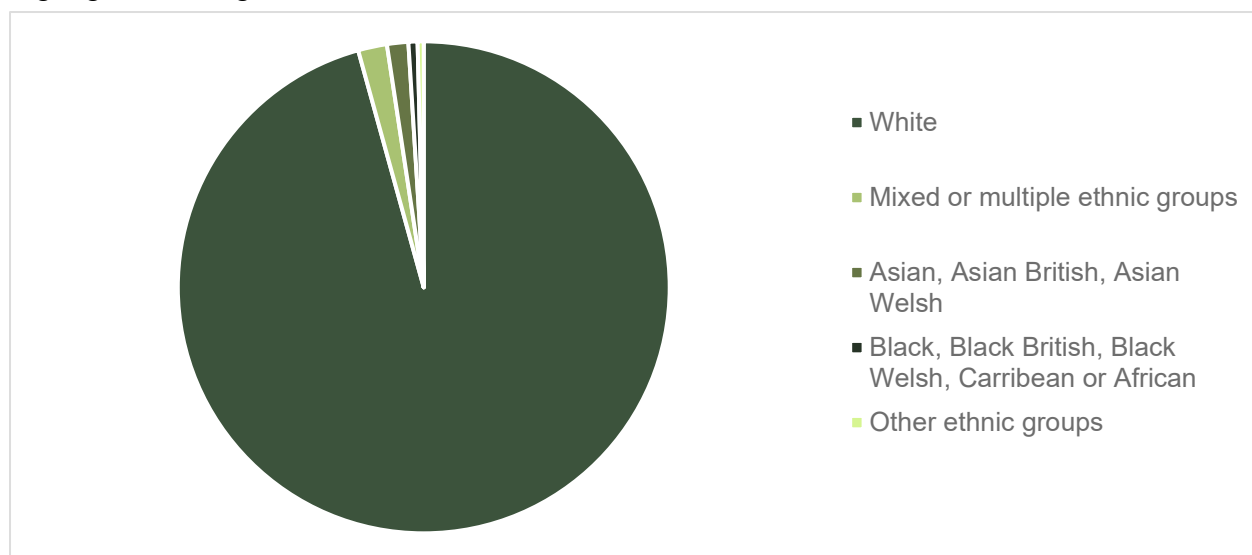


Figure 6-4: Ethnicity in Tamworth⁶⁶

⁶⁴ ONS Census 2021 - Sexual orientation [Sexual orientation, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/sexualorientationanddiversity/censusesandsurveys/census2021) (Accessed 29/07/2025)

⁶⁵ ONS Census 2021 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E07000199/> (Accessed 29/07/2025)

⁶⁶ ONS Census <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E07000199/> (Accessed 29/07/2025)



6.1.6 Religion/Belief

The 2021 Census records that 55.7% of Tamworth's population hold some form of religion/belief. The most prominent religion held in the Borough is Christianity (49.1%) and those identifying as Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Buddhist and other made up 1.7% of the population all together. Whilst 5% of the population did not disclose their religion, 44.3% of the Borough hold no religion or belief system, which has increased by 15% since 2011.

6.1.7 Deprivation

The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 attempts to measure a broad concept of multiple deprivation at the small area level. The Indices provide a set of relative measures of deprivation for small areas (LSOAs (Lower Super Output Areas) across England, based on seven different domains of deprivation:

- Income Deprivation;
- Employment Deprivation;
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation;
- Health Deprivation and Disability;
- Crime; and
- Barriers to Housing and Services.

According to the 2019 Indices, Tamworth is ranked 126th most deprived local authority in England, out of 317 English local authorities nationally (where 1 is the most deprived and 317 is the least deprived)⁶⁷. Table 6-3 shows the average ranking of each of the local authorities surrounding Tamworth.

Table 6-3: Indices of Deprivation for Tamworth and Neighbouring Authorities

	Tamworth	Lichfield	North Warwickshire
Overall Rank	126	247	167
Income	118	223	190
Employment	125	202	177
Education	45	221	97
Health	90	202	154
Crime	114	252	145
Barriers	213	207	162
Living Environment	284	276	114

As shown in Table 6-3, Tamworth is particularly deprived with respect to education, an index area which is notably higher than surrounding areas of North Warwickshire and Lichfield. Health is also an area of relatively higher deprivation, followed by

⁶⁷ ONS Census: [Exploring local income deprivation](#) (Accessed 04/08/2025)



crime, income and employment. These indicators suggest a population facing significant health issues, alongside barriers to academic attainment, financial stability and access to employment opportunities.

Levels of deprivation in Tamworth can be considered spatially. The ONS divides the Borough into nine Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOA). Deprivation in the Borough is largely focused in the urban areas of Glascote Heath and Central Tamworth, with 66.8% and 62.8% (respectively) of residents experiencing deprivation from at least one dimension. MSOAs to the south of the Borough- Wilnecote East and Dosthill and Two Gates- are the least deprived, with 47.5% and 48.8% (respectively) of residents experiencing deprivation from at least one dimension⁶⁸. These patterns are further supported by the high concentration of social housing in the most deprived neighbourhoods and higher home ownership rates in the least deprived areas. The variation in deprivation levels across Tamworth is illustrated in Figure 6-5.

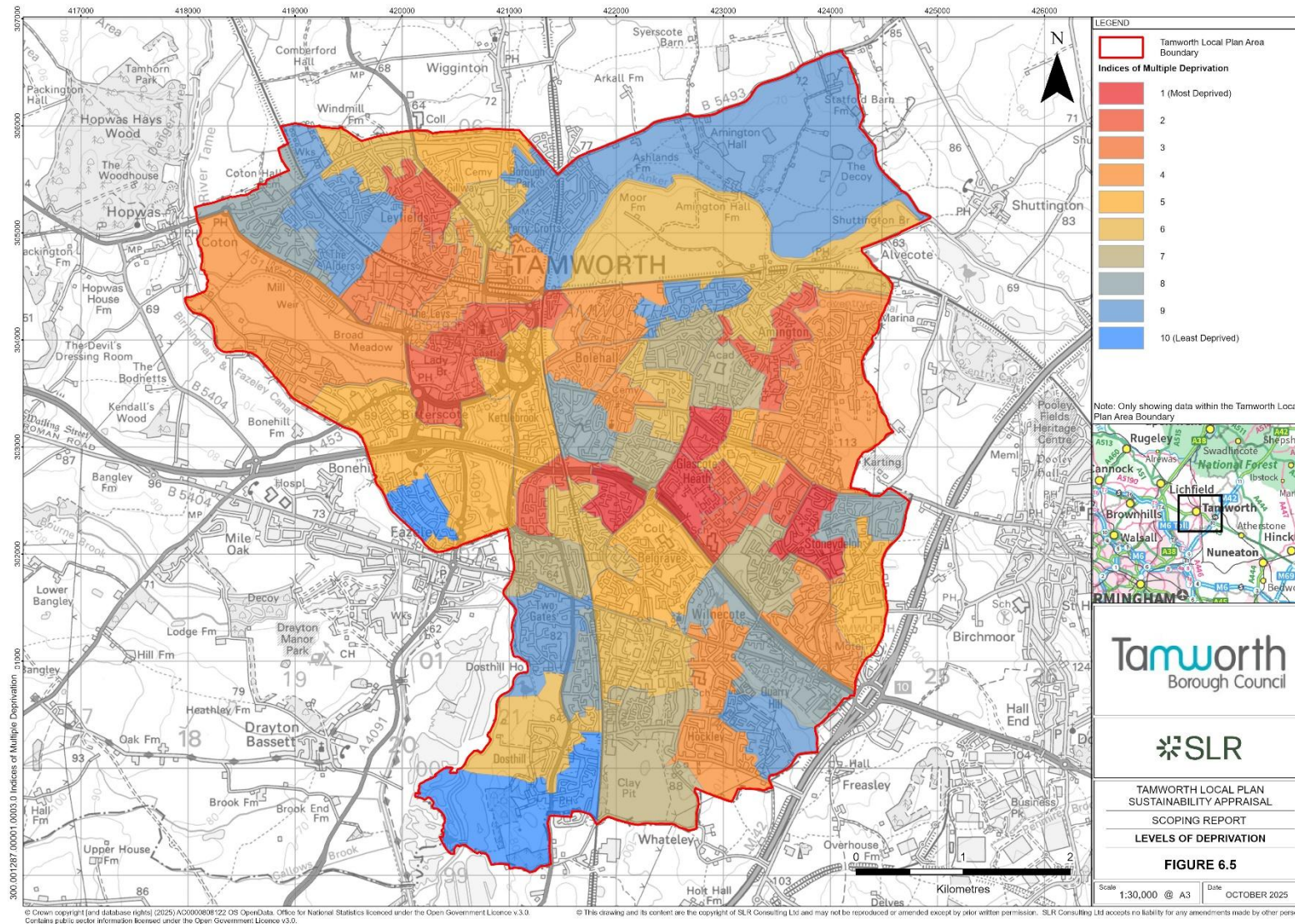
In 2024, 20% of children in Tamworth were living below the poverty line after housing costs⁶⁹. While this is lower than the national average, it still represents a significant portion of the population.

⁶⁸ [Household deprivation - Census Maps, ONS](#) (Accessed 29/07/2025)

⁶⁹ [Key Statistics About Tamworth | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 30/07/2025)



Figure 6-5: Levels of deprivation across Tamworth



6.1.8 Education

The school place planning area of Tamworth includes all of the Tamworth Borough Council boundary plus a small number of schools that fall within the Lichfield District Council boundary. Students from across Tamworth may subsequently attend school in neighbouring authorities of Lichfield or North Warwickshire, depending on their proximity to the nearest school (primary school pupils must be able to attend a school within 2 miles walking distance of their residence).

Within this school planning area there are 39 schools (Figure 6-6). Tamworth operates a two-tier education system with primary phase schools (age 4-11 years) and Secondary phase schools (age 11-16/18 years). There are 34 primary, infant or junior schools within the school planning area, of which 27 are situated within the Tamworth Borough Council boundary and seven fall within the Lichfield District boundary. There are five secondary schools and one sixth form centre within the school planning area. A significant number of the schools within the Tamworth school place planning area are Academies or Free Schools, including 22 Primary, Infant and Junior schools and five secondary schools⁷⁰.

Across these schools, 4.35% of pupils achieve a strong pass in reading, writing and maths against the national average of 7.42%, highlighting lower educational attainment in the Tamworth borough. Similarly, whilst 30.02% of pupils across England achieved 5 or more GCSEs in 2023, only 19.67% of pupils met this achievement in Tamworth.

Table 6-4 shows 21.9% of residents aged between 16-64 held level four or higher qualifications in 2021. Despite this figure increasing by 2.5% since 2011, it is still significantly lower than the national average of 34%. The attainment of level 1, 2 or 3 qualifications has decreased by 7.3% between 2011 and 2021. In line with this, 21.8% of residents aged between 16-64 held no qualifications in 2021⁷¹. This is higher than the national average of 18.1%, but similar to the West Midlands average (21.1%). This figure has increased by 3.9% since 2011. **Educational attainment across the Borough's wards is similar⁷².**

Table 6-4: Educational Attainment in Tamworth

	2011 (%) ⁷³	2021 (%) ⁷⁴
Level 4 and above	19.4	21.9
Level 1, 2 or 3	55.5	48.2
Apprenticeship	7.3	5.5
Other qualifications	N/A	2.7
No qualifications	17.9	21.8

⁷⁰ Tamworth Borough Council Education Baseline Data (July 2025)

⁷¹ [Highest level of qualification - Census Maps, ONS](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

⁷² Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2024 [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2024 - Staffordshire Observatory](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

⁷³ [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

⁷⁴ [Highest level of qualification - Census Maps, ONS](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)



LEGEND

- Tamworth Local Plan Area Boundary
- Primary Education
- Secondary Education
- Further Education
- Special Needs Education

Note: Only showing data within the Tamworth Local Plan Area Boundary.

Tamworth Borough Council

SLR

TAMWORTH LOCAL PLAN SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

SCOPING REPORT

EDUCATION PROVIDERS

FIGURE 6.6

Scale 1:30,000 @ A3 Date JANUARY 2026

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Over the last 10 years, Tamworth has experienced a steady increase in demand for school places as a result of development, in the north and east of the town, including development just over the Borough boundary in Lichfield to the north. Over the past five years the demand has been focused on primary provision as it is recognised that the pressure on Secondary places can take 10 to 15 years to build as the younger pupils work through the school system. The child yield used to calculate pupil generation at primary level in Tamworth is slightly higher than for the majority other Staffordshire areas at 4.5% as housing developments in Tamworth have been shown to generate a higher number of pre-school and primary age children. Demand for secondary places is expected to increase over the longer term in the north of Tamworth. In addition, a number of Tamworth pupils access school places outside of Staffordshire at year 7, the majority of which attend Secondary schools in North Warwickshire. This has traditionally been in excess of 100 pupils each year, however numbers have been reducing and the latest available data for 2024/25 shows this had dropped to just under 80. Any pushback of Staffordshire pupils from these out of county schools would cause additional pressure on the availability of Secondary places in Tamworth.

There is currently one primary school expected to be developed over the next 3 years, in line with the Arkall Farm development, which is situated just outside the Tamworth Borough boundary in Lichfield. The new school will be situated within the development, and the opening date is dependent on the time taken for the various phases of the development to come forward. It is currently anticipated this school will open in September 2029.

Figure 6-7 shows how the number of pupils is expected to rise each academic year between 2024/25 and 2027/28. Demand for school spaces is expected to remain relatively stable, with small increases over time.

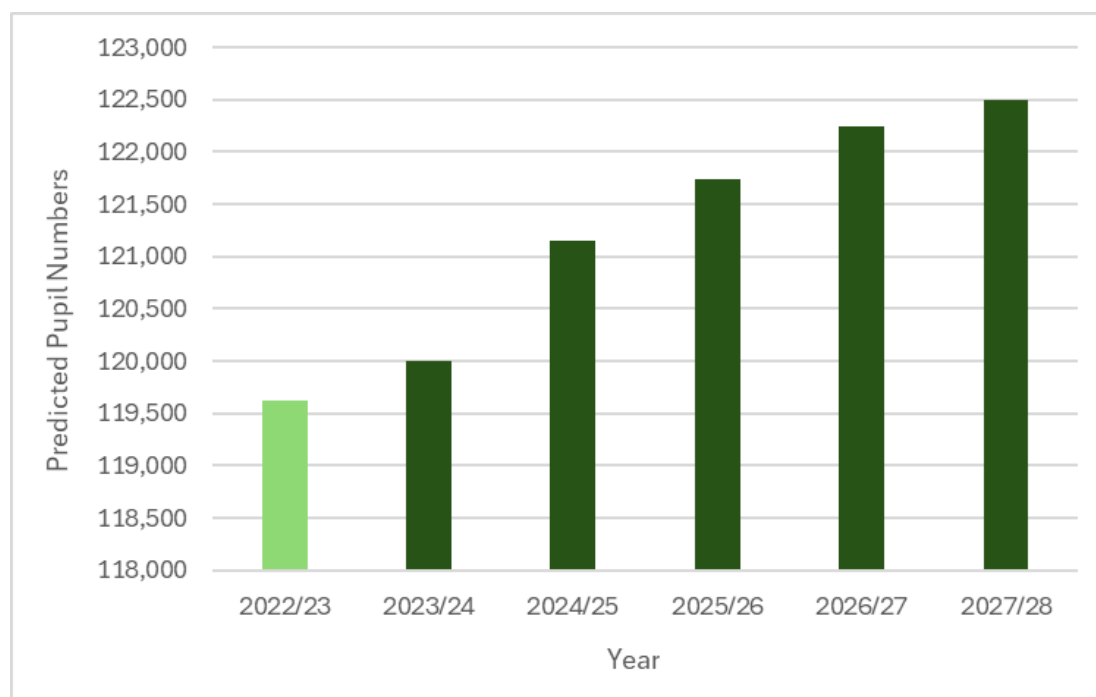


Figure 6-7: Actual (2022/23) and Forecasted Pupil Numbers for Staffordshire⁷⁵

New schools, or expansions to existing schools, are likely to be needed alongside housing development in the Borough. A development, or a combination of small developments in an area, of 500 or more dwellings may trigger the need for a new primary school. A development, or a combination of small developments, of 5,000 or more dwellings may trigger the need for a new secondary school. Increases to school capacity (either through expansions or new schools) are reliant on developer contributions⁷⁶. Where a new school or expansion to an existing school is proposed, this will comply with accessibility regulations.

Tamworth is seeing increased demand for Special Educational Needs (SEN) support, in both specialist schools and mainstream schools, in line with national trends. There are two specialist schools within the Borough, both of which are at capacity. The High school is currently being expanded to provide additional places to future cohorts. Tamworth's 2025/26 SEN school capacity is just over 400 places⁷⁷.

Between 2020 and 2024, Educational, Health and Care (EHC) assessments have risen significantly across Staffordshire.

The most common primary need among children with an EHCP in Tamworth is speech, language and communication needs (27.8%), followed by autism (24.8%)⁷⁸. Speech, language and communication needs are the most prevalent among both males and females. For children with SEN support, moderate learning difficulties (25.9%) are the most prevalent primary needs. There are concerns that children with SEND are not achieving the same level of academic attainment as other children in Staffordshire⁷⁹.

6.1.9 Crime

The crime rate within the Borough was recorded at an average of 65.74 crimes per 1,000 people across 2024⁸⁰. This equates to a total of 5,734 crimes. This figure is similar to the Staffordshire average (66.53 crimes per 1000 people), and slightly lower than the average for England (67.0 crimes per 1000 people)⁸¹, placing the Borough in a mid-range position nationally. The number of reported crimes in the Borough has increased slightly between 2017 and 2024 by 8.5%.

⁷⁵ Gov.UK, Staffordshire: [Step 6: Explore data - Create your own tables on school capacity](#) (Accessed 29/07/2025)

⁷⁶ [Staffordshire Education Infrastructure Contributions Policy - Staffordshire County Council](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

⁷⁷ [School place planning in Tamworth Borough - Staffordshire County Council](#) (Accessed 29/07/2025)

⁷⁸ [Education, health and care plans, Reporting year 2025 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#) (Accessed 05/01/2025)

⁷⁹ The SEND Landscape in Staffordshire
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/SpecialEducationalNeeds/Improving-SEND-support-in-Staffordshire.aspx
(Accessed 20/08/2025)

⁸⁰ [Tamworth, Staffordshire Crime and Safety Statistics | CrimeRate](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

⁸¹ [Staffordshire Police - Crime and Safety Statistics | CrimeRate](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)



Table 6-5: Victim-based crime and other crimes against society (2024)⁸²

Type of Crime	Number of Crimes
Violence against the person with injury	713
Violence against the person without injury	738
Homicide	1
Death or serious injury caused by illegal driving	0
Sexual offences	260
Robbery	63
Non-residential burglary	47
Vehicle offences	462
Theft from the person	22
Bicycle theft	43
Shoplifting	506
All other theft offences	376
Criminal damage and arson	426
Residential burglary	214

As shown in Table 6-5, the largest proportion of crimes in Tamworth in 2024 was violence against the person, with 713 cases involving injury and 738 without injury, indicating a strong prevalence of interpersonal assaults, followed by shoplifting (506) and vehicle offences (462). The number of crimes and anti-social behaviour incidents in Tamworth has remained relatively stable between 2021 and 2025, with fluctuations largely reflecting national trends and seasonal variations.

Tamworth Borough Council and Staffordshire Police have implemented a range of initiatives to tackle crime and improve public confidence. The Tamworth Community Safety Partnership brings together local authorities, police, fire services, and health organisations to address key priorities such as anti-social behaviour, public place violence, domestic abuse, vehicle crime, county lines and drug-related offences⁸³.

One notable intervention is the Tamworth Vulnerability Partnership, which uses a multi-agency approach to support individuals at risk and reduce repeat offending. Additionally, Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) have been introduced in high crime areas such as Bolehall and Kettlebrook to reduce nuisance behaviour⁸⁴.

⁸² Crime data <https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/lqastandard?mod-metric=%5B410%5D%5BCrimetype%5D%5BCrimetype%5D&mod-period=1&mod-area=E0700> (Accessed 30/07/2025)

⁸³ [Community safety partnership | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed: 30/07/2025)

⁸⁴ [Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan 2020-2023](#) (Accessed 30/07/2025)



Tamworth Police have adopted a problem-solving approach in the town centre, focusing on illegal motorcycles, drug misuse, and youth violence⁸⁵. This includes high-visibility patrols, community engagement events, and collaborative enforcement with council officers.

6.2 Key Sustainability Issues

The following key sustainability issues have been identified:

- The population of the Borough will continue to increase disproportionately; Tamworth's young and working age population (particularly between 18-25 years) is forecasted to fall, whilst the ageing population (aged 71 years and over) is predicted to continue rising. This will lead to a less socially balanced community, with greater levels of dependency;
- An ageing population will place pressure on health and social care services, supported living, and accessibility standards in housing and public spaces;
- Tamworth is particularly deprived with respect to education, health, and crime, and this is also evident in neighbouring authorities. Deprivation is most evident within Glascote Heath and Central Tamworth;
- A large proportion of children in Tamworth experience income deprivation, leading to them falling below the poverty line;
- Tamworth has lower educational attainment rates than the regional and national average;
- There is high demand for primary school places in Tamworth, particularly in the north of the Borough in line with recent housing development;
- Demand for SEND support is rising, with a projected shortfall of 400 specialist school places by 2027/28. There is a need for more inclusive school environments to ensure all children/young people with SEND can be supported in the right place at the right time;
- In line with national and regional trends, crime rates in Tamworth are increasing. There is a need for well-designed developments that assist in reducing opportunities for crime, lowering the fear of crime and promoting feelings of safety. -; and
- There is a need for inclusive, well-designed developments that accommodate a shifting population structure and ensure equal access to services.

6.3 Likely Evolution without the Local Plan

The population of the Borough and number of households will continue to grow, and the average age of the population will continue to get older. This increase could lead to changes to the types of accommodation required, and how healthcare and leisure facilities are used within the Borough. Additionally, school place demand will

⁸⁵ [Tamworth Town | Police.uk](https://tamworthtown.police.uk) (Accessed 30/7/2025)



gradually increase over the next five years, with SEN support becoming a critical area for urgent action.

Deprivation will likely remain unevenly dispersed across the Borough, unless addressed through coordinated regeneration and service delivery. Similarly, educational attainment gaps and low qualification levels may persist without targeted intervention, limiting access to higher-skilled jobs and amplifying income deprivation.

Pressure on school capacity- particularly at secondary schools and special schools- is likely to increase from new developments. Although a range of organisations are responsible for delivering education and training provision, Staffordshire County Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available to meet the needs of a growing and changing population. Without coordinated planning through the Local Plan, there is a risk that education infrastructure will not keep pace with housing growth and demographic change, leading to increased inequality in access to education.

6.4 Data Gaps

Tamworth's ward-level deprivation data and school capacity forecasts are anticipated by 2026 and may provide clearer insights into infrastructure needs. Monitoring of SEN capacity and inclusion data is currently minimal. Improving this will be essential for shaping future education provision.



7.0 Health

7.1 Baseline

7.1.1 Health Infrastructure

Tamworth is served by a network of nine National Health Service (NHS) GP practices⁸⁶. These practices vary in size and patient satisfaction, with some operating close to capacity. Although there is no major hospital within the Borough, residents can access acute and emergency care through nearby facilities such as Good Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield. The Borough also benefits from community health services, minor injuries units, and urgent care pathways coordinated via NHS 111, helping to alleviate pressure on hospital services⁸⁷.

7.1.2 Life Expectancy

In the three-year period between 2021-2023, life expectancy for both males and females in the Borough was slightly lower, but statistically similar to the county and national averages⁸⁸. These statistics are highlighted in Table 7-1.

Table 7-1: Life Expectancy at Birth

	Tamworth	Staffordshire	England
Males (2021-23)	78.9	79.5	79.1
Females (2021-23)	82.7	83.2	83.1

Life expectancy decreased slightly in Tamworth between 2019 and 2022 but rose between 2022 and 2023. This trend occurred at a national scale and is a likely result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Life expectancy at birth is a high-level indicator of inequality. Within the Borough, life expectancy is approximately 4 years lower for men and women in the most deprived areas of Tamworth compared to the least deprived areas⁸⁹. However, overall life expectancy at birth for females (82.6 years old) and males (78.7 years old) are broadly in line with the national averages (83.2 and 79.5 years old respectively)⁹⁰.

7.1.3 General Health (Self-Reported Health)

The majority of Tamworth residents define their health as either 'very good' (44.6%) or 'good' (35.2%), according to the 2021 Census. This number of residents defining themselves in 'very good health' has improved since 2011 (42.6%) and number of residents defining themselves in 'good health' is similar (35.6%). 5.9% of resident's

⁸⁶ [Best and Worst NHS GPs in Tamworth | HealthSay](#) (Accessed 30/07/2025)

⁸⁷ [Health | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 30/07/2025)

⁸⁸ [Life expectancy for local areas of Great Britain - Office for National Statistics](#) (Accessed 30/07/2025)

⁸⁹ [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2024 - Staffordshire Observatory](#) (Accessed 30/09/2025)

⁹⁰ [Tamworth Data Pack 2018](#) (Accessed 30/07/2025)

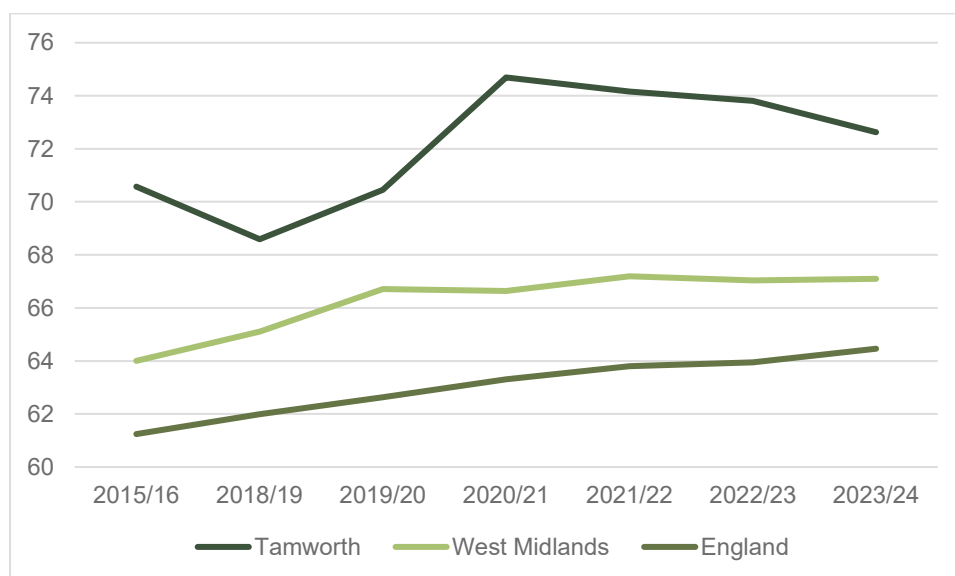


considered themselves to be in 'bad' or 'very bad' health⁹¹. This is a decrease of 0.8% since 2011.

7.1.4 Overweight and Obesity

In Tamworth, 72.6% of people are identified as overweight or obese, which is considerably higher than the average for the West Midlands (67.1%), and the national average (64.5%). Figure 7-1 presents these figures over time and shows that overweight and obesity rates rose sharply in Tamworth between 2018 and 2021 and are now beginning to decline. However, they continue to rise steadily in the West Midlands and England more widely.

Figure 7-1: Overweight (including obesity) prevalence in adults over time

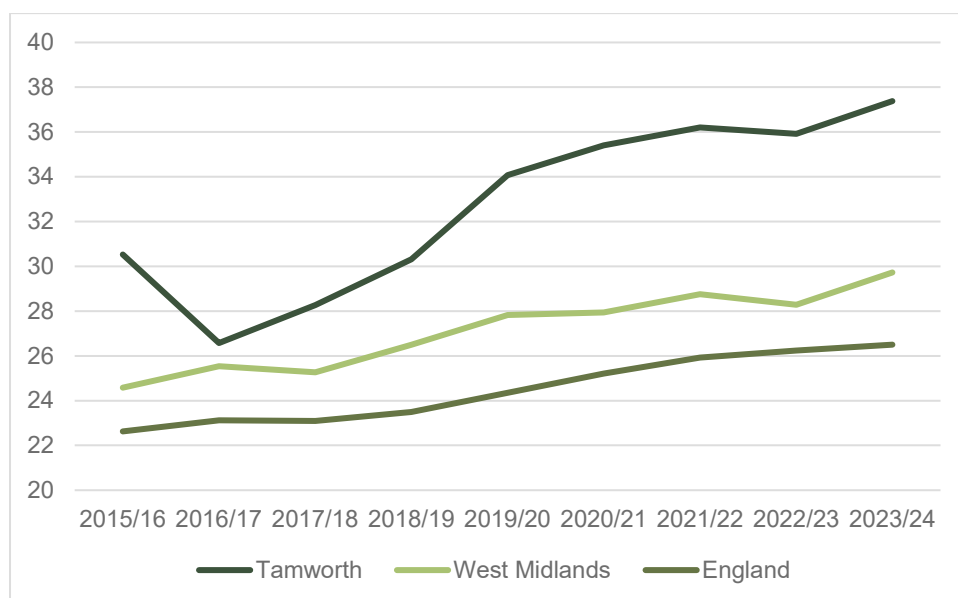


Obesity rates in Tamworth are significantly higher than both regional and national averages. In Tamworth, 37.4% of the population is classified as obese, compared to 29.7% in the West Midlands and 26.5% across England. Figure 7-2: Obesity prevalence in adults over time shows the prevalence of obesity over time, presenting a year-on-year increase in obesity since 2015 in Tamworth, the West Midlands and England. Obesity rates have increased more rapidly in Tamworth. Higher levels of obesity are most commonly found in the Borough's urban and deprived areas, such as Central Tamworth (15.5%) and Coton Farms and Perry Croft (14.4%).

⁹¹ [How life has changed in Tamworth: Census 2021](#) (Accessed 30/07/2025)



Figure 7-2: Obesity prevalence in adults over time

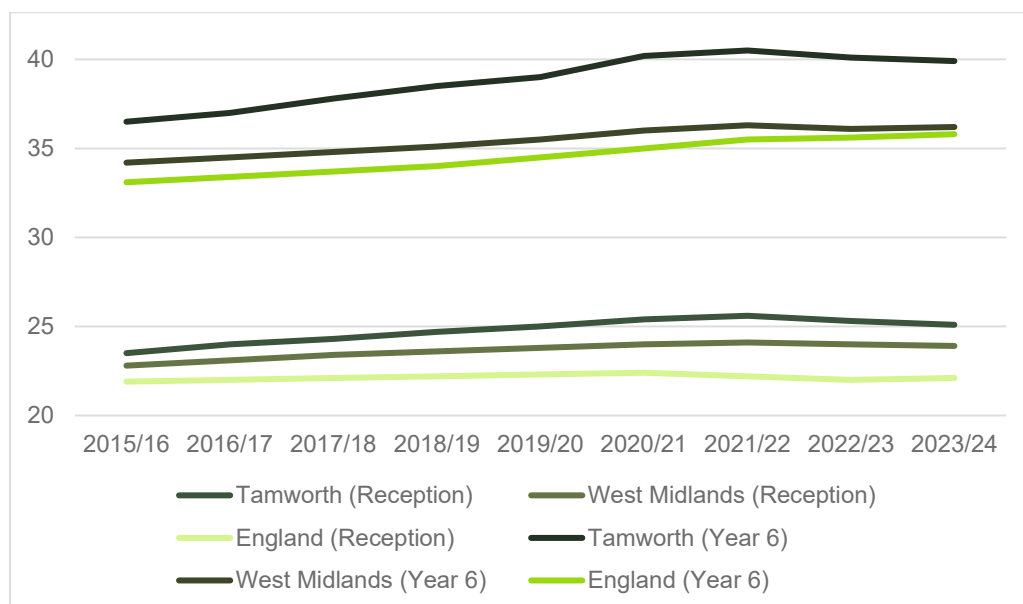


The proportion of children identified as overweight or obese in Tamworth is also higher than the regional and national averages. 24.1% of reception-age children and 39.5% of year 6 children are classified as overweight or obese⁹². For both of these age groups, obesity levels are higher than the average for the West Midlands (23.4 and 38.4% respectively), and nationally (22.1% and 35.8% respectively)⁹². Figure 7-3 presents the proportion of children in reception and year 6 who are identified as overweight or obese over time. The gap between Tamworth and the regional and national averages for these figures is wider for children in year 6 than it is for children in reception.

⁹² Department of Health and Social Care 2024 [Obesity, physical activity and nutrition - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#) (Accessed 21/10/2025)



Figure 7-3: Overweight and obesity prevalence in children in year reception and children in year 6 over time⁹²



Reception-age children in Stonydelph are disproportionately affected by obesity, with 28.3% being classed as overweight or obese. Similarly, year 6 children in Stonydelph and Bolehall are disproportionately affected by obesity, with 42.3% and 50.0% (respectively) of children being classed as overweight or obese⁹³. Childhood obesity rates in Tamworth's most deprived areas are therefore significantly higher than those in the Borough's least deprived areas.

Over half of the Borough's residents (53%) meet their '5-a-day' fruit and vegetable consumption target. This is similar to county (53%) and national (55%) averages⁹⁴. There is a similar proportion of fast-food outlets per 100,000 in Tamworth (98.4) compared to England (115.9)⁹⁵.

There is growing evidence of a link between obesity and poor oral health. Although specific local figures are limited, national and regional studies have shown that children in more deprived areas are significantly more likely to experience tooth decay and poor oral health outcomes⁹⁶.

7.1.5 Levels of Physical Activity

Approximately 67.4% of adults in Tamworth are active for more than 150 minutes a week, which is higher than the regional and national averages (64.1% and respectively 67.4%). Despite this, around 25% of adults in Tamworth are physically

⁹³ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2024 [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2024 - Staffordshire Observatory](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

⁹⁴ [PowerPoint Presentation](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

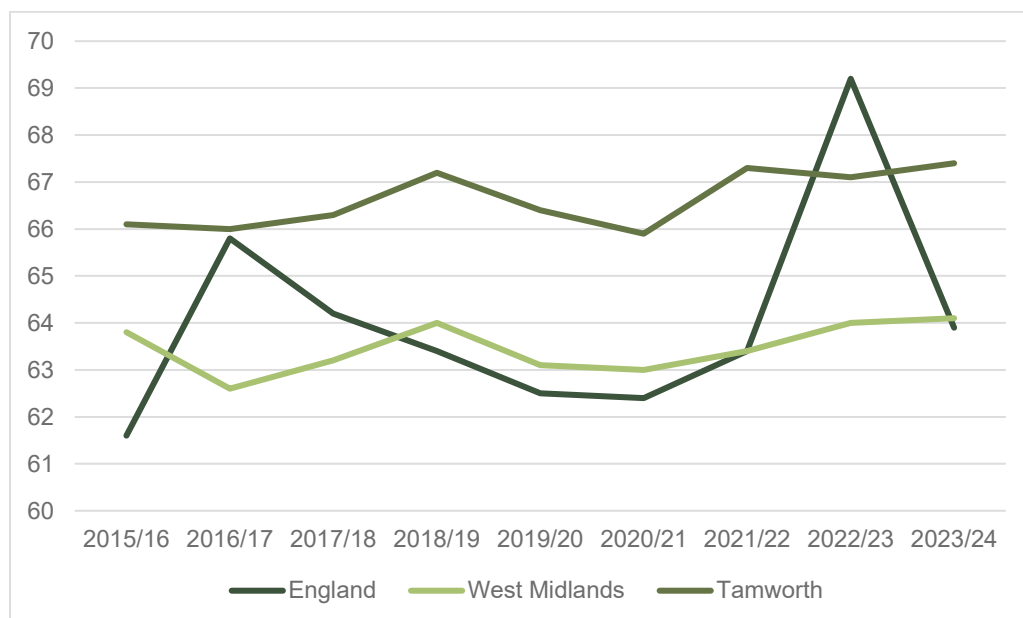
⁹⁵ Department of Health and Social Care [Obesity, physical activity and nutrition - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#) (Accessed 21/10/2025)

⁹⁶ HYPERLINK "<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/oral-health-survey-of-children-in-year-6-2023-detailed-report/detailed-findings-of-year-6-oral-health-survey>" [Detailed findings of year 6 oral health survey - GOV.UK](#) (Accessed 30/07/2025)



inactive (less than 30 minutes of activity per week), which is the same as the regional average but higher than the national average (22%)⁹⁷. Figure 7-4 shows that the level of physical activity in Tamworth has increased over time and has remained higher than its regional and national comparators. The figure for the West Midlands has followed a similar trend, however it has fluctuated across England.

Figure 7-4: Levels of physical activity over time⁹⁸



The low levels of physical activity identified within the Borough are likely to correlate with the high levels of obesity identified. As highlighted in the Better Health Evidence Base for Tamworth (2023)⁹⁹, this inactivity is linked to higher rates of chronic conditions such as diabetes. The Borough has a high prevalence of Type 1 and 2 diabetes, with 7.6% of Tamworth residents suffering from the condition, compared to 7.3% across England¹⁰⁰.

On average, four in ten children in the Borough are physically active for an hour each day (similar to Staffordshire and England). 1 in 3 children in the Borough are active for less than 30 minutes a day however. This is also similar to the county and national average¹⁰¹.

7.1.6 Disability

In 2021, 8.1% of residents identified themselves as 'disabled and limited a lot'; this is a decrease from 2011 (10.2%). 10.9% of residents identified themselves as 'disabled and limited a little'¹⁰²; this is a slight increase since 2011 (10.6%). In comparison,

⁹⁷ [PowerPoint Presentation](#) (Accessed 30/07/2025)

⁹⁸ [Obesity, physical activity and nutrition - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#) (Accessed 21/10/2025)

⁹⁹ [PowerPoint Presentation](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

¹⁰⁰ [PowerPoint Presentation](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

¹⁰¹ [PowerPoint Presentation](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

¹⁰² [How life has changed in Tamworth: Census 2021](#) (Accessed 17/07/2025)



Staffordshire reported 7.4% 'disabled and limited a lot' and 10.7% 'disabled and limited a little', while the national figures for England were 9.3% and 9.8% respectively¹⁰³. This highlights that Tamworth has a higher proportion of residents experiencing less severe forms of disability¹⁰⁴.

Whilst exact figures are not available for Tamworth, Staffordshire has a disability employment rate of 70.1%, which is significantly higher than the average for the West Midlands (53.9%) and England (55.6%)¹⁰⁵. This employment rate has risen substantially since 2013 (42.9%)¹⁰⁶. This suggests that physical barriers to the workplace for those with health inequalities may be decreasing. However, within the West Midlands, women with disabilities have recorded lower economic activity rates and wages compared to their male counterparts.

Progress is being made in Tamworth to create inclusive and accessible job opportunities and to support disabled residents in developing skills. Tamworth Better Together Partnership is a Council-led initiative working to enhance services that promote health, wellbeing, and independence for all residents¹⁰⁷. In addition, the Council supports community-led projects through the We Are Tamworth programme, which funds initiatives that foster inclusion, skill-building, and employment opportunities across diverse groups¹⁰⁸.

Tamworth also benefits from disability-friendly employment schemes and support services, including the newly expanded Mobility and Lifestyle Support Centre, which provides resources and equipment to help disabled individuals live independently and access employment¹⁰⁹. These efforts reflect a broader commitment to ensuring that all residents can participate fully in the local economy and community life.

Tamworth Borough Council attends the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Learning in Practice Forum meetings, surrounding themes of safeguarding, with attendance at MACE panels, domestic abuse working groups and countywide partnerships¹¹⁰.

7.1.7 Pregnancy and Maternity

There were 774 live births in Tamworth in 2024, which was lower than in Lichfield (959) but higher than North Warwickshire (589)¹¹¹. Tamworth ranks in the top five

¹⁰³ <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Observatory/Data/Documents/Census-2021-Health-Disability-and-Unpaid-Care-Final.pdf> (Accessed 04/08/2025)

¹⁰⁴ [How life has changed in Tamworth: Census 2021](#) (Accessed 17/07/2025)

¹⁰⁵ [The employment of disabled people 2024 - GOV.UK](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹⁰⁶ Department for Work and Pensions. [The employment of disabled people 2024 - GOV.UK](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹⁰⁷ [Support for adults | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹⁰⁸ [Five community projects begin crowdfunding as 'We are Tamworth' programme gains momentum | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹⁰⁹ [Mayor opens Mobility and Lifestyle 'flagship' support centre](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹¹⁰ [Safeguarding Children and Adults at risk of abuse report Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 20.pdf](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹¹¹ Live births (2024) [Population change, Live births in North Warwickshire | LG Inform](#) (Accessed 17/07/2025)



local authorities in the West Midlands with the highest teenage (under 18 years) conception rates in England and Wales, at 19.4 per 1,000 births¹¹². Infant mortality rates in Tamworth lie at 6.4 deaths per 1,000 births, which is similar to the average for the West Midlands (5.9 deaths per 1,000 births)¹¹³. Infant mortality data for Tamworth should be treated with caution, however, as a result of the small number of events that contribute to this statistic.

Low birth weight of live babies in the Borough is recorded at 7.7%. This is higher than the national average of 6.8%. This is particularly prominent in the wards of Amington (10.3%) and Wilnecote (9.1%)¹¹⁴.

7.1.8 Air Quality

Breathing polluted air affects health to a great degree. Air pollution is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer as well as impacting lung function, exacerbating asthma, increasing hospital admissions and mortality rates. Air pollution does not impact a population equally, however, with the most vulnerable members of society often being at a greater risk of being exposed to poor air quality. For example, less affluent neighbourhoods are often more exposed to dangerous levels of air pollution, and this pollution can trigger or exacerbate symptoms for more vulnerable members of society such as children, the elderly, pregnant women and those with existing health conditions.

Within Tamworth, levels of nitrogen dioxide have reduced gradually over time, however, PM2.5 (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 micrometres) continues to have an impact on health in the Borough. In Tamworth, the fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution was 5.7% in 2022, compared with a mean of 5.8% for England¹¹⁵. Comparing Tamworth to the other local authorities within Staffordshire, Tamworth has the highest concentrations of PM2.5 associated with excess mortality.

In order to reduce levels of PM2.5, Tamworth Borough Council is involved in a number of initiatives including promoting sustainable travel, reducing traffic congestion and idling, and optimising traffic flow via signal management and speed enforcement in order to reduce transport-related emissions.

Further information about air quality and pollution in Tamworth can be found in Chapter 10 of this report.

7.1.9 Mental Health

Tamworth has one of the highest GP recorded depression rates in Staffordshire, which is above the national average. In Tamworth, between 2016/17 and 2020/21, 35% of emergency hospital admissions were for adults (20 years and over) with a

¹¹² Under 18's conception rate [Local Authority Health Profiles - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#) (Accessed 17/07/2025)

¹¹³ Infant Mortality Rates [Local Authority Health Profiles - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹¹⁴ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2024 [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2024 - Staffordshire Observatory](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

¹¹⁵ [Tamworth-ASR-2024-FINAL-\(accessible\).pdf](#) (Accessed 17/07/2025)



mental health diagnosis¹¹⁶. Emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm in 2023/24 in the Borough are also above the national average and are particularly high in the ward of Spital¹¹⁷.

Between 2020 and 2021 the Borough's mental health index value fell from 97 to 94.7, which indicates a slight improvement¹¹⁸. Despite this, local charities such as Heart of Tamworth and Changes Tamworth also report rising demand for support services targeting loneliness and grief^{119,120}. Tamworth Samaritans supported over 10,800 callers in 2023-2024¹²¹.

Poor mental health in Tamworth is thought to be linked to pockets of deprivation, financial stress and economic inactivity, particularly among young people, older adults and those with long-term health conditions. Wards such as Belgrave and Glascote have been identified as hotspots for health inequalities, where fuel poverty and cold homes are more prevalent¹²². These conditions are associated with increased risk of mental distress. Smoking, substance misuse and physical inactivity are also known contributors to poor mental wellbeing.

Tamworth has expanded addiction recovery services through groups like Better Way Recovery and Steps Together, while the Tamworth Better Together Partnership promotes healthier lifestyles and access to leisure activities¹²³.

7.1.10 Dementia and Ageing

Dementia is a disease which affects the brain and impacts memory, thinking, language, learning, and movement. Dementia has been found to have several contributing risk factors, including obesity, smoking, excessive alcohol use, high blood pressure, diabetes, an ageing population, deprivation, and ethnic diversity¹²⁴. Tamworth has a high prevalence of dementia, with a rate of 1.44% against the national average of 1.36%¹²⁵. This is slightly lower than the approximate county average however (1.55%)¹²⁶.

In Staffordshire, the quality rating of residential care and nursing home beds for residents aged 65 and older is 62.8%, a figure which is significantly lower than the national average of 75%¹²⁷. As Tamworth exhibits an ageing population in line with

¹¹⁶ [Mental health in adults - Staffordshire Observatory](#) (Access 17/07/2025)

¹¹⁷ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2024 [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2024 - Staffordshire Observatory](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

¹¹⁸ [How health has changed in your area - Office for National Statistics](#) (Accessed 17/07/2025)

¹¹⁹ [Empowering Lives & Community - Heart of Tamworth Community Project](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹²⁰ [Changes Tamworth |](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹²¹ [Tamworth Samaritans](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹²² [Home energy help | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹²³ [Support for adults | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹²⁴ [Dementia Prevalence by UK Constituency 2024](#) (Accessed 17/07/2025)

¹²⁵ [Dementia Prevalence by UK Constituency 2024](#) (Accessed 04/08/2025)

¹²⁶ [Demography - Staffordshire County Council](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

¹²⁷ Department of Health and Social Care. Dementia Profile. [Dementia Profile - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#) (Accessed 17/07/2025)



the rest of the UK, dementia rates are expected to rise. There are currently 12 care homes in Tamworth that provide dementia care, equating to approximately 585 care spaces¹²⁸.

As highlighted by Section 6.1.2, Tamworth is expected to experience a large increase in resident age between 2021 and 2043 (a predicted increase of 73.7% within the 81 years and over age group). This is likely to lead to an increase in the levels of residents living with disability, long-term illness and dementia. It may also increase the frequency of hip fracture admissions to hospital. In 2023, 530 per 100,00 residents aged 65 and over experienced a hip fracture¹²⁹. This is lower than the county (578 per 100,00 residents) and national average (547 per 100,00 residents). The Lichfield and Tamworth Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment suggests a need for some additional nursing and residential care bedspaces in the longer term in order to support the ageing population¹³⁰.

7.1.11 Open Spaces and Activity

Increasing activity levels in the Borough is seen as a key mechanism to improving residents' health. Tamworth Borough Council's Active Tamworth initiative promotes healthier lifestyles by increasing access to physical activity opportunities, developing targeted interventions, and encouraging community engagement¹³¹. The programme supports small, sustainable changes such as walking, cycling, and joining local sports groups. The initiative seeks to engage all age groups in physical activity, with one of its aims being to help children and young people move from education to community sport.

It is widely recognised that access to green spaces and sports and recreational facilities benefit people's mental and physical health. Tamworth contains a number of parks, gardens and nature reserves which are managed by the Borough Council. There are also a number of council-owned allotments within the Borough, as well as the Belgrave Community Allotment and Garden which is community-run. In Tamworth, there is 2.32km² of accessible green space land per 1000 population¹³².

Figure 7-5 shows the distribution of open spaces within the Borough, including those designated as outdoor sports and leisure facilities, parks and gardens and allotments.

¹²⁸ [Dementia Care Homes in Tamworth | Search Tamworth Dementia Care Homes | Care Sourcer](#) (Accessed 30/09/2025)

¹²⁹ [Local Authority Health Profiles - Data | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

¹³⁰ [housing-and-economic-needs-assessment-lichfield-and-tamworth-2025](#) (Accessed 01/10/25)

¹³¹ [visittamworth](#) (Accessed 30/07/2025)

¹³² Natural England Green Infrastructure Framework [Green Infrastructure Map](#) (Accessed 17/07/2025)



7.2 Key Sustainability Issues

The following key sustainability issues have been identified:

- Increased development in Tamworth may place additional pressure on existing NHS infrastructure, particularly GP practices and hospital services. There is a need to keep services accessible for all;
- Life expectancy for both men and women is slightly lower than county and national averages;
- Life expectancy is approximately 4 years lower for men and women in the most deprived areas of Tamworth compared to the least deprived areas;
- Levels of obesity and excessive weight in adults within the Borough are significantly higher than the national average. This is likely to contribute to issues such as poor oral health and diabetes;
- Levels of excess weight and obesity in children are also high, which can lead to long-term health problems including poor psychological and emotional health. Healthy eating and physical activity subsequently needs to be promoted from an early age;
- 1 in 4 adults and 1 in 3 children in the Borough are considered as inactive. There is subsequently a need to increase levels of physical activity and encourage healthier lifestyles;
- Almost a fifth of the Borough identify themselves as disabled, which is higher than the county average;
- There is a need to provide housing (new and existing) that is built to accessible and adaptable standards, so that where appropriate, people with disabilities can live comfortably and independently;
- There is a need to support residents with disabilities in finding inclusive and accessible job opportunities, and ensure that the disability employment rate is as high as possible in line with county rates;
- Tamworth is within top five local authorities in England and Wales for under-18 conception rates;
- Air pollution, specifically from PM2.5, significantly affects the health of residents in the Borough, especially among vulnerable groups;
- Poor mental health is a notable issue in Tamworth, where rates of depression and self-harm exceed both national and county averages;
- Dementia prevalence is high in Tamworth, driven by risk factors such as ageing, obesity, smoking and diabetes;
- There is a need to improve and increase the provision of residential care and nursing services for people living with dementia in Tamworth;



- There are high levels of hospital admissions due to falls in those aged over 65. There is a need to improve the adaptability, quality and accessibility of homes, alongside the wider built environment; and
- The needs of the ageing population will need to be considered and addressed, including greater demand for health and care services.

7.3 Likely Evolution without the Local Plan

Without the plan, health prospects may worsen over time as there will be an inability to strategically plan for health. This is likely to lead to a rise in the number of adults and children living with poor health, including high levels of obesity and mental health issues. This, alongside increased development, may place additional pressure on the NHS, particularly GP practices and hospital services. Without appropriate planning and investment, this could lead to longer waiting times and reduced access to care for residents.

There is also likely to be a lack of strategic framework to deliver, enhance or maintain open space within the Borough to support physical and mental health. New open space and sports facilities within the Borough could subsequently be located in areas that would be less beneficial to new or existing residents, and policy intervention to support improving levels of physical activity through walking and cycling may not be achieved.

Air quality may worsen with growth in the Borough, particularly levels of PM2.5, which may exacerbate existing health issues, as well as increase the number of individuals suffering with health conditions.

7.4 Data Gaps

Disability data (how residents identify themselves) is age standardised; it is therefore difficult to understand whether disabilities are equally spread across the Borough's population.

The Tamworth Borough Council Joint Indoor and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2009) is now outdated.



8.0 Housing

8.1 Baseline

8.1.1 Households

In 2022, there were 32,894 households in Tamworth. In 2011, there were approximately 31,459 households in Tamworth, highlighting a 4.6% increase in the number of households in the Borough during this time frame¹³³. Tamworth is expected to experience a 2.9% increase in households by 2043 (from 2022 figures), rising to 33,866¹³⁴. This close alignment in growth between population and households suggests that household sizes may remain stable but shifts in household composition by age are likely to reshape local needs. For example, households led by those aged 25-49 are projected to grow substantially (34-37%), suggesting a sustained demand for starter homes and family housing.

Table 8-1 shows the composition of households present in Tamworth, and how this has changed from 2011 to 2021. As shown in the table, the percentage of one person households (aged 66 and over) has increased the most between 2011 and 2021 (1.6% increase). Over the same period, the percentage of single-family households, both with no children and dependent children, has decreased (1.4% and 1.7% respectively). There has been little change in the percentage of single-family households with non-dependent children and lone-parent households.

Table 8-1: Households Composition in Tamworth¹³⁵

Household Composition	2011	2021
One-person household: Aged 66 years and over	10.9	12.5
One-person household: Other	15.2	14.2
Single-family household: Cohabiting-couple family: No children	19.9	18.5
Single-family household: Cohabiting-couple family: With dependent children	21.6	19.9
Single-family household: Cohabiting-couple family: All children non-dependent	7.7	7.8
Single-family household: Lone-parent household	11.6	11.9
Other household types	13.2	15.2

Table 8-2 shows the size of households in Tamworth in 2021. The most common household size in the Borough is 2 persons (36.2%), followed by 1 persons (26.7%). This trend has remained the same between 2011 and 2021. Within this timeframe there has been only minor changes to household size, with an increase of 0.7% in

¹³³ Household projections for England [Household projections for England - Office for National Statistics](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

¹³⁴ Household projections for England [Household projections for England - Office for National Statistics](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

¹³⁵ [How life has changed in Tamworth: Census 2021](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)



the number of 2 persons households and a decrease of 1.1% in the number of 4 persons households.

Table 8-2: Household Size in Tamworth

Household Size	2011 (%) ¹³⁶	2021 (%) ¹³⁷
1 person	26.1	26.7
2 persons	35.5	36.2
3 persons	17.7	17.9
4 persons	14.4	13.3
5 or more persons	6.3	6.0

8.1.2 Housing Tenure

As shown in Table 8-3, there has been a 1.2% reduction in the number of households being owned or with a mortgage or loan and a 4.1% increase in the number of households being privately rented since 2011. The Lichfield and Tamworth Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment¹³⁸ (HEDNA) suggests that, despite the recent trend of decreasing home ownership, Tamworth's housing strategy is shifting towards increasing home ownership and reducing reliance on social rented housing¹³⁹.

Table 8-3: Tenure of Households in Tamworth¹⁴⁰

Tenure	2011	2021	% Change 2011-2021
Owned or with a mortgage or loan	68.2%	67.0%	-1.2%
Shared ownership	0.5%	0.7%	0.2%
Social rented	19.3%	18.0%	-1.3%
Private rented	11.0%	14.1%	4.1%
Lives rent free	0.9%	0.2%	-0.7%

¹³⁶ [Data Viewer - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

¹³⁷ [Household and resident characteristics, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

¹³⁸ <https://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/downloads/download/151/housing-development-needs> (accessed 23/10/25)

¹³⁹ [housing-and-economic-needs-assessment-lichfield-and-tamworth-2025](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹⁴⁰ ONS [How life has changed in Tamworth: Census 2021](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)



8.1.3 Dwelling Type and Size

Table 8-4 highlights how housing is comprised in Tamworth, compared to Staffordshire, the West Midlands and England¹⁴¹. In 2021, semi-detached housing was the most common household type within Tamworth (38.5%), followed by detached (26.6%). As shown in Table 8-4, the number of semi-detached homes in Tamworth is very similar to Staffordshire and West Midlands, however the number of detached homes is much lower than county and regional levels.

Table 8-4: Types of Dwelling Present in Tamworth (2021)¹⁴²

Type of Dwelling	Tamworth (%)	Staffordshire (%)	West Midlands (%)	England (%)
Detached	26.6	34.2	24.5	22.9
Semi-detached	38.5	38.2	37.6	31.5
Terraced	21.4	16.5	21.5	23.0
Flats	13.0	11.6	16.0	22.2
A caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4

As shown in Table 8-5, dwelling size in Tamworth is skewed toward two-bedroom (21.5%) and three-bedroom homes (50.6%)¹⁴³. These figures vary slightly from the West Midlands and England figures, with the percentage of two-bedroom homes being lower, and the percentage of three-bedroom homes being higher.

Table 8-5: Dwelling Size in Tamworth (2021)¹⁴⁴

Dwelling Size	Tamworth (%)	West Midlands (%)	England (%)
1 bedroom	8.3	9.7	11.6
2 bedrooms	21.5	24.8	27.3
3 bedrooms	50.6	45.6	40.0
4 or more bedrooms	19.6	19.9	21.1

8.1.4 Housing Growth

The Lichfield and Tamworth HEDNA (2025) identifies a minimum housing target of 445 dwellings per year, equating to an additional 7,565 dwellings between 2025 to

¹⁴¹ ONS Census Maps [Accommodation type - Census Maps, ONS](#) (Accessed 23/05/2025)

¹⁴² ONS Census Maps [Accommodation type - Census Maps, ONS](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹⁴³ [housing-and-economic-needs-assessment-lichfield-and-tamworth-2025](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹⁴⁴ [housing-and-economic-needs-assessment-lichfield-and-tamworth-2025](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)



2042¹⁴⁵. Between 2011 and 2023, Tamworth delivered approximately 2,396 net additional dwellings, representing a 7.9% increase in the housing stock¹⁴⁶. This increase remains below the national average and reflects constraints on land availability within the Borough.

8.1.5 Housing Prices

Tamworth's housing market has experienced intensifying affordability pressures. Over the past decade, house prices have risen by 75%, outpacing regional and national trends¹⁴⁷. As highlighted in Table 8-7, the average house price in Tamworth is £233,000, with detached homes averaging £381,000¹⁴⁸. This is lower than the average for Staffordshire (£266,712) and England and Wales (£361,759). This reflects the housing mix in the Borough, which leans towards more affordable dwellings such as semi-detached homes (38.3%). Based on typical mortgage lending criteria, Tamworth's semi-detached properties require an estimated £52,000 annual income, compared to £71,300 at a national average. Flats are the least common dwelling type in Tamworth (9.1%) and require the lowest income, at an estimated £26,889. Overall Tamworth's housing prices are relatively affordable compared with Staffordshire and England and Wales.

While prices remain below the regional and national averages, the gap between local incomes and housing costs has widened. Table 8-6 presents the affordability ratio for Tamworth and the nearby local authority areas of Lichfield and North Warwickshire. Tamworth's affordability ratio has remained relatively stable in recent years, however

¹⁴⁵ [housing-and-economic-needs-assessment-lichfield-and-tamworth-2025](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹⁴⁶ [housing-and-economic-needs-assessment-lichfield-and-tamworth-2025](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹⁴⁷ [housing-and-economic-needs-assessment-lichfield-and-tamworth-2025](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹⁴⁸ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth/housing/accommodation-type/accommodation-type-5a/whole-house-or-bungalow-detached?lad=E07000199> (Accessed 31/07/2025)



Lichfield has seen greater fluctuations and is less affordable than Tamworth. Homes in North Warwickshire have become more affordable since 2022¹⁴⁹.

Table 8-6: Ratio of Lower Quartile house price to lower quartile gross annual workplace-based earnings¹⁴⁹

Year	Tamworth	Lichfield	North Warwickshire
2008	7.2	8.8	7.2
2012	6.3	7.9	5.7
2016	7.3	7.5	6.5
2020	7.9	7.8	7.0
2021	8.0	9.5	7.8
2022	7.0	10.1	8.1
2023	7.0	9.2	7.5
2024	7.1	8.4	6.4

There are spatial differences in housing affordability and deprivation across Tamworth. Areas with higher concentrations of social housing, particularly in more deprived neighbourhoods such as Glascote, Belgrave and Amington, tend to experience greater housing stress¹⁵⁰. These areas often face challenges related to both the cost and quality of housing, as well as access to essential services and higher rates of homelessness and overcrowding.

To address these issues, there is a clear need to increase the supply of affordable homes across a range of tenures. This includes a strong emphasis on low-cost rented housing, such as social rent and affordable rent, which are more accessible to households on modest incomes.

Table 8-7: Average Property Prices (2025)¹⁵¹¹⁵²

Dwelling type	Tamworth		Staffordshire		England & Wales	
	Average price	% of sales	Average price	% of sales	Average price	% of sales
Detached	£381,000	26.8%	£397,580	32.3%	£508,181	24.6%
Semi-detached	£237,000	38.3%	£230,580	37.1%	£320,850	29.8%
Terraced	£197,000	25.8%	£184,520	22.9%	£304,046	28.5%
Flat	£120,000	9.1%	£136,428	7.7%	£319,018	17.1%

¹⁴⁹ [Housing affordability in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#) (Accessed 21/10/2025)

¹⁵⁰ https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/housing_docs/housing-strategy.pdf (Accessed 01/08/2025)

¹⁵¹ [Housing prices in Tamworth](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹⁵² [Tamworth Housing Market | Price trends and market breakdown](#) (Accessed 01/08/2025)



Dwelling type	Tamworth		Staffordshire		England & Wales	
	Average price	% of sales	Average price	% of sales	Average price	% of sales
Overall average price	£233,750	100.0%	£266,712	100.0%	£361,759	100.0%

Table 8-8 highlights the average Social and Affordable Rented costs for different sized housing in Tamworth. The costs are significantly below those for private rented housing, particularly for larger homes, indicating a significant gap between the Affordable Rented and market sectors.

Table 8-8: Average Social and Affordable Rented costs per month and Local Housing Allowance (LHA) (2025)¹⁵³

Bedrooms	Social Rent	Affordable Rent	LHA
One bedroom	£329	£440	£499
Two bedrooms	£378	£544	£623
Three bedrooms	£411	£616	£738
Four bedrooms	£460	£763	£992

8.1.6 Affordable Housing

The supply of affordable housing within the Borough remains constrained. Tamworth has a net annual need of over 180 affordable homes, with a gross need exceeding 1,500 households per year¹⁵⁴. However, delivery has consistently fallen short, due in part to viability challenges, limited land availability, and the prevalence of small-scale developments that often exclude affordable units. A high proportion of recent completions have been one- or two-bedroom properties, limiting the availability of family-sized homes¹⁵⁵.

8.1.7 Specialist Accommodation

As shown in Table 8-9, the majority of older person households in Tamworth are owner-occupied, with no mortgage. Single older people have a lower level of owner-occupation than larger older person households however.

¹⁵³ [housing-and-economic-needs-assessment-lichfield-and-tamworth-2025](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹⁵⁴ [housing-and-economic-needs-assessment-lichfield-and-tamworth-2025](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹⁵⁵ [housing-and-economic-needs-assessment-lichfield-and-tamworth-2025](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)



Table 8-9: Tenure of Older Persons Households in Tamworth¹⁵⁶

	Owner-occupied (no mortgage)	Owner-occupied (mortgage)	Social rented	Private rented
Single older people	65.0	3.7	25.1	6.1
2 or more older persons	84.8	3.7	8.4	3.1
All older person only	73.7	3.7	17.8	4.8

As referenced in [Section 6.1.2](#), by 2043 there is expected to be an increased number of older persons within Tamworth. There is also expected to be an increased number of residents experiencing a disability (likely to be linked to the increased number of older persons). There is subsequently a growing requirement for accessible properties to meet the needs of older residents and people with disabilities.

The current demand and supply for specialist housing is highlighted in Table 8-10. As highlighted in the table, without significant development/intervention there is likely to be a shortfall of all types of specialist housing within the Borough.

Table 8-10: Current and Future Specialist Housing Need

Specialist Housing Type	Supply	Demand	Additional demand to 2043	Shortfall/Surplus
Housing with support	699	908	543	-752
Housing with care	94	326	196	-428
Residential care bedspaces	251	290	174	-213
Nursing care bedspaces	122	327	195	-400

There is a current need for 302 wheelchair user homes within the Borough. Between 2022 and 2043 there is an estimated additional need of 90 wheelchair user homes. To meet this identified need, it is recommended that a proportion (potentially up to 5%) of all market home to be M4(3) compliant¹⁵⁷.

¹⁵⁶ [housing-and-economic-needs-assessment-lichfield-and-tamworth-2025](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

¹⁵⁷ [housing-and-economic-needs-assessment-lichfield-and-tamworth-2025](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)



8.1.8 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

According to the most recent Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), there is no current or future need for pitches in Tamworth over the GTAA period to 2040¹⁵⁸. The Borough currently has no permanent authorised sites, with the nearest located in North Warwickshire. Tamworth Borough Council continues to engage with these communities to ensure welfare needs are met and to manage unauthorised encampments through a structured legal process.

8.1.9 Self-build and Custom-build Homes

The Lichfield and Tamworth HEDNA identifies that, if assessed over the seven-and-a-half base periods between 2016 and 2023, there has been a total of 79 registered expressions of interest in a serviced plot of land in Tamworth. This is an average of 10 plots per base period. The HEDNA states that Tamworth is not meeting demand for self-build and custom build plots within the borough.

8.2 Key Sustainability Issues

The following key sustainability issues have been identified:

- Tamworth is experiencing modest household growth;
- Tamworth's land constraints mean that the Borough has limited land available for housing delivery. Tamworth will be unable to meet its housing need in full without support from neighbouring authorities;
- There will be limited land available for major housing developments; there will subsequently be a greater reliance on smaller sites to deliver housing need, which may in turn increase pressure on existing infrastructure;
- There is a need to meet the full range of housing needs across all of society. This includes needs for specific types and tenures of housing, across both market and affordable;
- There is a need for continued improvement in the design, build quality and sustainability of new housing;
- There has been an increase in privately rented housing, while ownership and social renting have declined;
- The Borough's existing housing stock is predominantly made up of semi-detached housing. New development subsequently provides the opportunity to further diversify the housing stock, and provide for a greater range of needs;
- The supply of larger family-sized homes (4 or more bedrooms) is limited, contributing to overcrowding, particularly among households with children and multi-generational families;

¹⁵⁸ [Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment \(GTAA\)](#) (Accessed 01/08/2025)



- The cost of housing in the Borough has increased at a higher rate than local earnings, making it difficult for individuals to get onto the property ladder;
- There is a need to provide more affordable housing, which must be appropriate to both the local housing market and income profile. Tamworth's relatively limited land supply means that naturally, there is a greater reliance on minor development sites. These types of sites are not required by local policy to deliver any affordable dwellings;
- Deprivation and housing stress are concentrated in areas with high levels of social housing;
- There will be a need for suitably designed housing to meet demands of an aging population; and
- There is a demand for self-build and custom-build housing in Tamworth. The Council should support the delivery of self-build and custom housebuilding sites, where opportunities for land arise and where such schemes are consistent with other planning policies.

8.3 Likely Evolution without the Local Plan

Without the Local Plan, there will be an absence of a strategic framework to appropriately plan for the location of new housing development. The Council is therefore likely to be less effective in encouraging housing in the most sustainable locations and may not be able to ensure the right type, size and tenure of housing is delivered to address local needs. This may adversely impact existing social, economic, environmental, and health inequalities and issues.

Similarly, there is likely to be a lack of control over the quality, design and sustainability of new residential development. This may result in a housing stock that is not entirely fit for purpose, both in the present and future, which also lacks cohesiveness with Tamworth's existing character and sense of place.

Housing delivery could be constrained in the short term, although in the longer-term requirements in the NPPF to have a five-year supply of housing sites would enable the further delivery of housing sites to meet need, through the planning application process. However, this would be on an ad-hoc basis, and will be unlikely to deliver affordable housing beyond the requirements of the NPPF.

Housing affordability is largely determined by house prices (themselves largely based on economic cycles and housing supply), and the ability of households to buy property (household income and availability of credit). Given the difficulty in forecasting economic trends and recent uncertainty surrounding inflation, it is difficult to predict whether housing affordability will change in the near term and which direction such change could take. However, without increased housing provision in the long-term, housing prices may continue to rise, and affordability to worsen. This may subsequently lead to younger residents moving out of the Borough to more affordable areas.

Finally, without an adopted Local Plan the design of suitable housing (e.g. for older people), supply may not meet demand, and it may be located inappropriately. This could have a negative impact on certain populations within Tamworth, as well as



lead to increased pressure on the NHS and private care system, as people are unable to stay in their homes for longer without the correct adaptations.

8.4 Data Gaps

A new Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy is currently being developed for Tamworth Borough. This should be published in October 2025.



9.0 Transport and Accessibility

9.1 Baseline

Tamworth's compact urban form provides good opportunities for transport connectivity both within and beyond the Borough's boundaries.

9.1.1 Tamworth's Road Network

Tamworth is connected to the Major Road Network (MRN) via the A5, which provides links to Cannock, Nuneaton, the M42 and the M6 Toll. The A51, A513, A453 and A4091, which are part of the **Local** Road Network, run north-south through the Borough.

Levels of congestion across the Borough are relatively high, particularly to the North (around the Upper Gungate Corridor), where high levels of development have taken place in recent years. This is partially due to the large number of vehicles on the road from associated population growth, but also partially due to a large proportion (49%) of car/van journeys taken in the Borough being under 5km in length. Car journeys are recorded as the most popular method of transportation for food shopping (70%), other shopping (56%), GP appointments (54%), hospital appointments (73%), and socialising (61%), which supports the large proportion of short journeys being taken by car/van¹⁵⁹.

9.1.2 Tamworth's Rail Network

There are two railway stations in Tamworth: Tamworth Railway Station which is located in close proximity to the town centre, and the smaller Wilnecote Station, which is positioned to the south near Two Gates. **Wilnecote Station has accessibility constraints due to the size of the station, and limited ability to expand.**

Services at both railway stations are provided by **London Northwestern (linking to London, Crewe, Stafford and Lichfield)**, **Avanti West Coast (linking to London)** and Cross County (linking to Birmingham, Derby, Nottingham, Yorkshire, Scotland and Bristol). Tamworth Railway Station is also located on the West Coast Mainline. There is significant passenger and freight demand along both lines, particularly for local routes.

Patronage at Tamworth Railway Station has reduced over time, from over 1,000,000 people making journeys from this station per year in 2013/2014, to around 950,000 in 2022/2023. Patronage at Wilnecote Station has remained steady over this timeframe, however, at around 100,000 people making journeys from this station per year.

The impact of Highspeed 2 (HS2) is likely to positively impact the West Midlands region through improved connectivity to London. Whilst this is not likely to have a significant impact on residents in Tamworth, increased investment and connectivity in the wider region is likely to have a positive effect on residents as a result of long-term economic growth in the region¹⁶⁰.

¹⁵⁹ Tamworth Borough Transport Data Report 2024 (Accessed 26/9/2025)

¹⁶⁰ HS2 in the West Midlands [HS2 in the West Midlands - HS2](#) (Accessed 10/07/2025)



9.1.3 Tamworth's Bus Network

The bus network in Tamworth is extensive and services are operated by a number of different bus companies, including Arriva, Diamond Bus, Stagecoach, South Derbyshire Coaches and A&M Group. The most frequently used bus stops in Tamworth are those in the town centre, as well as in local centres to the south and south east of the Borough (e.g. Fazeley, Glascote, and Amington).

Buses play an important role in the public transport network and are often essential for low-income individuals, young people, and those with health issues. Affordability is another pull towards bus usage and discounted travel offered to eligible groups, however eligibility depends upon the bus company. UK residents at the State Pension age (66 for men and women) are eligible for a free bus pass.

The Staffordshire Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) outlines a strategy to enhance bus services across the county, including in Tamworth¹⁶¹. Tamworth benefits from several key inter-urban routes such as the 110 (Tamworth to Birmingham), 65 (Tamworth to Nuneaton), and 765/X65 (Lichfield to Tamworth), operated primarily by Arriva Midlands. The BSIP identifies challenges such as inconsistent service frequencies, limited evening and Sunday services, and complex fare structures. To address these, the plan proposes more frequent and reliable services, simplified and integrated ticketing (including multi-operator options), and improved infrastructure, such as real-time information displays and accessible bus stops. Tamworth is also included in plans for enhanced cross-boundary connectivity with Warwickshire and the West Midlands.

In Staffordshire, accessible transport options for disabled people include low-floor, wheelchair-accessible buses and the Passenger Assist scheme on trains.

Staffordshire County Council are currently in the process of surveying the level of accessibility provided by all bus stops within Tamworth. This includes consideration of access via a dropped kerb and/or a raised platform¹⁶².

9.1.4 Tamworth's Active Travel Network

The National Cycle Network does not pass through Tamworth, however there are some cycle routes within the Borough. Despite Tamworth having the largest cycling network of any local authority in Staffordshire, levels of cycling are low within the Borough. This is partially due to areas of severance along major cycling routes, particularly around the A5, which make it difficult to travel safely.

Staffordshire County Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) 2021–2031 sets out a strategic vision to increase connectivity through active travel, aiming to make walking and cycling safer, more accessible, and more attractive for short journeys¹⁶³. Tamworth is one of six priority urban areas identified for targeted investment, with a dedicated cycle route audit and walking zone audit completed to guide infrastructure improvements. The LCWIP focuses on connecting residential areas with employment, education and leisure destinations.

¹⁶¹ Staffordshire bus service improvement plan [Staffordshire bus service improvement plan - Staffordshire County Council](#) (Accessed 11/07/2025)

¹⁶² Tamworth Borough Transport Data Report 2024 (Accessed 26/9/2025)

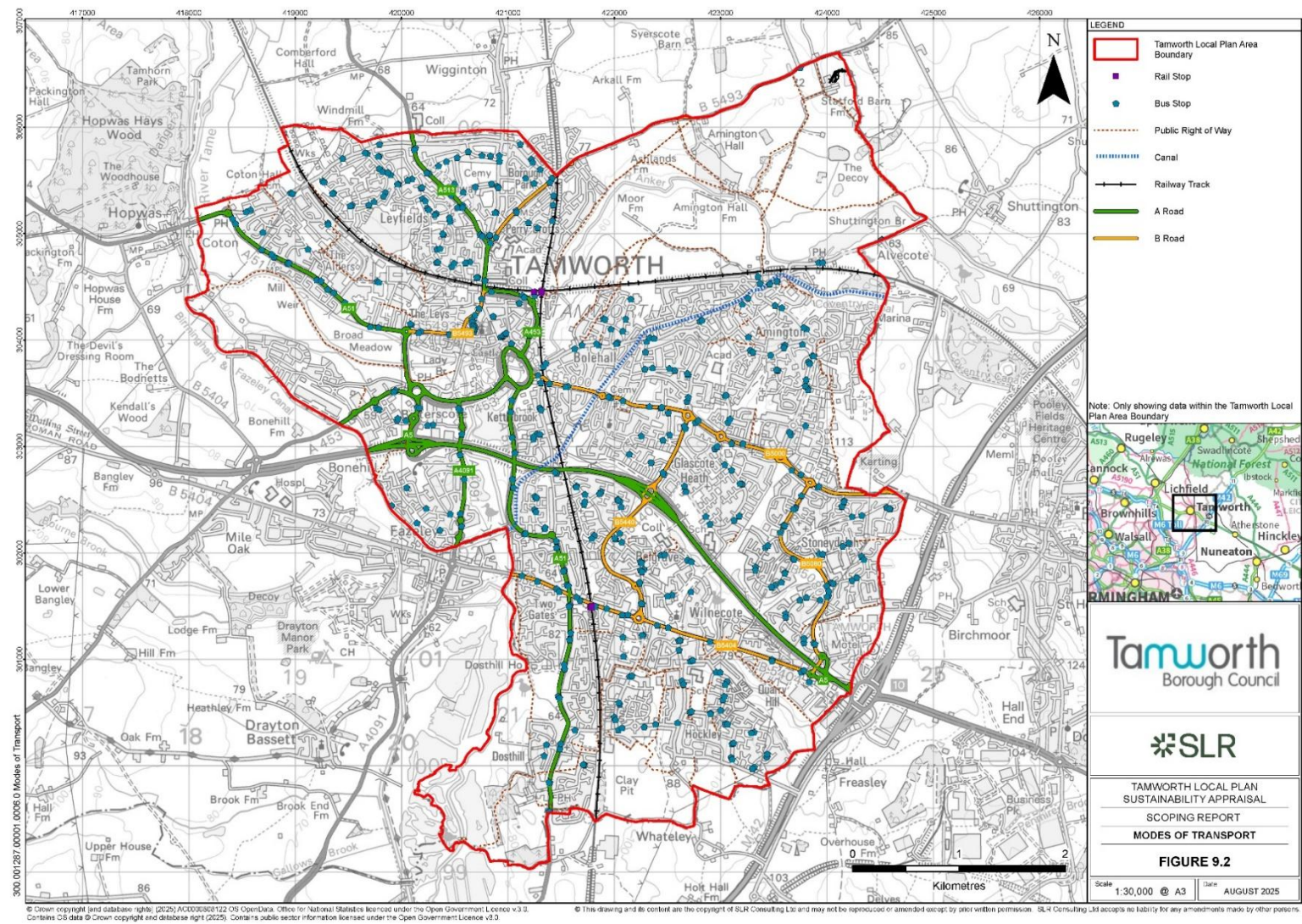
¹⁶³ Walking and cycling [Walking and cycling - Staffordshire County Council](#) (Accessed 11/07/2025)



Approximately £31 million is earmarked for transport infrastructure delivery across Staffordshire by 2031, with Tamworth expected to benefit from both short- and long-term schemes. The plan supports modal shift, public health and carbon reduction goals, aligning with national strategies to double cycling levels and increase walking activity by 2025.



Figure 9-1: Transport in Tamworth



9.1.5 Travel Patterns

As highlighted in Table 9-1, 51% of residents who travel to work do so by driving a car or a van. A small proportion of residents travel to work via active means, such as walking (11%). Cycling is not a utilised method of travel to work however. Similarly, some residents travel to work by public transport, with 11% of residents travelling to work by train and 4% by bus.

Table 9-1: Methods of Travel to Work in Tamworth (2024)¹⁶⁴

Method	Tamworth (%)
Bus	4
Train	11
Car/Van driver	51
Car/Van passenger	9
Taxi	0
Bicycle/Scooter	0
Walk	11
Motorcycle/Moped	2
Remote worker	12
Other	0

The most popular methods of travel to education in Tamworth differ slightly from methods of travel to work. For example, walking is the most popular mode of travel to education (34%), followed by car (26%). Public transport use via buses (17%) and trains (11%) is also high. This suggests that education facilities are in closer, more accessible locations than employment facilities in the Borough.

Table 9-2: Methods of Travel to Education in Tamworth (2024)

Method	Tamworth (%)
Bus/Coach	17
Train	11
Car/Van	26
Taxi	3
Bicycle/Scooter	9
Walk	34
Motorcycle/Moped	0
Remote education	0

¹⁶⁴ Tamworth Borough Transport Data Report 2024 (Accessed 26/9/2025)



Method	Tamworth (%)
Other	0

9.1.6 Electric Vehicles

There has been a significant increase in low emission plug-in vehicles (PiVs) in Tamworth since 2020, in line with national trends. In March 2020, there were 188 PiVs in the Borough and by March 2024 this figure had risen to 1,055¹⁶⁵. There is a greater number of PiVs in Tamworth per 100,000 of the population when compared to the regional and national figures, as highlighted in Figure 9-2.

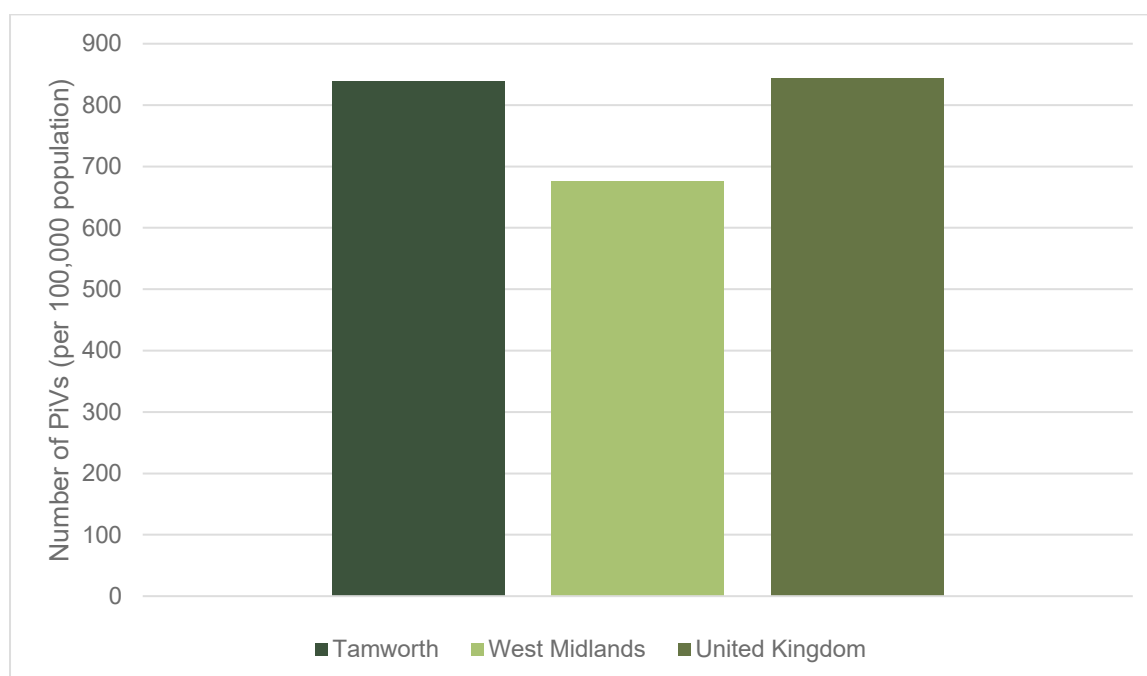


Figure 9-2: Number of registered plug-in vehicles in 2024 per 100,000 population

Despite this, the charging infrastructure to support this growth is lagging behind the figures for the West Midlands and the UK. Tamworth has 22 publicly available charging devices, of which, 11 are rapid chargers or faster. This equates to approximately 0.6% of all publicly available charging EV chargers in the West Midlands, and approximately 0.03% of all publicly available charging EV chargers in the UK. As shown in Figure 9-3, this represents 28 chargers per 100,000, which is significantly lower than the regional and national figures. **Tamworth has recently secured funding from the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) to implement approximately 50 chargers across three car parks in the Borough between 2024 and 2028. This supports findings from the Tamworth Electric Vehicle Strategy (2024)**¹⁶⁶

¹⁶⁵ Electric Vehicles and Charging Points in Local Areas. [Local area data: Electric vehicles and charging points](#) (Accessed 08/07/2025)

¹⁶⁶ Tamworth Electric Vehicle Strategy (2024) (Accessed 26/9/2025)



that suggests that it is imperative for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations to be implemented across Council-owned car parks.

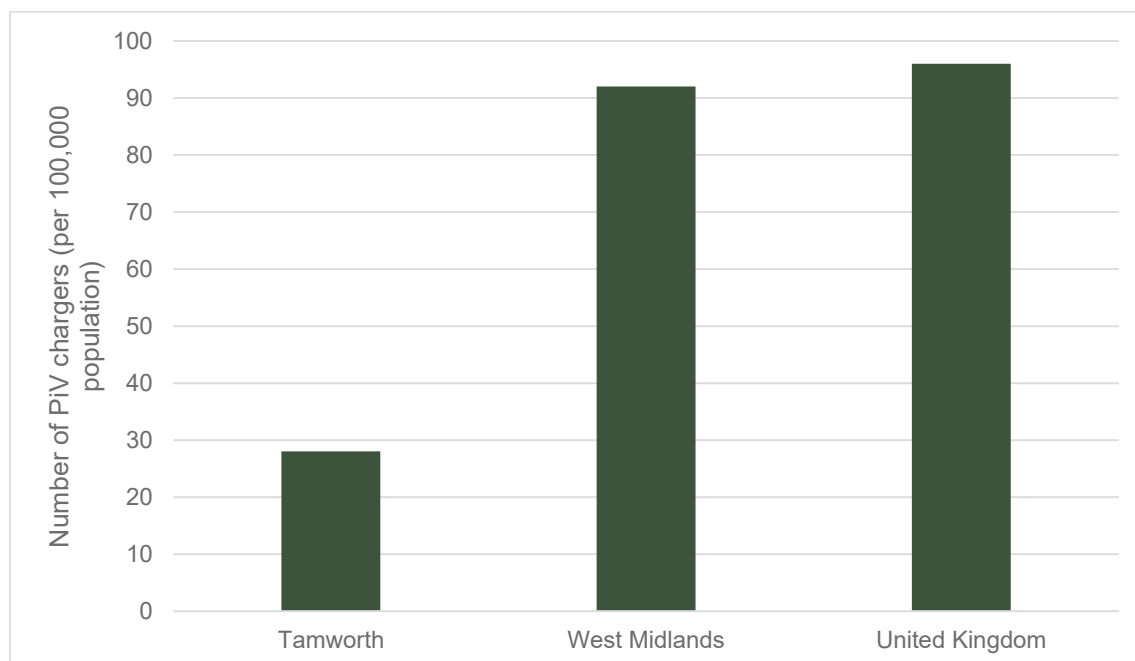


Figure 9-3: Number of EV charging points in 2024 per 100,000 population

9.1.7 Road Safety

Road safety and reducing the number of traffic incidents is a priority across Staffordshire, including in Tamworth. [The Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership¹⁶⁷](#) works across the County to improve road safety through:

- Education and early intervention: Raising awareness with at risk groups (young drivers) and with drivers who commit traffic offences;
- Enforcement of traffic laws: Utilising speed camera vans to identify instances of speeding, mobile phone use, no seatbelt use (etc); and
- Road network improvements: Implementing anti-skid surfacing, vehicle activated signs and 20 mph speed limits outside schools.

9.1.8 Transport Improvements

Tamworth plays a key role in the Southern Cross-Boundary Transport Package, which aims to boost links with the West Midlands and Warwickshire through rail upgrades, better bus services, and new active travel routes using old rail lines and canals. The strategy also supports sustainable growth in Tamworth by improving roads and prioritising walking and cycling for local trips.

¹⁶⁷ Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership [Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership – Reducing road casualties in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent](#) (Accessed 26/9/2025)



9.2 Key Sustainability Issues

The following key sustainability issues have been identified:

- Increased development within the Borough is contributing towards high levels of road congestion, particularly as there is a significant reliance on the petrol or diesel-fuelled private car as the main mode of transport within the Borough;
- Frequent and short (less than 5km) journeys in particular are often carried out by private car, adding to congestion issues (particularly in the north of the Borough);
- There is a need to ensure that strategic and local road networks can accommodate additional traffic generated from new development;
- There is a need to ensure that the rail network, specifically key local routes, are protected;
- There is a need to make sustainable travel options within the Borough more accessible and inclusive, in order to reduce reliance on the private vehicle;
- Given the Borough's compact nature, there is a need to encourage more walking and cycling journeys (particularly short journeys), to reduce high levels of private car use and existing congestion issues;
- There is a need to make improvements to safe and direct cycling routes across the Borough, in order to reduce level of severance across routes;
- A large number of residents utilise private transport in the form of petrol or diesel cars to commute to work, as well as for travel for leisure activities;
- The proportion of workers using sustainable transport mode to get to work can be improved;
- The number of EV charging points across the Borough is not currently sufficient to meet the needs of residents; and
- Uncertain growth in private car ownership could contribute to further air pollution, and associated impacts on climate, human health and biodiversity.

9.3 Likely Evolution without the Local Plan

Without the Plan, there will be an absence of a strategic framework to appropriately plan for the location of new development, infrastructure and supporting services. This may result in new development being located in locations with poor access to sustainable transport modes, which increases the need for residents to travel by unsustainable means. New development will also not have the sufficient levels of infrastructure, services and facilities to support sustainable communities.

Poor cycle networks could restrict the expansion of residents using cycling as a means to travel. Most of the cycle networks are currently focused on recreational use rather than for those who need to use them to access work or local amenities. Workers may continue to predominately use private cars to travel to work, which will have impacts on the local environment (including air quality) and could exacerbate congestion (particularly in areas that are already identified as particularly



problematic), as well as safety issues for other road users. Use of electric plug-in vehicles is increasing rapidly and will likely continue. Current public and sustainable transport options may not meet the needs of the future population in the long term, which is expected to increase.

9.4 Data Gaps

The Staffordshire Local Transport Plan (LTP4) is currently being developed and is set to be published in December 2025. The Staffordshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan is also being developed, and is expected to be published in March 2026.

Staffordshire County Council are currently updating data on the cycle network across the County, in terms of quality and usability. This work is expected to be completed by December 2025.

Road safety data within the Borough has not been included within this report as it is not accurately recorded.



10.0 Air, Noise and Light

10.1 Baseline

10.1.1 Air

The National Air Quality Strategy¹⁶⁸ provides a framework for air quality control through air quality management and air quality objectives that should be met.

As highlighted in Section 7.1.8, local air quality can have major impacts on residents' health. Tamworth Borough Council has monitored air pollution at sites across the Borough for several years and published its most recent annual Air Quality Annual Status Report¹⁶⁹ (ASR) in 2024. The report shows that pollutant levels have generally decreased across the Borough over the last decade and there have been no exceedances of the national air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide at relevant receptors for at least five years. Tamworth Borough Council revoked its only Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), located in Two Gates in Dosthill, in March 2018 following sustained compliance with air quality standards. Although the A5 trunk road and the M42 motorway run through and near the Borough respectively, there are no sensitive receptors (such as residential properties) close enough to these roads to warrant concern at present.

There are currently 14 areas of the Borough being monitored for air quality exceedances through the use of 'passive diffusion' tubes¹⁷⁰. They are:

- Upper Gungate;
- Claremont Road;
- Lakeland Drive;
- High Broom Court;
- Overwoods Road (Dosthill);
- High Street (Dosthill);
- Dosthill Road (Two Gates);
- Watling Street (Two Gates);
- Tamworth Road (Two Gates);
- Watling Street (Two Gates);
- Glascote Road;
- Perrycrofts Crescent;
- Upper Gungate; and
- Tamworth Road (Amington).

All recorded concentrations at these locations were well below the annual mean objective of 40 µg/m³, according to monitoring data from 2022.

¹⁶⁸ [Air quality strategy: framework for local authority delivery - GOV.UK](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)

¹⁶⁹ Tamworth Borough Council, 2024 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) [Tamworth-ASR-2024-FINAL-\(accessible\).pdf](#) (Accessed 14/07/2025)

¹⁷⁰ Air Quality [Air quality | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 09/07/2025)



A permanent air quality monitor is currently being considered for the Borough by DEFRA, which will enable more detailed monitoring of key pollutants, including particulates, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide.

Tamworth Borough Council is a member of the Staffordshire Air Quality Forum (SAQF) which includes representatives of all the Staffordshire Local Authorities, including Staffordshire County Council, as well as national bodies, such as Highways England, the Environment Agency and Public Health England. This partnership ensures Tamworth is aligned with regional and national air quality strategies, particularly in regards to managing cross-boundary pollution and planning for future growth.

As outlined in [Section 9.1.5](#), the majority of residents utilise a private car or van to travel to work or for leisure, whilst a much smaller proportion use public transport or forms of active travel. To improve air quality, Tamworth Borough Council set out a number of measures which include¹⁷¹:

- Installation of EV charging points in public car parks and the development of EV charging hubs for residents;
- Hosting agreement with BP Pulse for a 12-unit ultra-fast EV hub;
- Participation in the Active Travel Fund to promote walking and cycling;
- Borough-wide smoke control area enforcement and new powers to fine for persistent dark smoke from chimneys;
- Public awareness campaigns on proper use of log burners and solid fuels; and
- Participation in Clean Air Day.

The Council's 2022–2027 Air Quality Strategy highlights the importance of integrating air quality considerations into planning decisions, infrastructure development, and community engagement. It recognises that while Tamworth currently meets national air quality standards, future housing and commercial growth could increase traffic and emissions¹⁷².

The Cannock Extension Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC), located approximately 15km to the west of Tamworth, is particularly sensitive to nitrogen deposition¹⁷³. Significant traffic increases on roads such as the A5 have the potential to increase pressure at this site.

10.1.2 Noise

Noise pollution more generally is associated with roads, traffic, and railways. In Tamworth, areas with the highest levels of road-traffic related noise pollution are focused near to major routes such as the A5 and M42, as well as the A51 in the town

¹⁷¹ Tamworth ASR [Tamworth-ASR-2024-FINAL-\(accessible\).pdf](#) (Accessed 10/07/2025)

¹⁷² Tamworth Borough Council [Air Quality Strategy 2022-2027](#) (Accessed 10/07/2025)

¹⁷³ Assessment of Air Quality Impacts on European Sites in Staffordshire, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley [air_quality_impacts_on_european_sites_report_2024.pdf](#) (Accessed 10/07/2025)



centre¹⁷⁴. The presence of the railway line through the Borough is a source of noise pollution, particularly in the area surrounding Tamworth Railway Station¹⁷⁵.

Tamworth Borough Council actively investigates and manages noise nuisance complaints, such as the following, under environmental health legislation¹⁷⁶:

- Persistent loud music or parties;
- Barking dogs;
- **Pubs and clubs;**
- Construction and industrial noise; and
- Alarms and machinery.

10.1.3 Light

Light pollution is caused by excessive or intrusive artificial light arising from poor or insensitive design. Light pollution can have a detrimental effect on the character and amenity of an area, as well as the wildlife present, after dark. As highlighted in Figure 10-1, there are areas of Tamworth where light pollution is very high (exceeding 32 NanoWatts/cm²/sr)¹⁷⁷. Tamworth town centre and Birch Coppice Business Park (south of Dordon) records the highest levels of light pollution in the Borough. Light pollution is also high in Kettlebrook, Glascote Heath and Belgrave. Areas to the northeast of the Borough experience less light pollution.

Funding by Staffordshire County Council, Tamworth have recently upgraded some streetlighting to low-energy LED systems. In 2023, more than 300 lights were replaced along the A5 which were part of a nationwide plan to upgrade 70% of lighting along various routes by 2027¹⁷⁸.

¹⁷⁴ England Noise and Air Quality Viewer [Extrium > England Noise and Air Quality Viewer](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

¹⁷⁵ England Noise and Air Quality Viewer [Extrium > England Noise and Air Quality Viewer](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

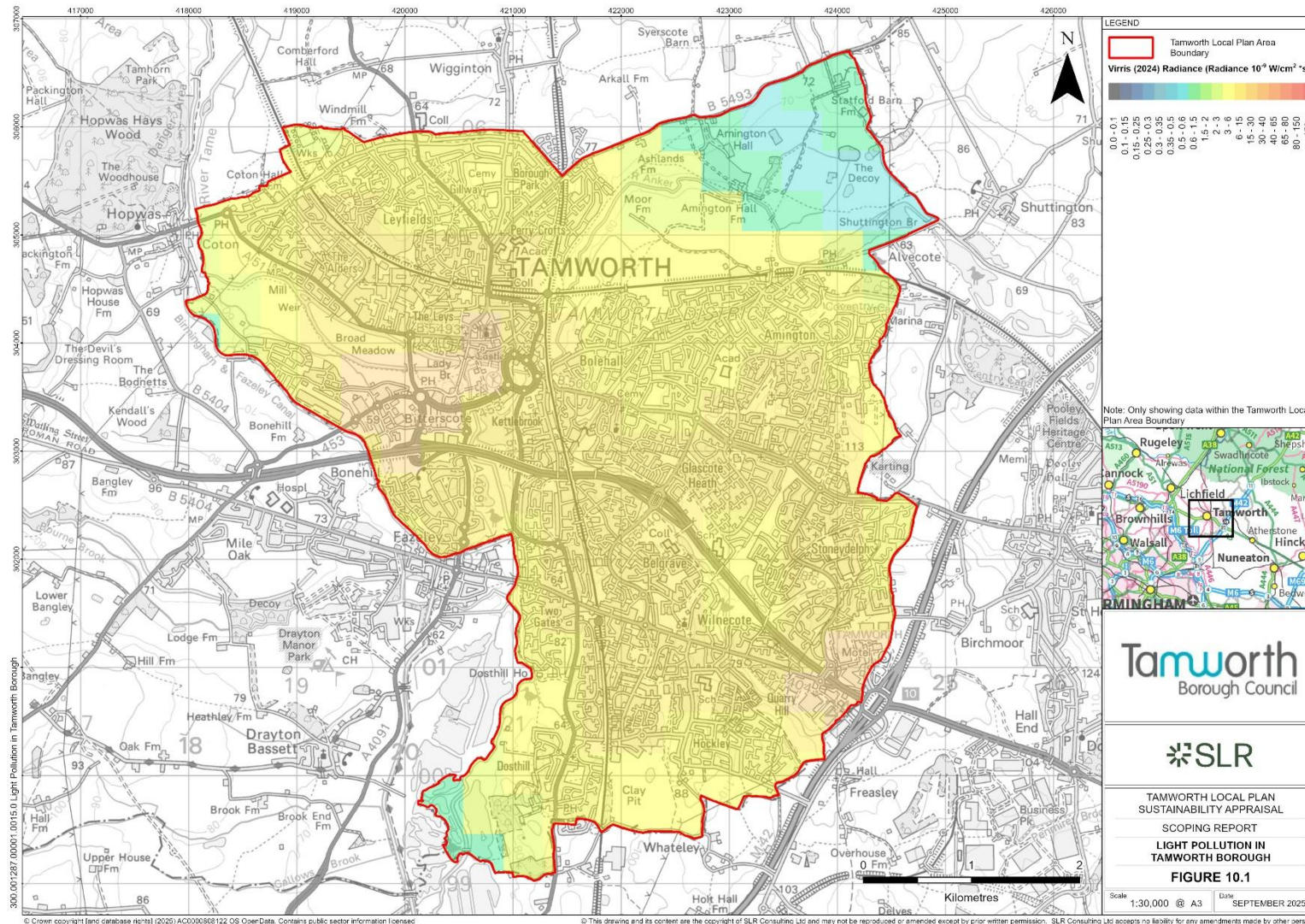
¹⁷⁶ Noise Nuisance [Noise nuisance | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 10/07/2025)

¹⁷⁷ Night Blight: Mapping England's light pollution and dark skies (2019) [England's Light Pollution and Dark Skies](#) (Accessed 14/07/2025)

¹⁷⁸ BBC News [A5 in Tamworth to close as part of lighting upgrade - BBC News](#) (Accessed 14/07/2025)



Figure 10-1: Light Pollution in Tamworth



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10.2 Key Sustainability Issues

The following key sustainability issues have been identified:

- Air quality issues may be exacerbating inequalities related to air pollution health issues;
- There are no AQMAs in the Borough, however monitoring is ongoing while Tamworth currently meets national air quality standards, future housing and commercial growth could increase traffic and emissions;
- There is significant reliance on the petrol or diesel-fuelled private car as the main mode of transport within the Borough;
- Housing growth is likely to increase additional vehicle movements and this needs to be properly managed so that extra vehicles do not result in a significant deterioration of the local air quality;
- There is the potential for adverse impacts on wellbeing if inappropriate new development is located near a major source of noise, including any existing or new major roads;
- There is a need to reduce light pollution and restrict further intensification of light pollution from new developments; and
- Air, noise and light pollution could be generated through construction works, as well as the development of new homes, in the Borough, resulting from growth proposed in the Local Plan.

10.3 Likely Evolution without the Local Plan

Uncontrolled development could lead to development in areas which currently experience manageable levels of noise and light pollution and could exacerbate pollution levels elsewhere. Without policy intervention and significant investments, the target to achieve carbon neutrality and therefore improve air quality in the Borough will not be achieved. Development within the Borough could also exacerbate current air pollution by increasing the number of people travelling by private vehicles.

10.4 Data Gaps

None identified.



11.0 Climatic Factors

11.1 Baseline

11.1.1 Flood Risk

Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, leading to increased flood risk. **In Tamworth, flooding, particularly fluvial and surface water flooding, is of particular concern.** Tamworth was identified in the Staffordshire County Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy as one of the top 10 urban communities at risk from flooding in the county¹⁷⁹.

A network of waterways pass through the Borough including:

- The River Tame, which flows through the heart of Tamworth, forming part of the Tame Valley. It continues northeastward, eventually joining the River Trent;
- The River Anker, which flows westward through the northern part of the Borough and meets the River Tame near the town centre;
- Coventry Canal, which branches off from the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal and runs through the eastern part of Tamworth;
- Birmingham and Fazeley Canal, which passes through the southern edge of the Borough, linking with the Coventry Canal; and
- Kettle Brook, a smaller tributary that flows through the urban areas of Tamworth before joining the River Tame.

These waterways are presented in Figure 11-1.

¹⁷⁹ Staffordshire County Council [Print Template Wizard](#) (Accessed 08/07/2025)



Figure 11-1: Waterbodies in Tamworth

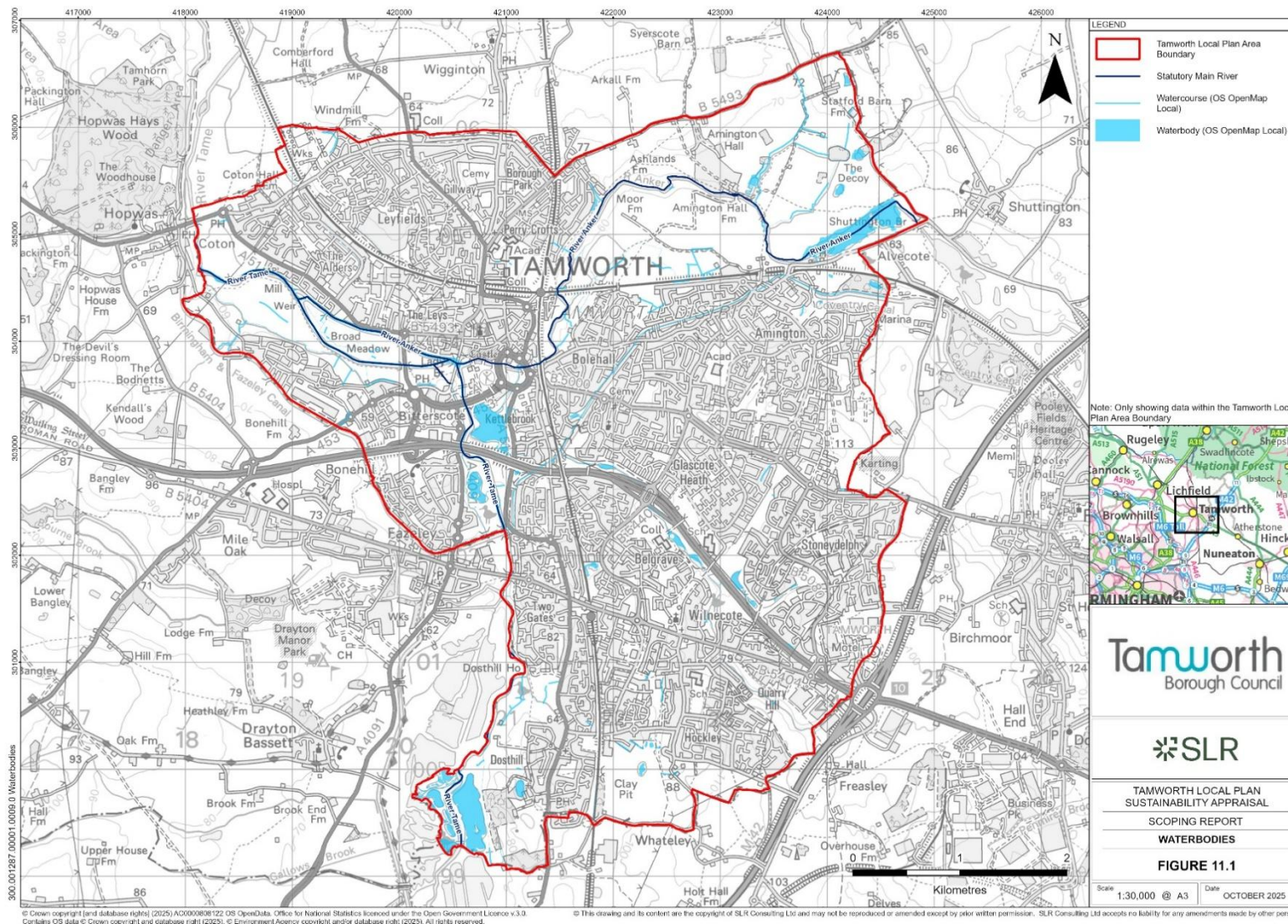


Figure 11-4, which highlights surface water flood risk. The urban nature of the Borough, coupled with the continued loss of green space/natural permeable surfaces, and the increased volume of surface water draining directly into the surface water network are likely to contribute increased surface water flood risk. Whilst heavy rainfall is most often the cause of surface water flooding, poor drainage, blockages and insufficient drainage capacity often exacerbate the problem. Groundwater flood risk is generally low across the Borough, however areas along the River Tame at Tamworth present a risk.

Figure 11-5 presents the vulnerability of the Borough's residents to flood risk. The Neighbourhood Flood Vulnerability Index utilised within the figure considers susceptibility, ability to prepare, ability to respond, ability to recover and community support. As highlighted by the figure, residents in the MSOAs of Central Tamworth would be considered as the most vulnerable to flood risk, followed by those in Glascote Heath. Residents in the Wilnecote East MSOA are considered as the least vulnerable to flood risk¹⁸⁰.

¹⁸⁰ Susceptibility to flooding [ClimateJust](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)



Figure 11-2: Flood risk areas and flood defences in Tamworth

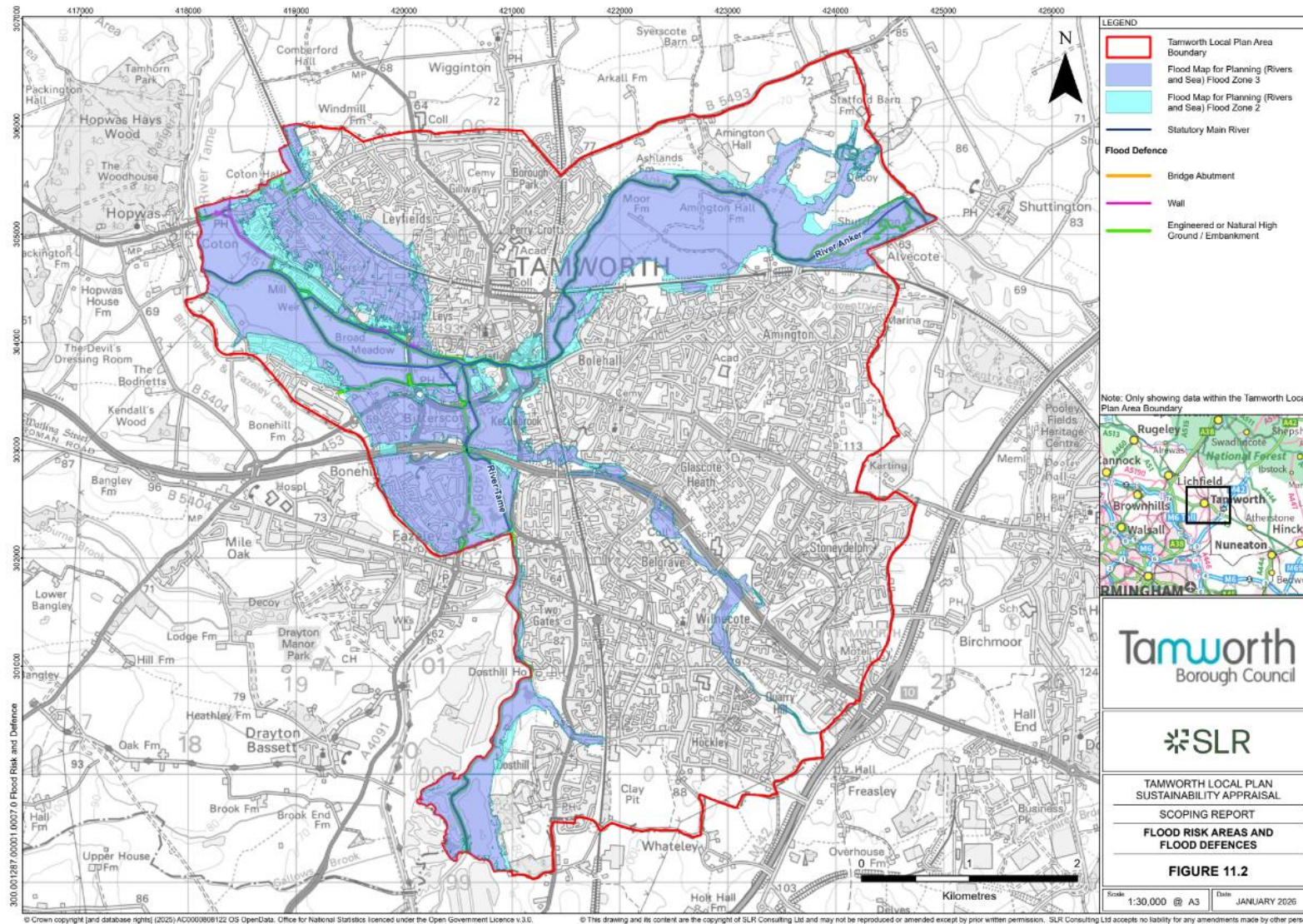


Figure 11-3: Risk of river and sea flooding in Tamworth

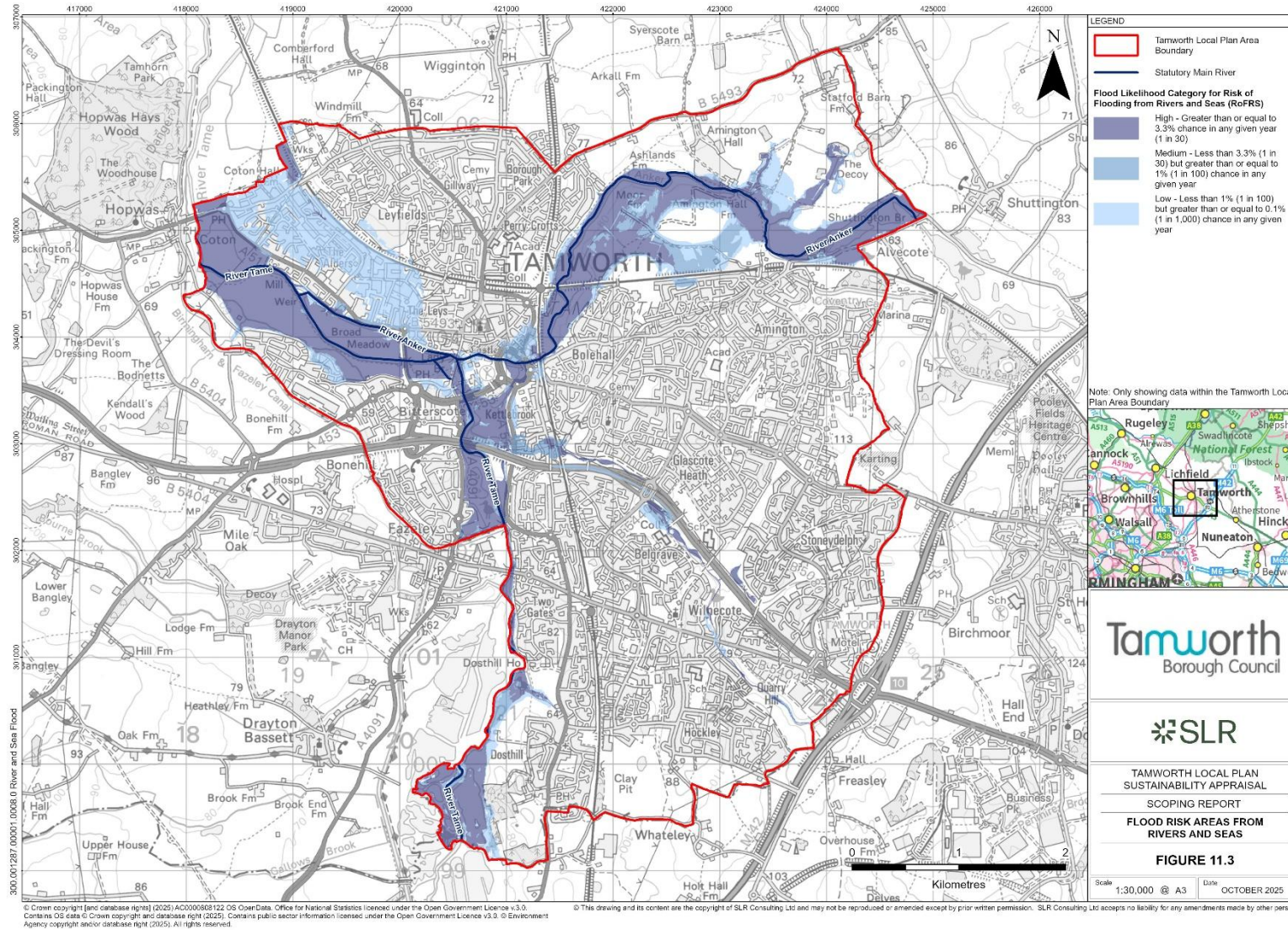
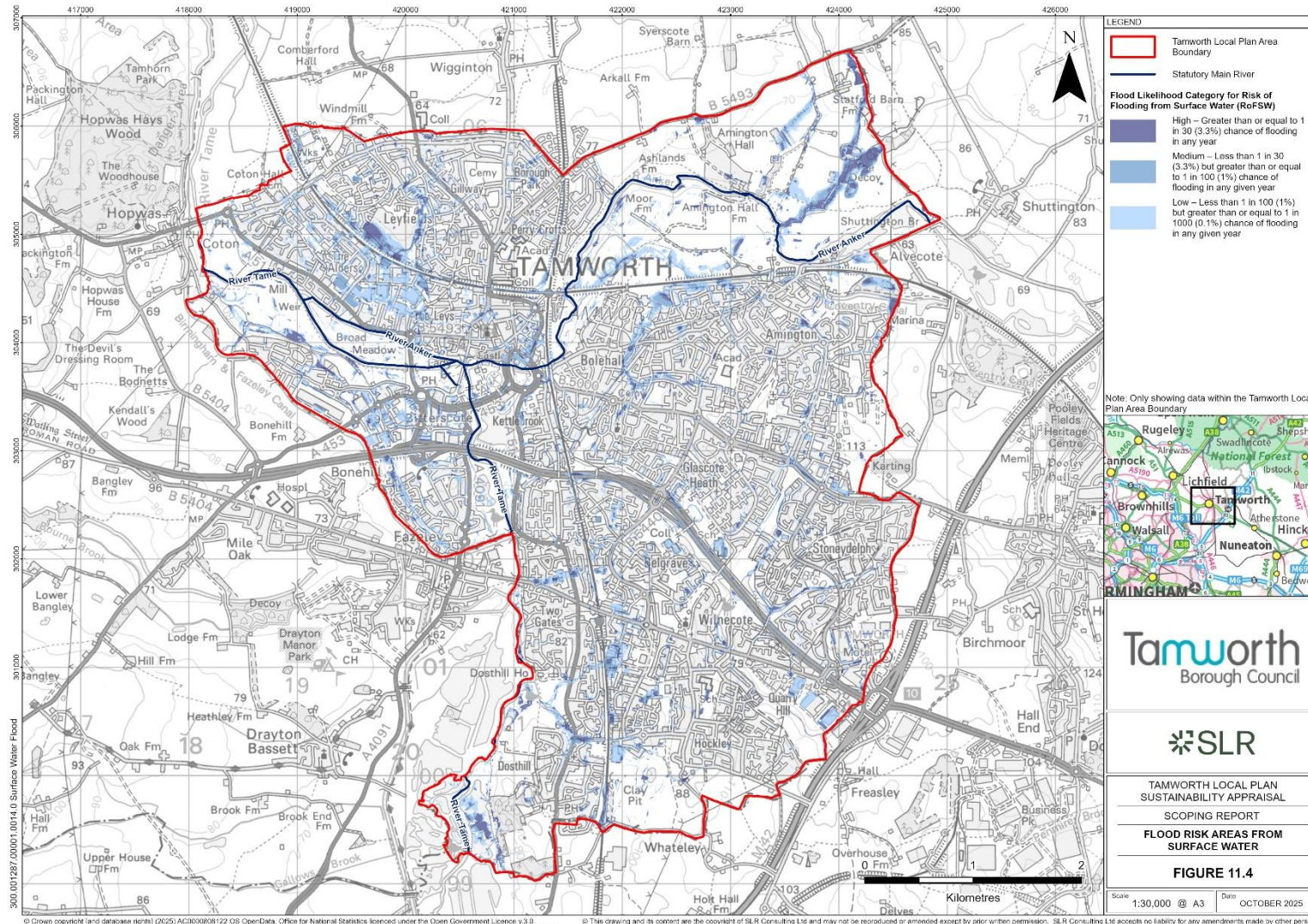


Figure 11-4: Risk of surface water flooding in Tamworth

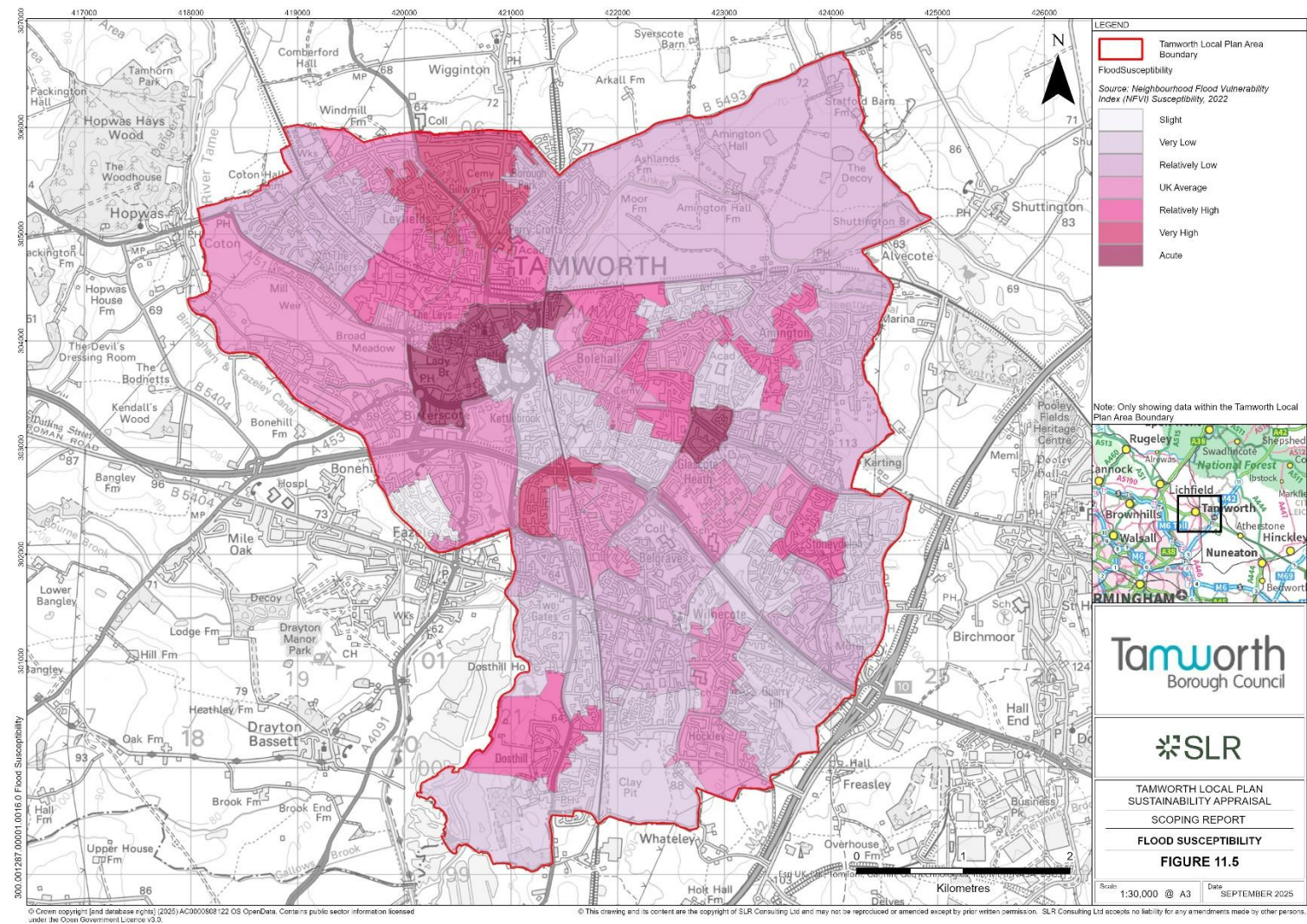


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Figure 11-5: Flood Risk Vulnerability



There are a number of initiatives across the Borough and the West Midlands which have sought to reduce flood risk and improve resilience across communities. The 'FAIR Approach to Community Flood Risk' project was created in partnership with Staffordshire County Council, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, City of Wolverhampton Council, Walsall Council and Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council¹⁸¹. FAIR aims to engage, educate and empower communities to contribute to flood risk management activities. Communities are encouraged to contribute to designing small-scale interventions to improve resilience to flooding¹⁸².

There have been five historical flood events in the Borough since 1955, all of which were fluvial floods, along the River Anker and River Tame¹⁸³. There are three flood defences in Tamworth, totalling approximately 5km in length. Each of these flood defences are embankments or walls along the River Tame.

11.1.2 Emissions Contributing to Climate Change

Per capita CO₂ emissions within Tamworth were estimated to be 2.5 t/CO₂ in 2022¹⁸⁴. Table 11-1 highlights the emissions associated with each sector within the Borough and the nearby local authority areas of North Warwickshire and Lichfield, as well as the West Midlands and the United Kingdom. The table highlights that domestic CO₂ emissions were the most significant contributor within Tamworth, followed by transport. Per capita emissions were lower than the regional and national averages, however, emissions per km² were greater. Figure 11-6 highlights how different emissions categories have changed over time in Tamworth and most notably highlights the decrease in domestic, industry and transport-related emissions since 2005.

Table 11-1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions, 2022¹⁸⁵

Emissions Category	Tamworth	North Warwickshire	Lichfield	West Midlands	United Kingdom
Industry (kt CO ₂)	34.0	123.8	62.4	5,036.8	62,344.1
Commercial (kt CO ₂)	22.6	60.2	36.3	2,633.0	33,895.8
Public Sector (kt CO ₂)	4.1	4.8	13.5	1,013.2	11,694.8
Domestic (kt CO ₂)	88.3	85.6	143.8	7,107.7	84,265.0

¹⁸¹ FAIR Flood, [FAIR - an FCRIP project for Staffordshire and the Black Country](#) (Accessed: 09/07/2025)

¹⁸² FAIR Flood, [FAIR - an FCRIP project for Staffordshire and the Black Country](#) (Accessed: 09/07/2025)

¹⁸³ Southern Staffordshire Councils Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment [Southern Staffordshire Councils Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#) (Accessed 08/07/2025)

¹⁸⁴ Local Authority territorial carbon dioxide emissions. [2005-22-uk-local-authority-ghg-emissions.xlsx](#) (Accessed 08/05/2025)

¹⁸⁵ Local Authority territorial carbon dioxide emissions. [2005-22-uk-local-authority-ghg-emissions.xlsx](#) (Accessed 08/07/2025)



Emissions Category	Tamworth	North Warwickshire	Lichfield	West Midlands	United Kingdom
Transport (kt CO ₂)	75.7	520.6	310.7	11,286.3	114,656.4
Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (kt CO ₂)	0.9	-10.7	16.0	-253.7	757.9
Agriculture (kt CO ₂)	3.8	51.9	72.4	3,783.7	49,581.5
Waste (kt CO ₂)	19.2	29.7	31.7	1,761.1	18,733.8
Total (kt CO ₂)	248.7	865.8	686.9	32,367.9	375,929.3
Per Capita Emissions (t)	3.1	13.1	6.3	5.4	5.6
Emissions per km ² (kt CO ₂ e)	8.1	3	2.1	2.5	1.5

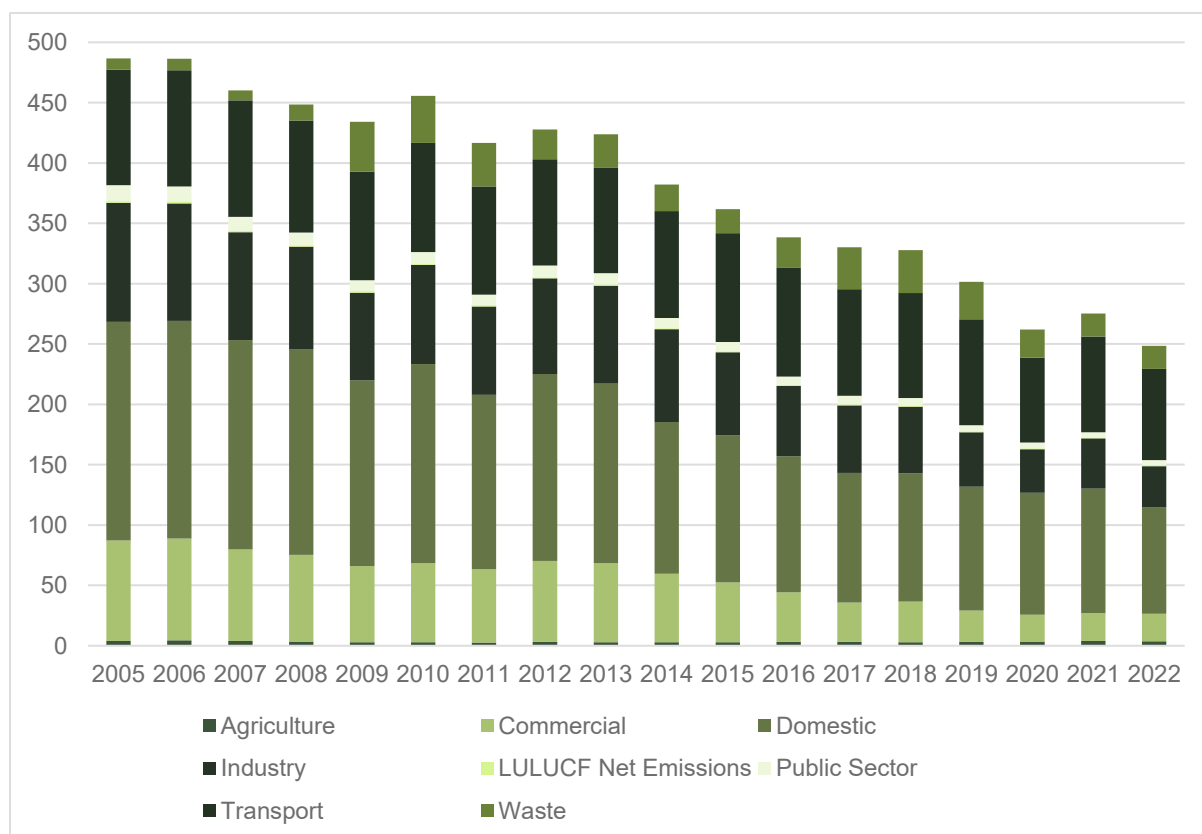


Figure 11-6: Total CO₂ emissions (kt CO₂) per category (2005-2022) in Tamworth Borough¹⁸⁶

As shown in Table 11-2, Electricity consumption across the Borough has decreased over time. This trend has also been seen in the neighbouring authority Lichfield. The neighbouring authority of North Warwickshire has seen its electricity consumption increase over time, however.

Table 11-2: Electricity Consumption¹⁸⁷

Year	Tamworth (GWh)	Lichfield (GWh)	North Warwickshire (GWh)
2005	383	456	517
2008	330	470	531
2011	317	440	522
2014	330	449	524
2017	302.7	437.5	534.9
2020	269.3	422.7	507.3
2023	251.8	415.7	531.7

Gas consumption from both domestic and non-domestic sources has decreased significantly in Tamworth since 2005, as presented in Table 11-3. A decline is also visible in the nearby local authority areas of Lichfield and North Warwickshire, however, the decline in these areas is less prominent than in Tamworth.

Table 11-3: Gas Consumption¹⁸⁸

Year	Tamworth (GWh)	Lichfield (GWh)	North Warwickshire (GWh)
2005	741	994	867
2008	649	877	741
2011	550	777	625
2014	541	758	690
2017	529	769	745
2020	493	786	756
2023	418	726	615

¹⁸⁶ Local Authority territorial carbon dioxide emissions. [2005-22-uk-local-authority-ghg-emissions.xlsx](#) (Accessed 08/05/2025)

¹⁸⁷ Regional and local authority electricity consumption statistics [Regional and local authority electricity consumption statistics - GOV.UK](#) (Accessed 29/09/25)

¹⁸⁸ Subnational gas consumption, Great Britain, 2005 – 2023 [Regional and local authority electricity consumption statistics - GOV.UK](#) (Accessed 21/10/25)



Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) indicate the energy efficiency of dwellings and are based on data about a building's energy features, such as the building materials used, the heating systems, and insulation. A score is given to each dwelling, typically ranging from 1 to 100 where 100 is the most efficient and 1 is the least efficient. The average energy efficiency rating in Tamworth and the West Midlands is 69 which is similar to the national average of 68¹⁸⁹. New flats and houses were significantly more energy efficient on average than existing houses and flats. The least energy efficient property type in Tamworth was existing houses, which had an average EPC of 66.

Tamworth Borough Council declared a climate emergency in November 2019 and committed to achieving net zero emissions across the Council's estate and operations by 2050. The Council's Net Zero Strategy includes a Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan, which aims to reduce energy consumption, increase efficiency, and transition to renewable energy sources¹⁹⁰.

Key themes include¹⁹¹:

- Energy: Reduce energy consumption, increase efficiency and transition to renewable energy sources;
- Transport and Travel: Lower vehicle emissions through an Electric Vehicle (EV) strategy, fleet electrification, and support for integrated public transport and hybrid working;
- Built Environment: Improve energy efficiency in Council buildings and ensure future developments are sustainable and climate-resilient;
- Circular Economy: Promote sustainable consumption and production through the "7 Rs" (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Redesign, Repair, Renew, Recover);
- Natural Capital and Biodiversity: Enhance green spaces and biodiversity through the Nature Recovery Declaration and local conservation initiatives; and
- Resilience and Adaptation: Prepare for climate impacts by building resilient infrastructure and supporting community adaptation.

Solar photovoltaics are the main source of renewable energy generation in the Borough, with 1,183 installations out of 32,895 homes in 2023. There is also one landfill gas facility present in the Borough¹⁹².

¹⁸⁹ Energy Efficiency Data [Energy efficiency of housing in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#) (Accessed 04/06/2025)

¹⁹⁰ Tamworth Borough Council [Tackling climate change in Tamworth | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 08/07/2025)

¹⁹¹ Tamworth Borough Council [Tackling climate change in Tamworth | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 08/07/2025)

¹⁹² Renewable Energy by Local Authority 2005-2023. [Regional Renewable Statistics - GOV.UK](#) (Accessed 08/07/25)



11.1.3 Climate Change Impacts

Climate change could lead to changes in the natural environment such as increased temperatures and extreme weather events. Tamworth's future climate is expected to change in the following ways in the future¹⁹³:

- Wetter, milder winters and more extreme rainfall events leading to more frequent, more intense flooding; and
- Hotter, drier summers leading to droughts, wildfires and heatwaves becoming more intense and more likely.

This may affect the environment directly, by changing the distribution of species, or indirectly through changes to land management and local habitats. **For example, higher temperatures are expected to increase the prevalence of diseases spread by mosquitos and ticks**¹⁹⁴.

Water scarcity is also expected to become more common as temperatures increase. This is likely to take the form of physical water stress (e.g. there is not enough water to meet the populations needs). The Environment Agency conducted a study in 2021 into water stressed areas in England and found that the catchment area of Severn Trent Water, within which Tamworth sits, is currently water stressed¹⁹⁵. Additionally, South Staffs Water, which supplies Tamworth with water, has been classified as being in serious water stress¹⁹⁶. Serious water stress is defined as the current or future household demand for water is a high proportion of the current effective rainfall which is available to meet the demand. As of 15th July 2025, the Environment Agency has declared drought status for the West Midlands and the East Midlands, following the driest spring for 132 years¹⁹⁷.

Urban or built-up areas of the Borough, such as Tamworth town centre, may be more significantly impacted by changes in the natural environment as a result of climate change, due to the Urban Heat Island effect. As the Borough is almost exclusively urban, this effect is likely to be particularly pronounced. This is due to heat generated by human activities being more concentrated in these areas, as well as the large concentration of buildings, roads and other infrastructure absorbing and re-emitting large amounts of heat. This could increase energy demand (though the need for cooling systems), exacerbate heat related illnesses, and create environmental stress for local wildlife and plants. **Tamworth Borough Council are in the process of developing a Tree Policy and Framework (2025-2030)**¹⁹⁸, to help ensure that the right trees are planted in the right place at the right time across the

¹⁹³ Tamworth Net Zero Climate Adaptation Strategy (2024) [Appendix 2 Climate Change adaptation strategy.pdf](#) (Accessed 25/09/25)

¹⁹⁴ Tamworth Net Zero Climate Adaptation Strategy (2024) [Appendix 2 Climate Change adaptation strategy.pdf](#) (Accessed 25/09/25)

¹⁹⁵ Environment Agency, Water Stressed Areas. [Water stressed areas – 2021 classification - GOV.UK](#) (Accessed: 09/07/2025)

¹⁹⁶ Water Stressed Areas- Final Classification 2021 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/60dd7f328fa8f50ab1d0128a/Water_stressed_areas_final_classification_2021.odt (Accessed 29/07/25)

¹⁹⁷ [West and East Midlands move into drought - GOV.UK](#) (Accessed 29/07/25)

¹⁹⁸ Draft Tamworth Borough Council Tree Policy and Framework (2025-2030) (Accessed 25/09/25)



Borough. This approach aims to effectively contribute towards climate resilience through carbon sequestration and flood risk minimisation.

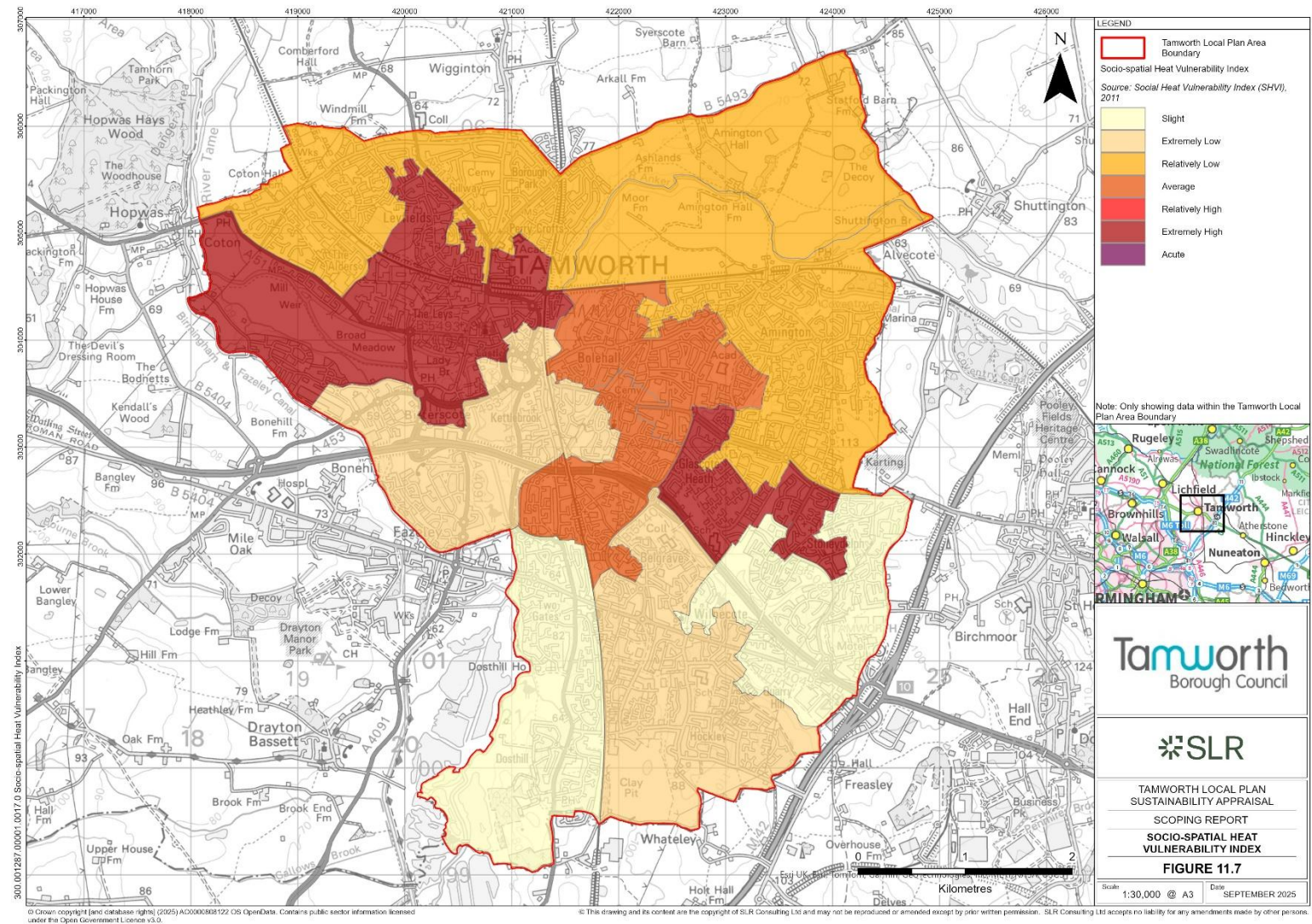
Climate risk refers to the exposure and vulnerability of populations to climate change. Tamworth is increasingly exposed to climate-related risks such as extreme heat, flooding, and changing seasonal patterns. According to Staffordshire County Council's Climate Change Action Plan, vulnerable groups, including older adults, low-income households, and those with underlying health conditions are particularly at risk¹⁹⁹. **Figure 11-7 demonstrates the vulnerability of Tamworth's residents to increased heat. The Socio-Spatial Heat Vulnerability Index outlined by the figure considers five dimensions of vulnerability to heat: sensitivity, ability to prepare, ability to respond, ability to recover and enhanced exposure. As highlighted by the figure, residents in Central Tamworth MSOA would be considered as the most vulnerable to heat, followed by those in Glascote Heath MOSA. Residents in Wilnecote East and Dosthill and Two Gates MSOAs are considered as the least vulnerable to heat²⁰⁰.**

¹⁹⁹ Climate Change - Action Plan 2025-30 [Climate Change - Action Plan 2025-30 - Staffordshire County Council](#) (Accessed 09/07/2025)

²⁰⁰ Socio-Spatial Heat Vulnerability Index [ClimateJust](#) (Accessed 30/09/25)



Figure 11-7: Heat Vulnerability Index



While the County has made progress in reducing emissions, the focus is now shifting toward building resilience in communities, infrastructure and the natural environment. In Tamworth, areas with higher deprivation and limited access to green infrastructure may face greater challenges in adapting to climate impacts, mirroring broader regional trends where climate risk often overlaps with social and health inequalities.

The Tamworth Borough Council Mitigation Action Plan (2024)²⁰¹ identifies where and how the Council can reduce their operational emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The Tamworth Net Zero Climate Adaptation Strategy (2024)²⁰² has identified adaptation actions to address and build resilience against the future impacts of climate change to the Borough. Tamworth Borough Council have also developed a Climate Change Communications²⁰³ Plan to help effectively engage with and inform staff and members at Tamworth Borough Council, local people and businesses about the issues surrounding climate change and the changes they can make to help tackle the climate crisis.

New development planned over the Local Plan period should provide opportunities to manage the effects of climate change by:

- Ensuring that flood risk is managed effectively (for example through the provision of sustainable drainage systems, reconnecting rivers to the floodplains and improved land management);
- Helping to offset carbon emissions (tree planting in new development or within large scale green infrastructure projects);
- Designing buildings and spaces to deal with hotter temperatures (e.g. including water features, shading, avoiding solar glare) and more intense weather such as storms and winds; and
- Provisioning for green spaces to influence local (micro) climates (urban cooling).

New development would also be likely to improve the overall energy efficiency of the Borough's housing stock. However, the Local Plan will not be able to deliver energy efficiency improvements beyond those set out in Part L of the Building Regulations.

11.2 Key Sustainability Issues

The following key sustainability issues have been identified:

- Fluvial and surface flooding present the greatest flooding risks in the Borough;
- Residents in Central Tamworth and Glascote Heath are most vulnerable to flooding;
- Green Infrastructure presents opportunities to address multiple issues through multifunctional spaces;

²⁰¹ Tamworth Borough Council Mitigation Action Plan (2024) [climate change mitigation action plan](#) (Accessed 25/09/25)

²⁰² Tamworth Net Zero Climate Adaptation Strategy (2024) [Appendix 2 Climate Change adaptation strategy.pdf](#) (Accessed 25/09/25)

²⁰³ Tamworth Borough Council Climate Change Communications (2025) (Accessed 25/09/25)



- New development will need to incorporate sustainable drainage systems to sustainably reduce flood risk;
- New developments will need to incorporate low-carbon and renewable energy generation to minimise carbon emissions;
- Solar is currently the main form of renewable energy generation in the Borough, however, other sources of renewable energy should be considered in order to support the Borough in its transition away from fossil fuels;
- Domestic and transport emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels are the main contributors of CO2 in the Borough;
- It is important to become more resilient to the wider effects of climate change through adaptation measures. New developments need to minimise vulnerability and provide resilience to climate change, including implementing adaptation measures in respect of rising temperatures, water scarcity and extreme weather events, particularly heavy rainfall/flooding and heat waves. Working with communities to build local resilience is also essential, ensuring a coordinated response to climate-related challenges; and
- The extent to which the effects of climate change are experienced across the Borough is not equally distributed. Residents in Central Tamworth and Glascote Heath are most vulnerable to climate related heat. Measures to mitigate the effects of climate change should consider these inequalities.

11.3 Likely Evolution without the Local Plan

Continual growth in the Borough both from development and population growth may increase the effects of climate change. Climate change could increase the number of properties at risk from flooding as more extreme rainfall events take place. National Policy is likely to restrict significant large-scale growth from coming forward in areas subject to flood risk even in the absence of a Local Plan, unless developers can demonstrate that no areas at lower risk are available to meet development needs and schemes can be made safe in the event of flooding.

There is likely to be continued and increasing pressure on water resources. Water resources will be squeezed in the short to long term as a result of increased development, coupled with climate change impacts, and reductions in water resources available (to protect environmentally sensitive areas).

Given the reliance on the private car as the main mode of transport within the Borough, ongoing increases in vehicle ownership, and the requirement for additional residential development, it could be considered likely that greenhouse gas emissions will rise in the future. The increasing use of EV could counteract this, however, local policy will be needed to reduce car-based development and encourage modal shift. Moreover, infrastructure to support EV use will need to be implemented, such as public charging points.

The current estimates for temperature increases and changes to rainfall patterns are unlikely to alter significantly in the near future, given the timescales associated with climate change. This being the case, there will be an increasing need to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in light of changing environmental conditions.



11.4 Data Gaps

The latest data on GHG emissions is from 2022, so is somewhat outdated. The newest data set (for 2023 data) will be released in July 2025.

A new Water Cycle Study is likely to be commissioned for Tamworth Borough in the next few months. This study will ascertain whether there is sufficient availability of water supply and capacity to treat wastewater in both the network and wastewater treatment works for growth proposed both in Tamworth and in neighbouring districts also reliant on the same infrastructure. A new Water Cycle Study should give Tamworth Borough Council clear recommendations for new developments and any policy requirements needed, also strengthening the Borough's resilience to climate change.

There is need for Level 1 and Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRAs) to be commissioned.

The SFRA will outline the extent of the functional floodplain in Tamworth which will help the Plan to detect areas unsuitable for development, as well as areas where existing development and infrastructure may not be sustainable in the long term.

There are ongoing discussions regarding the improvement of flood defences within Tamworth. this to be referenced and considered in the evidence base supporting the forthcoming Local Plan.



12.0 Biodiversity, Geodiversity, Flora and Fauna

12.1 Baseline

The term biodiversity refers to both the species richness and genetic diversity of flora and fauna present within a given area. There are a number of parks and green spaces within the Borough, many of which are designated under local, national and international legislation for wildlife and geological value. Tamworth's Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are detailed within Table 12-1 and all designated wildlife and geological sites are shown in Figure 12-1.

Table 12-1: Local Nature Reserves in Tamworth²⁰⁴

Name	Type of Site	Features
Broad Meadow	LNR (also SBI)	Lowland meadow, floodplain grassland, Snake's Head Fritillary
Dosthill Park	LNR	Woodland, grassland, River Tame habitat, wet woodland paths
Hodge Lane	LNR	Grassland, canal towpath, wildlife pathways
Kettlebrook	LNR	Grassland, water habitats, volunteer-managed nature corridors
Tameside	LNR	Man-made lake, four islands, bird habitat
Town Wall	LNR	Meadow, grassland
Warwickshire Moor	LNR	Wetland wildlife
Wigginton Park	Park	Meadow

There is one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the Borough: Alvecote Pools SSSI.

There are no European designated Habitat Sites within the Borough, however Cannock Extension Canal SAC, and the River Mease SAC are located nearby. As outlined in [Section 10.1.1](#) in this report, The Cannock Extension Canal SAC, is particularly sensitive to nitrogen deposition, and significant traffic increases have the potential to increase pressure at this site. The Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) will consider whether there is potential for activities resulting from the Local Plan to affect Habitats Sites outside of the Borough.

²⁰⁴ Visit Tamworth, Nature Reserves and Country Parks <https://www.visittamworth.co.uk/nature-reserves-country-parks> (Accessed 31/07/2025)



LEGEND

- Tamworth Local Plan Area Boundary
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Biodiversity Alert Site (BAS)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Sites of National Nature Conservation Importance
- Sites of County Biological Importance (SBI)
- Local Geological / Geomorphological Sites (LOGS)

Note: Only showing data within the Tarnworth Local Plan Area Boundary

TAMWORTH

Scale: 1:30,000 @ A3

Date: AUGUST 2025

FIGURE 12.1

TAMWORTH LOCAL PLAN SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

SCOPING REPORT

DESIGNATED WILDLIFE AND GEOLOGICAL SITES

Both the River Tame and River Anker which flow through Tamworth, are designated as important for biodiversity in the Borough by the Water Framework Directive²⁰⁵. Designated water bodies are protected in order to conserve important habitats and species, including terrestrial species that depend directly on water; improve biodiversity and the health of green spaces, and protect water resources. This can be achieved by ensuring that there is no deterioration in the ecological health of the water bodies, limiting sources of pollution flowing into the water bodies, and making any water usage linked to these sites sustainable²⁰⁶.

All waterbodies within the River Tame catchment achieved 'Moderate' ecological status in 2022. The majority of waterbodies within the River Anker catchment achieved 'Poor' ecological status in 2022. This is due to pressures such as pollution, urban runoff and physical modifications to watercourses. These factors can degrade aquatic habitats and reduce the diversity of species they support. Improving water quality through targeted measures, such as reducing pollution and restoring natural river features, can enhance ecological conditions, helping to sustain and improve biodiversity across the catchment²⁰⁷.

The aquatic habitats associated with Tamworth's canal network also play a role in supporting biodiversity. Coventry Canal and the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal act as green corridors, particularly between fragmented habitats, allowing species to move through urban landscapes (such as between the River Tame and Tameside Nature Reserve). The canal network also provides a range of ecosystem services, including flood regulation, carbon sequestration and recreation.

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, on behalf of Tamworth Borough Council, carried out a strategic assessment of the Borough's biodiversity and habitat networks. Six habitat connectivity opportunity area types were identified and mapped across the Borough, including heathland, woodland, grassland, wetland, pasture and arable land, and urban land, to help inform the best areas to implement nature recovery mechanisms²⁰⁸. The opportunity area for wetland habitat/networks was found to be the most significant for nature recovery.

The Staffordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is a new, statutory strategy under the Environment Act 2021, led by Staffordshire County Council in collaboration with Stoke-on-Trent City Council, District and Borough Councils, the Peak District National Park Authority, Natural England and other partners²⁰⁹. The Staffordshire LNRS is still in progress and is expected to be made publicly available by the end of 2025. The LNRS will agree priorities for nature's recovery, map the most valuable existing areas for nature and outline specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals²¹⁰.

²⁰⁵ Tame Lower River and Lakes Operational Catchment <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/OperationalCatchment/3437> (Accessed 30/07/2025)

²⁰⁶ Water Framework Directive [Water Framework Directive \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32000/600/01) (Accessed 29/07/2025)

²⁰⁷ Humber river basin district river management plan: updated 2022 [Humber river basin district river management plan: updated 2022 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/115555/Humber_river_basin_district_river_management_plan_updated_2022.pdf) (Accessed 30/07/2025)

²⁰⁸ Tamworth Borough Nature Recovery Network Mapping (2021) [Appendix 2.pdf](#) (Accessed 25/09/25)

²⁰⁹ Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent LNRS [Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Staffordshire County Council](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)

²¹⁰ Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent LNRS [Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Staffordshire County Council](#) (Accessed 31/07/2025)



The Wild About Tamworth project is a partnership project between Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Tamworth Borough Council, and local communities to enhance green spaces across the Borough²¹¹. The project began in 2003 and has helped set up nine conservation volunteer groups, which meet regularly to look after and improve seven Local Nature Reserves, as well as Wiggington Park. The project also provides environmental education for schools. The project is partly commissioned by the council and partly funded through external grants.

The Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership was established in 2005 by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, local councils, local charities and statutory bodies²¹². As part of this partnership, the National Lottery Heritage Fund funded a series of conservation projects to restore heritage and improve the area for wildlife between 2014 and 2019. More recently, over £20,000 has been secured to support willow tit populations across the Tame Valley Wetlands²¹³.

As part of a nationwide strategy to heighten nature recovery, a minimum target of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) has been introduced for new developments. **BNG is an important mechanism for ensuring habitat connectivity.** BNG should be guided by the Biodiversity Net Gain Hierarchy and DEFRA's Net Gain Metric²¹⁴, which allows developers/ecologists/landowners to assess an area's value to wildlife, and therefore how a development or change in land management will impact this. Since April 2024, this BNG target has been mandatory for most new developments. **Tamworth may be unable to accommodate all of its required BNG within the Borough however, due to land constraints.**

Nature loss, pollution and geodiversity damage causes tangible and real financial costs to local authorities (e.g. dealing with the impacts of flooding). In tandem, tackling climate change, nature loss and sustainability delivers significant and long-term value creation (both economic and adjacent value), including job creation and positively impacts the wellbeing of residents.

12.2 Key Sustainability Issues

The following key sustainability issues have been identified:

- There are a range of nature conservation sites (statutory and non-statutory) within the Borough which require protection from development;
- There is a need to ensure development includes habitat creation and enhancement with consideration of the wider landscape and ecological corridors;
- The majority of waterbodies within the River Anker catchment achieved 'Poor' ecological status in 2022;

²¹¹ Staffordshire Wildlife Trust [Wild About Tamworth | Staffordshire Wildlife Trust](#) (Accessed 20/08/2025)

²¹² [Tame Valley Wetlands | Warwickshire Wildlife Trust](#) (Accessed 25/09/25)

²¹³ [Willow tit conservation | Warwickshire Wildlife Trust](#) (Accessed 25/09/25)

²¹⁴ [Biodiversity metric: calculate the biodiversity net gain of a project or development - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) (Accessed 27/07/2025)



- Potential effects on European designated Habitats Sites outside of the Borough needs to be considered;
- There is need to ensure favourable management of protected sites within the Borough;
- There is a need to increase resilience of nature in light of climate change. Green spaces should be joined up, particularly through use of the canal network, and water resources protected from damage;
- There is a need to prioritise nature recovery across the Borough, in line with the emerging Staffordshire LNRS; and
- There is a need to ensure that as much of the minimum target of 10% BNG is met within the Borough as possible.

12.3 Likely Evolution without the Local Plan

Without the Local Plan setting out a positive strategy for growth to meet future housing and commercial development needs, the location and scale of new development will be controlled through the development management process rather than through development being targeted to locations with greater environmental capacity. This could lead to the degradation and possible loss of habitat and species. The Local Plan could help safeguard existing sites of value, protect notable and protected species, and improve the management of locally important wildlife sites where these are integrated into development. Climate change will increase stress on habitats and species.

In the absence of the Local Plan it is likely that the number or extent of non-statutory sites in the Borough will remain similar to current provision, although ad-hoc opportunities may arise to increase overall provision.

12.4 Data Gaps

The forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) will add detail regarding sites and opportunities for BNG. A draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy is expected to be published in Autumn 2025.



13.0 Cultural Heritage

13.1 Baseline

Heritage Assets

There are 140 Nationally Listed Buildings within Tamworth Borough²¹⁵. Grade I Listed Buildings are considered of 'exceptional interest', Grade II* listings are considered 'of more than special interest', and Grade II listings are considered of 'special interest'.

There are three Grade I Listed Buildings in the Borough²¹⁶:

- Tamworth Castle (Holloway, Tamworth);
- Church of St Editha (Church Street, Tamworth); and
- Causeway Walls to North East of Tamworth Castle (Holloway, Tamworth).

There are five Grade II* Listed Buildings in the Borough²¹⁷:

- Spital Chapel of St James (Ashby Road, Perrycrofts);
- Dosthill Sunday School and Parish Room (Church Road, Dosthill);
- The Moat House (Lichfield Street, Tamworth);
- Town Hall (Market Street, Tamworth); and
- Amington Hall (Ashby Road, Tamworth).

The remaining 132 Listed Buildings in the Borough are Grade II listed.

In addition, there are three Scheduled Monuments in the Borough²¹⁸:

- Tamworth Castle (The Holloway, Lady Bank, Tamworth);
- Medieval Deanery, Lower Gungate (Tamworth); and
- Saxon Defences (these are in two separate areas of protection overlooking the confluence of the rivers Tame and Anker to the South).

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens or World Heritage Sites within the Borough.

In addition to nationally designated heritage assets, Tamworth Council maintains a Local List of buildings and structures that are considered to have local historic and architectural value. While buildings on the list are not subject to the same statutory protections as nationally Listed buildings, planning applications involving them are assessed with greater care and sensitivity. This list forms part of the Borough's commitment to preserving and enhancing its unique character and townscape. There

²¹⁵ Listing [The List Search Results | Historic England](#) (Accessed 25/09/2025)

²¹⁶ Conservation and Heritage [Conservation and heritage | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 08/07/2025)

²¹⁷ Conservation and Heritage [Conservation and heritage | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 08/07/2025)

²¹⁸ Conservation and Heritage [Conservation and heritage | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 08/07/2025)



are currently 91 properties on the Local List²¹⁹. These include buildings and structures that:

- Exhibit special architectural or historic interest (though not nationally listed);
- Represent traditional or historic industrial processes;
- Act as townscape or landscape landmarks;
- Are associated with significant events or personalities;
- Contain features of antiquity (pre-1800); or
- Demonstrate good quality modern architecture.

There are seven areas of Tamworth designated as Conservation Areas, which cumulatively account for approximately 160ha (5%) of Tamworth's land area. Conservation Areas have been designated by the Council to protect the character of many settlements and restrict inappropriate development. These areas often provide locally significant leisure and recreation locations and can play a key role in defining the character and identity of the Borough. Conservation areas can also help to protect key Borough assets. For example, there are over 85 protected trees in Tamworth, due to either their presence within a Conservation Area, or because they are subject to a Tree Preservation Order²²⁰. The Conservation Areas present within the Borough are²²¹:

- Albert Road/ Victoria Street (5.4 ha);
- Amington Green (1.1 ha);
- Amington Hall Estate (106.4 ha);
- Dosthill (1.5ha);
- Hospital Street (6.0 ha);
- Tamworth Town (35.7 ha); and
- Wilnecote (4.0 ha).

The Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) holds around 21,000 records of known archaeological sites and monuments, historic buildings and historic landscapes across the county and includes information related to Tamworth Borough²²².

Heritage assets in the Borough are presented in Figure 13-1.

²¹⁹ Locally Listed Buildings, Tamworth [Locally listed buildings | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 08/08/2025)

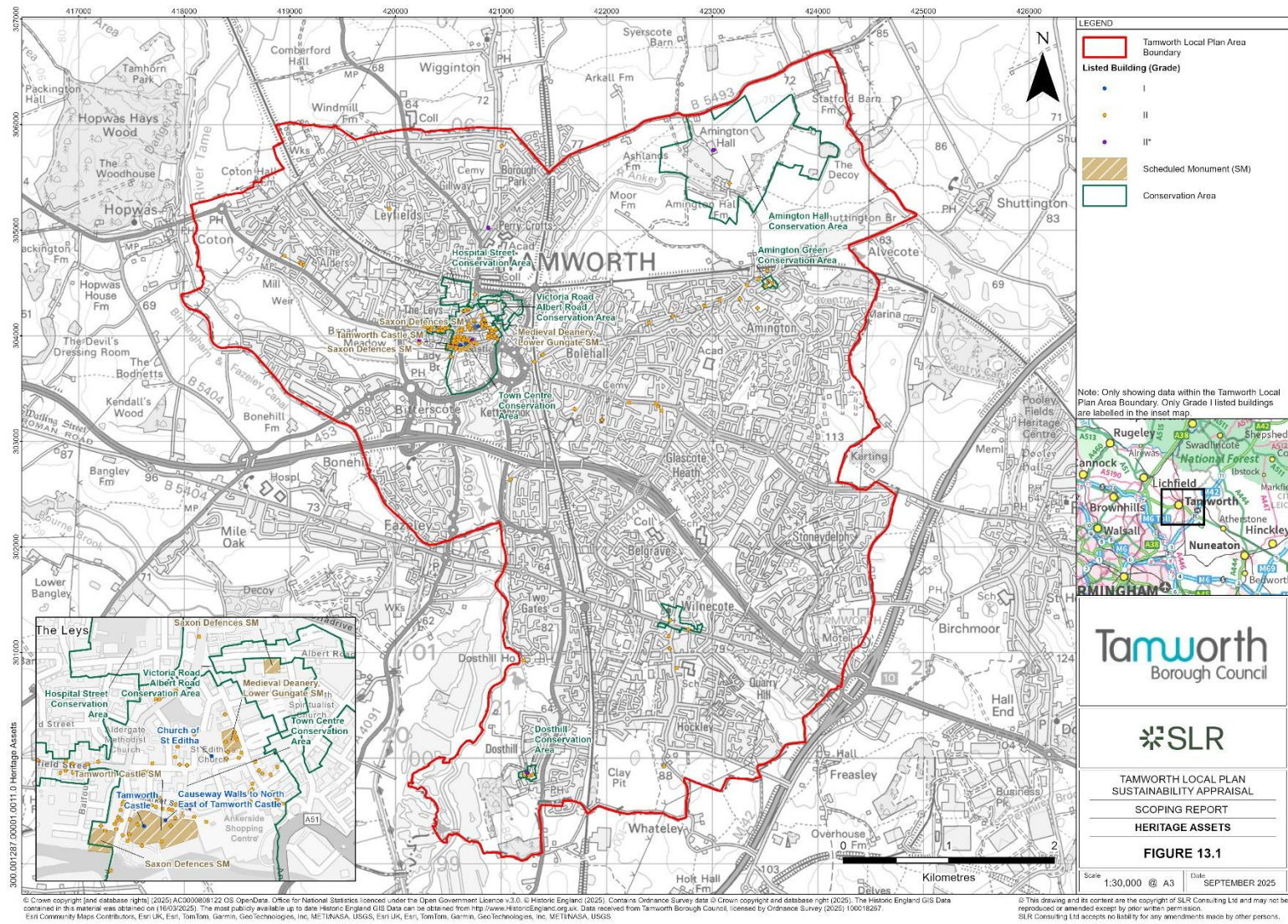
²²⁰ Tamworth Tree Preservation Order List [Tree Preservation Order List | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 07/07/2025)

²²¹ Tamworth Conservation Areas [Conservation areas | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 07/07/2025)

²²² Staffordshire HER [Staffordshire County Council Public WebMap](#) (Accessed 07/07/2025)



Figure 13-1: Heritage assets within Tamworth



The Tamworth Historic Character Assessment²²³ identified 37 Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) and 11 Historic Environment Character Zones (HECZs) throughout the Borough. The areas exhibiting the greatest heritage significance within the built environment, in terms of both the legible and archaeological heritage assets, are largely associated with the Tamworth Town Centre, Tamworth Castle, Aldergate and Lichfield Street and the Moat House. The areas of greatest heritage significance in the rural fringe are associated with two landscape parks: Amington Hall Park and Dosthill Park.

Heritage at Risk refers to historic sites and assets in England that are most at risk of being lost due to neglect, decay or inappropriate development. There are two Heritage at Risk entries in the Borough, as detailed in Table 13-1.

Table 13-1: Heritage at Risk Entries for Tamworth²²⁴

Site Name	Designation(s)	Description of site	Condition
Deanery Wall, Lower Gungate, Tamworth	Scheduled Monument	A section of 14th-century masonry wall, once part of St Editha's Deanery, survives in three fragments that are now in urgent need of maintenance and repair. These historic remains are deteriorating due to overgrown vegetation and weathering, and require removal, as well as repointing of mortar joints and the resetting of loose stones along the wall tops. However, the responsibility for carrying out these repairs remains unclear, complicating efforts to preserve this important piece of Tamworth's medieval heritage.	Poor
Tamworth Castle, Holloway	Listed Building – Grade I	Tamworth Castle is a historically layered site that originated as a late 11th-century motte and bailey castle. Over time, it evolved to include a 12th-century shell keep and the remains of a 13th-century gatehouse, bridge and curtain wall, some of which are now ruined or buried. Due to centuries of alterations, the castle features complex structural junctions and has experienced ongoing structural movement, leading to significant repair needs. In 2023, Tamworth Borough Council funded an initial phase of repairs to the curtain wall, while Historic England supported further structural and archaeological investigations to assess and guide future conservation efforts.	Poor

²²³ Staffordshire Extensive Urban Survey- Tamworth Historic Character Assessment [Tamworth EUS Report Part 1.cdr](#) (Accessed 25/09/25)

²²⁴ Heritage at Risk Register. [Tamworth Castle, Holloway - Tamworth | Historic England](#) (Accessed 08/08/2025)



From Spring 2026, Tamworth Castle will be undergoing an enhancement and repair project following its identification as a Heritage at Risk entry, to help address the significant structural issues that the Castle is currently facing. Repairs and enhancements are also being made to the heritage assets surrounding the castle, including Hollway Lodge and the Coach House.

Heritage crime presents a recognised risk to archaeological sites and historic assets within Tamworth. Such offences typically include unauthorised excavations, damage to heritage structures (such as through vandalism or arson), demolition without the necessary permissions, and theft of building materials, including lead.

Climate change impacts, such as increased extreme weather events (heavy rain, storms, extreme heat) and flooding are likely to threaten the historic environment of Tamworth through damage, decay and degradation. The historic environment can play a vital role in climate change mitigation however, through the reuse, retention and repair of historic assets.

Cultural Assets

There are a number of cultural assets within the Borough of Tamworth, including:

- Tamworth Castle and Museum (a Norman motte-and-bailey castle with interactive exhibits and events);
- Tamworth Assembly Rooms (a historic theatre and arts venue hosting music, drama, and community events);
- Tamworth Library and Archive Services (located in the town centre, offering access to local history and cultural programming);
- Tamworth Town Hall (a historic civic building used for events and ceremonies);
- Castle Grounds and Bandstand (a public park with gardens, a bandstand for performances, and seasonal events);
- Tamworth Street Art and Public Art Trail (which includes murals and installations created by local artists and schoolchildren);
- The Snowdome (primarily a leisure facility, but also hosts seasonal cultural events and exhibitions); and
- Places of Worship, including St Editha's Church, Sacred Heart Church, Tamworth Islamic Centre and other local chapels and community churches.

In addition, Tamworth Borough Council supports cultural development through:

- Heritage-led regeneration projects (e.g. Castle Gateway);
- Community arts programming;
- Partnerships with schools and local artists; and
- Efforts to improve access to cultural venues and events.



13.2 Key Sustainability Issues

The following key sustainability issues have been identified:

- The cumulative impact of development proposals and associated infrastructure requirements is likely to be one of the most significant issues for the historic environment and special character of Tamworth;
- Designated and non-designated heritage assets in the Borough, and their settings, could be negatively affected by new development which can erode the quality of the built environment and heritage features or sterilise or lead to the loss of existing heritage assets. A good understanding of heritage value will therefore be required;
- Heritage assets are irreplaceable resource and need to be conserved in a manner that is appropriate to their significance;
- Climate change is likely to be a significant issue for the historic environment, however the historic environment can play a vital role in climate change mitigation, through the reuse, retention and repair of historic assets;
- There are two assets on the heritage at risk register, both of which are in poor condition;
- Funding for enhancement and repair work of cultural heritage assets needs to be maintained;
- There is a need to maintain and preserve cultural assets and access to cultural facilities;
- There is an opportunity to enhance the setting of existing heritage assets or contribute to their preservation through sensitive design or appropriate repurposing;
- There is an opportunity to improve the appearance of the town centre and encourage increased tourism rates through heritage led regeneration; and
- The protection of the Borough's cultural heritage remains a significant issue for many local residents, businesses and community groups.

13.3 Likely Evolution without the Local Plan

Without the Plan, continual growth in the Borough and the increasing demand for housing may mean development could negatively affect designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings. Assets currently in poor condition may continue to deteriorate, and potential harm to the character, appearance or setting of conservation areas may be generated as a result of new development.

Opportunities for heritage led regeneration may not be implemented without policies encouraging it. Sites, areas and buildings that have not been formally designated, including those on Tamworth's Local List, are also likely to have limited protection against inappropriate or potentially harmful development.



13.4 Data Gaps

Conservation Area appraisals are not adopted (and therefore available) for all Conservation Areas, and the majority of adopted appraisals are outdated. A review of all Conservation Area appraisals is currently being undertaken by Tamworth Borough Council.

Lists of locally listed buildings and local heritage at risk are also under review.



14.0 Landscape and Townscape

14.1 Baseline

14.1.1 Landscape

Landscape refers to the visible features of a natural or rural environment. The Borough comprises predominantly urban areas with peripheral semi-rural and green spaces. The River Tame and River Anker contribute to the landscape of the Borough. The surrounding rural landscape includes areas of open space, historic field patterns and localised elevation changes, particularly near Hopwas and Wigginton.

Tamworth has a land area of 31km², which is mostly comprised of urban land. Approximately 2.1km² (6.8%) of this land is designated as Green Belt²²⁵. The Green Belt is located to the south of the Borough, to the east of Dosthill. The Tamworth Green Belt forms part of the West Midlands Green Belt²²⁶. The West Midlands Green Belt was designated in 1975 to prevent the expansion of the West Midlands Conurbation into the surrounding countryside and to prevent the merging of towns²²⁷.

The Borough falls within three different National Character Areas (NCA):

- The Trent Valley Washlands, which consists of narrow, low-lying river flood plains and gravel terraces, bordered by higher ground²²⁸;
- The Mease/Sence Lowlands, which is a gently rolling agricultural landscape centred around the rivers Mease, Sence and Anker²²⁹; and
- The Arden, which features gently rolling farmland, ancient woodlands, and historic parklands between Birmingham and Coventry, bordered by higher ground to the west and east²³⁰.

NCA's were updated and republished by Natural England in 2014. The last assessment of NCA's was undertaken in 2003, but whilst dated, this information is referenced in recent NCA reports and provides some context regarding the quality of landscapes within the Borough. The NCA's within Tamworth can be seen in Figure 14-1.

14.1.2 Townscape

Townscape refers to the visual appearance of a town or urban area. Areas of Article 4 direction are also in place across the Borough, to protect local amenities from development. These legal measures, made under the Town and Country Planning

²²⁵ [Local Plan 2043 Issues and Options Document](#) September 2022 (Accessed 27/01/2026)

²²⁶ Local Authority Green Belt Statistics [Local authority green belt statistics for England: 2023 to 2024 - GOV.UK](#) (Accessed 07/07/2025)

²²⁷ Black Country Plan, Green Belt [Green Belt | Black Country Plan](#) (Accessed 07/07/2025)

²²⁸ National Character Areas <https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/Trent-Valley-Washlands/> (Accessed 07/07/2025)

²²⁹ National Character Areas <https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/Mease/Sence-Lowlands/> (Accessed 07/07/2025)

²³⁰ Natural England – National Character Area Profiles [Natural England - National Character Area Profiles - National Character Area Profiles](#) (Accessed 22/05/2025)



Order 1995, remove certain permitted development rights, particularly in Conservation Areas. Article 4 directions withdraw certain permitted development rights to give extra protection to certain properties, such as removal of timber windows, doors and chimneys and painting of previously unpainted brickwork. Areas currently under Article 4 Direction include:

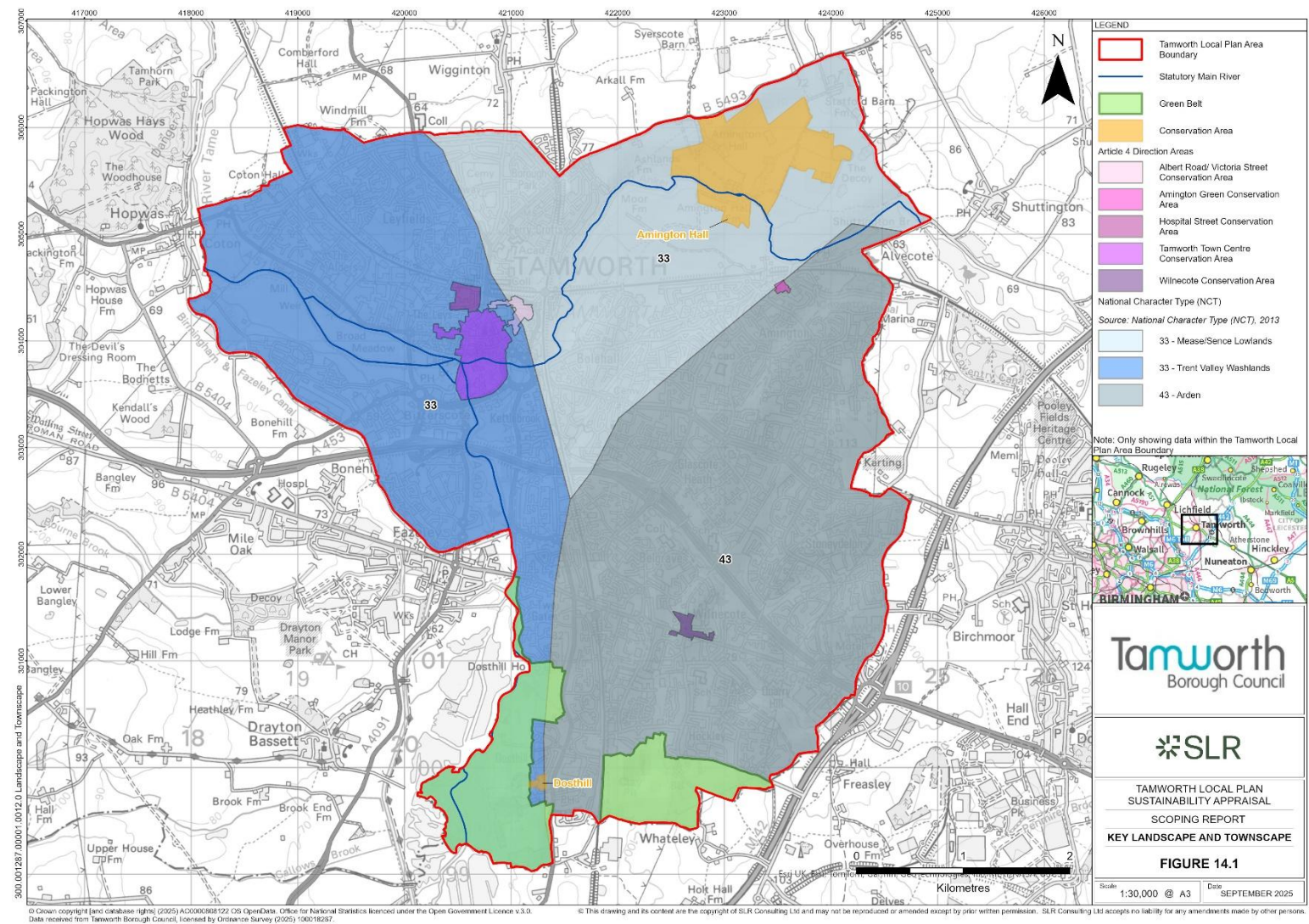
- Albert Road/ Victoria Street Conservation Area;
- Amington Green Conservation Area;
- Hospital Street Conservation Area;
- Tamworth Town Centre Conservation Area; and
- Wilnecote Conservation Area.

Residents are advised to consult the Council's Conservation Officer before making alterations.

Key areas of landscape and townscape within Tamworth, including Green Belt, Article 4 direction areas and national character types can be seen in Figure 14-1.



Figure 14-1: Key landscape and townscape features in Tamworth



Some areas of the Borough, such as parts of the town centre, are experiencing issues related to degradation and underuse and could therefore benefit from targeted investment and conservation efforts. The Tamworth Future High Streets Fund has been awarded £21.65 million to transform the town centre. There are five core elements of the project, including²³¹:

- The relocation of Tamworth College to a new building on the site of the Tamworth Co-operative Society department store;
- The refurbishment of the Co-operative society department store, specifically the Colehill frontages, into a new enterprise centre for small businesses;
- The refurbishment and improvements to Middle Entry and construction of new flexible use units for small business use; and
- The transformation of St Editha's Square into a multi-purpose outdoor space for entertaining and events.

The Tamworth Investment Strategy²³² outlines proposals for new housing, commercial and community spaces, improved transport connectivity, and public realm enhancements, with the aim of guiding investment and planning decisions in line with local priorities and existing funding initiatives.

14.2 Key Sustainability Issues

The following key sustainability issues have been identified:

- A small proportion of the Borough is protected as Green Belt. Any loss of Green Belt would need to ensure that the remaining area still serves its purpose.;
- There are three different landscape character areas in the Borough, indicating the diversity in landscape types; and
- Targeted investment and conservation efforts are being used to improve areas experiencing degradation and underuse.

14.3 Likely Evolution without the Local Plan

Continual growth in the Borough and the increasing demand for housing and employment sites, may also mean unplanned development could encroach on Green Belt, Conservation Areas and negatively affect townscape and landscape.

14.4 Data Gaps

A Green Belt review for Tamworth is currently being undertaken as part of the South Staffordshire Green Belt Review and will be published in early 2026.

A Landscape Strategy for Tamworth Borough is currently being developed.

²³¹ [Future High Streets Fund | Tamworth Borough Council](#) (Accessed 12/09/25)

²³² [Tibbalds | Tamworth Investment Strategy](#) (Accessed 21/08/25)



15.0 Soils, Water and Minerals

15.1 Baseline

Soils

The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) provides a method for assessing the quality of land in order to make informed choices within the planning system. As highlighted in Table 15-1 below, the majority of Tamworth is classified as ‘urban’ or ‘non-agricultural’, although there are some areas of Grade 2 (very good quality agricultural land), Grade 3 (good to moderate quality) and Grade 4 land (poor quality agricultural land)²³³. This is also demonstrated in Figure 15-1.

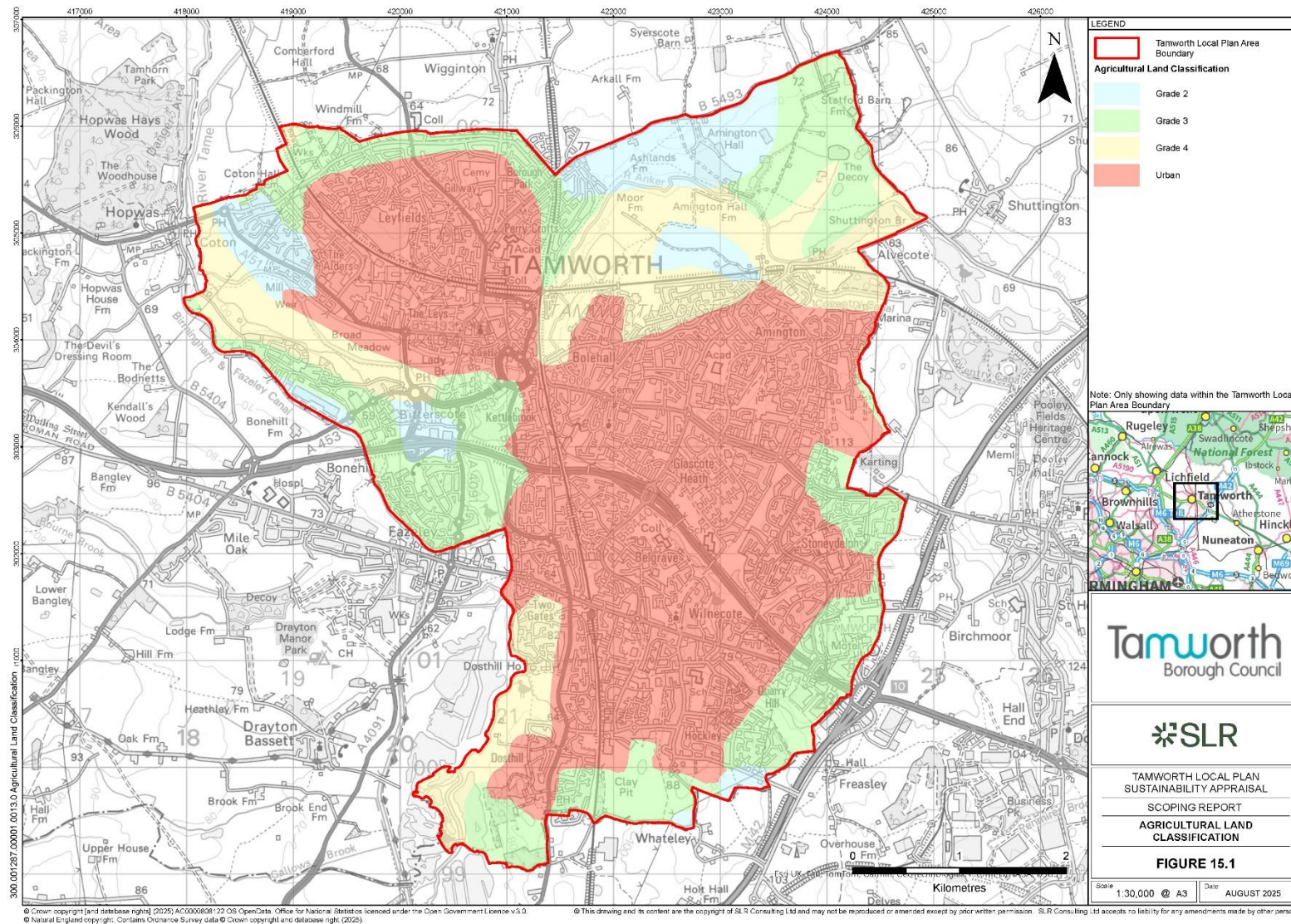
Table 15-1: ALC Land Area across Tamworth

ALC	Land Area (m ²)	Land Area (%)
Urban/Non-agricultural	15,871,796	51.5
Grade 2	2,621,847	8.5
Grade 3	7,417,864	24.0
Grade 4	4,939,211	16.0

²³³ Natural England (Provisional Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) (England). [Provisional Agricultural Land Classification \(ALC\) \(England\) | Natural England Open Data Geoportal](#) (Accessed 07/07/2025)



Figure 15-1: Agricultural Land Classifications in Tamworth



‘Soilscape’ data held by National Soil Resources Institute (NSRI) shows that the soil in Tamworth is comprised of a range of different soil types. Within Tamworth town centre, and along the River Tame, the soil is mostly “loamy soils with naturally high groundwater” or “loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater”. In the north of the Borough the soil is “slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage”, and to the south, it is “slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils”²³⁴.

Land contamination is principally a legacy of historical industrial activities and past waste disposal practices. Examples of such industries include gas works, chemical works, landfill sites, sewage works, petrol stations and scrap yards. In some instances, substances and waste materials from these activities may have caused pollution to the ground. This contamination has the potential to cause harm to human health, ground and surface waters, ecological systems and the built environment. Land contamination can also include areas of land with elevated levels of naturally occurring substances or where substances are present as a result of accidents, spillages, aerial deposition or migration. In April 2000, the Government introduced new legislation (Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990) requiring all local authorities to inspect their areas for potentially contaminated land and, if necessary, to ensure that any contamination is ‘cleaned up’ (remediated).

Land uses that are considered sensitive to contamination include:

- All residential development;
- Allotments;
- Schools;
- Nurseries;
- Playgrounds; and
- Hospitals.

There are currently no sites in Tamworth which have been formally identified as contaminated land. **The Tamworth Borough Council Statutory Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy²³⁵ outlines the strategic approach that Tamworth Borough Council utilises to inspect all areas of contaminated land within the Borough, as well as to identify and mitigate health and environmental risks that are unacceptable.**

Water

Tamworth takes its name from the River Tame, which is the main river flowing through the Borough. The River Anker is a major tributary of the River Tame and joins the Tame in Tamworth.

Tamworth Borough’s water supply is provided by South Staffs Water and Seven Trent Water provide sewerage services.

²³⁴ Soilscales Map [LandIS - Land Information System - Soilscales soil types viewer](#) (Accessed 07/07/2025)

²³⁵ The Tamworth Borough Council Statutory Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (2016) (Accessed 25/09/25)



Table 15-2 shows the water quality status of the water bodies within the River Tame which flow through the Borough.

Table 15-2: Water Quality of the waterbodies within the River Tame catchment in Tamworth²³⁶

Waterbody Name	Ecological Status	Chemical Status
Tame from River Anker to River Trent Water Body	Poor	Does not require assessment
Tame from River Blythe to River Anker Water Body	Poor	Does not require assessment

The classification status of all water bodies has been used to derive a relative understanding of quality to assess the combined potential impact of growth in the region. All of the waterbodies are currently recording a 'poor' ecological status. For both water bodies, assessment of chemical status was deemed to not be required.

The River Tame Environmental Report refers to the river as being 'heavily urbanised', with all waterbodies in the catchment being modified or artificial which has adversely impacted the natural environment which relies on these waterbodies. Other pressures include contaminated urban runoff and treated sewage effluent. In addition, industrial activities have contaminated land in some areas which has led to pollution of groundwater²³⁷. For both waterbodies, reasons for not achieving good status include:

- Sewage discharge;
- Urban development;
- Trade/ industry discharge;
- Quarrying; and
- Poor livestock management.

A significant portion of the Borough is underlain by a secondary aquifer. Secondary aquifers support water supplies at a local rather than strategic scale and play a role in sustaining rivers, wetlands and lakes. In contrast, the eastern part of the Borough is underlain by a principal aquifer. These are highly permeable geological formations that can provide a high level of water storage and flow, making them important for strategic water supply. Principal aquifers are typically used for public water supply and are more likely to be protected due to their significance²³⁸.

²³⁶ Tame Catchment Data Explorer. [Tame Lower Rivers and Lakes Operational Catchment | Catchment Data Explorer](#) (Accessed 07/07/2025)

²³⁷ Tame Catchment Data Explorer. [Tame Lower Rivers and Lakes Operational Catchment | Catchment Data Explorer](#) (Accessed 07/07/2025)

²³⁸ MAGIC Map [Magic Map Application](#) (Accessed 07/07/2025)



Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) can promote infiltration of surface water into the ground and recharge aquifers and can therefore play a long-term role in safeguarding and sustaining water resources, and improving water quality.

Groundwater Vulnerability is an important consideration in parts of this area. The entirety of Tamworth is located within an area of high or medium groundwater vulnerability²³⁹. The areas of highest vulnerability are located to the west of the Borough, in areas surrounding Wilnecote, Glascote and Stonydelph. In these areas, the underlying geology and soil conditions mean that pollutants at the surface can reach groundwater more easily, making them sensitive to development or activities involving potential contaminants.

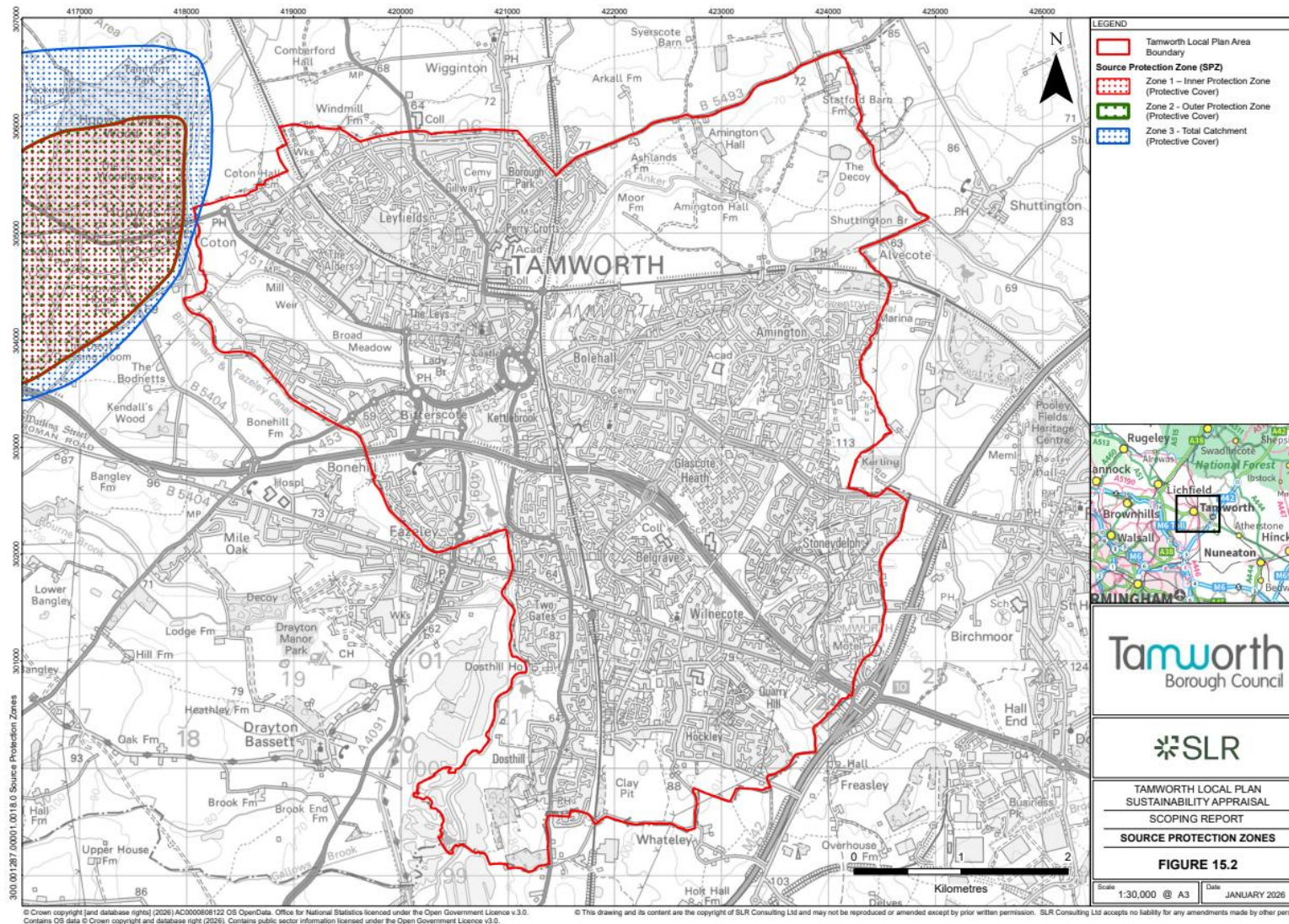
Whilst not within Tamworth itself, there is a Source Protection Zone to the west of the town, on Tamworth Road, presented within **Figure 15-2**. The zones are defined using models to estimate how long it will take for groundwater to travel below ground (any point below the water table) to the source (the point where water is taken)²⁴⁰. It is important that the areas surrounding the source are protected from potential pollution due to the proximity to drinking water sources.

²³⁹ BGS, Groundwater Vulnerability [Groundwater vulnerability data - British Geological Survey](#) (Accessed 28/01/2026)

²⁴⁰ Gov.UK, Source Protection Zones [Source Protection Zones \[Merged\] - data.gov.uk](#) (Accessed 06/01/2026)



Figure 15-2 Source Protection Zones in Tamworth



Minerals

Tamworth has a history of coal and clay extraction²⁴¹. Historically, Tamworth was part of the South Staffordshire Coalfield. Several collieries operated in and around the area, including Amington Colliery, Beauchamp Colliery, Kettlebrook Colliery and Wilnecote Colliery. These sites were active during the industrial period but are no longer in operation.

The Glascote Clay Pit is one example of clay extraction in the area which supported local brickworks and ceramics industries. Kingsbury Works is the only operational brick and tile works in the Borough. It is operated by Wienerberger and located in Dosthill. There is also a permitted minerals site in Dosthill.

15.2 Key Sustainability Issues

The following key sustainability issues have been identified:

- Tamworth is a small Borough which is comprised of predominantly urban land with small areas of Grade 2 and Grade 3 agricultural land on the edges of the Borough. Over time, the amount of available and suitable land for development will continue to decline, making it increasingly challenging to meet future needs. This will place increasing pressure on Tamworth's small stock of greenfield land;
- The soil is predominantly composed of loamy and clayey soils with high groundwater, which may limit agricultural productivity and drainage in the small areas of agricultural land within the Borough;
- New development could lead to increased soil compaction and erosion, particularly during the construction phase of development, which may increase flood risk;
- Disruption to soils due to the construction phase of development will lead to the release of CO₂, as well as impede the ability of the soil to sequester carbon;
- All of the waterbodies within the Borough are currently achieving 'moderate' or 'poor' ecological status. Reasons for this include sewage discharge, urban development, trade/ industry discharge, quarrying, and poor livestock management;
- There is a need to improve water quality within the River Tame and River Anker catchments;
- Population growth will increase demand on already stressed water resources and waste treatment infrastructure. SuDS, water-efficient development and improvements to watercourses, including more naturalisation, are needed to manage future demand and climate change impacts;
- There are areas of high and medium-high groundwater vulnerability within Tamworth. The areas surrounding the Source Protection Zone to the west of

²⁴¹ Mindat, Tamworth [Tamworth, Staffordshire, England, UK](https://www.mindat.org/loc-10000.html) (Accessed 08/08/2025)



the town need to be protected from potential pollution due to the proximity to drinking water sources; and

- There is a need to safeguard existing mineral resource areas.

15.3 Likely Evolution without the Local Plan

Continual growth in the Borough and the increasing demand for housing and employment sites is likely to lead to a greater consumption of natural resources, including minerals. It is also likely to lead to an increase in water demand in the Borough, placing increasing strain on water resources (along with climate change) and wastewater treatment.

Inappropriate development may come forward that leads to impacts on land, water and soil quality, meaning that waterbodies within the Borough will continue to fail good status targets. Increases to flood risk may also occur due a lack of consideration of cumulative and downstream flood risks, as well as the implementation of impermeable surfacing in inappropriate locations.

15.4 Data Gaps

A new Water Cycle Study is likely to be commissioned for Tamworth Borough shortly. This study will ascertain whether there is sufficient availability of water supply and capacity to treat wastewater in both the network and wastewater treatment works for growth proposed both in Tamworth and in neighbouring districts also reliant on the same infrastructure.

The Tamworth Borough Council Statutory Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy is due for a review, and is likely to be updated in coming years.



16.0 Waste

16.1 Baseline

Tamworth's waste stream is made up of a variety of materials, including landfill waste, common dry recyclables, food and green garden waste, hazardous waste, industrial waste, construction and demolition waste, and materials including textiles, electricals and cleaning chemicals. Tamworth Borough Council and Lichfield District Council operate in partnership through a Joint Waste Service (JWS) and are responsible for waste disposal across the Borough. There are two recycling centres which serve the Borough's population:

- Lichfield Recycling Centre; and
- Lower House Farm Recycling Centre.

There are a number of key partnerships associated with waste management in Tamworth²⁴²:

- Staffordshire Waste Partnership (SWP): An informal collaboration comprising ten councils in Staffordshire, including Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, and eight district and borough councils. The SWP aims to promote sustainable waste management practices across the county;
- Staffordshire Waste Officers Group (SWOG): A subgroup within the SWP, consisting of waste management officers from the member councils. SWOG meets bi-monthly to discuss operational matters, share best practices, and coordinate waste management strategies across Staffordshire;
- Staffordshire Sustainability Board (SSB): A board comprising senior officers and members responsible for environmental sustainability including waste management within the SWP councils; and
- Communications Recycling Officers Group (CROG) A group focused on recycling and communication campaigns within Staffordshire. The CROG collaborates on campaigns, such as waste minimisation efforts and organizes events to promote recycling and sustainable waste practices among residents.

Tamworth's Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) is disposed of through landfill, incineration, composting, and recycling. Food Waste collection is not currently available but is set to be introduced in 2026. Waste that cannot be recycled or composted is incinerated at Energy from Waste Facilities (EfW) which provides energy for the National Grid. In line with the Environment Act 2021, household waste in the Borough must be collected separately from recycling.

The proportion of waste which is being incinerated at EfW facilities in the UK has increased drastically over the past decade. In Tamworth, all household waste which

²⁴² JWS Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough 2025-2026 business plan [Agenda+item+7a+-+Joint+waste+business+plan+-+2025+-+2026+-+draft.pdf](#)



is disposed of in black bins is sent to Four Ashes EFW plant which is operated by Veolia UK in Wolverhampton.

In respect of recycling performance, the percentage of household waste sent for recycling in 2023-24 in Tamworth was 39%²⁴³, as shown in Table 16-1. Recycling rates were lower than those in nearby local authorities of Lichfield, North Warwickshire and South Derbyshire and across England, and the quantity of waste collected per person was higher. Tamworth performed better than all neighbouring local authorities and the England average with respect to their recycling contamination rate.

Table 16-1: Recycling Rates for Tamworth and Neighbouring Authorities between 2023 and 2024²⁴⁴

	Tamworth	Lichfield	North Warwickshire	England
Household recycling rate (%)	39	45	48	42
Collected waste per person (kg)	494	455	451	467
Recycling contamination rate (%)	1	3	5	6

Source: GOV.UK - Annual Recycling League Table

The household recycling rate in Tamworth has decreased significantly since 2015, reaching their lowest rate in the financial year of 2022-23, as shown in Figure 16-1. Whilst less pronounced, this trend was visible across England as a whole. Recycling rates increased during 2023-24 in Tamworth, Lichfield and England. As shown in Figure 16-2, Tamworth produces marginally more waste per person per year than the average across Lichfield and England.

²⁴³ Recycling Rates for Local Authorities. [Waste management - Local Authority Data Explorer](#) (Accessed 06/07/2025)

²⁴⁴ Recycling Rates for Local Authorities. [Waste management - Local Authority Data Explorer](#) (Accessed 06/07/2025)



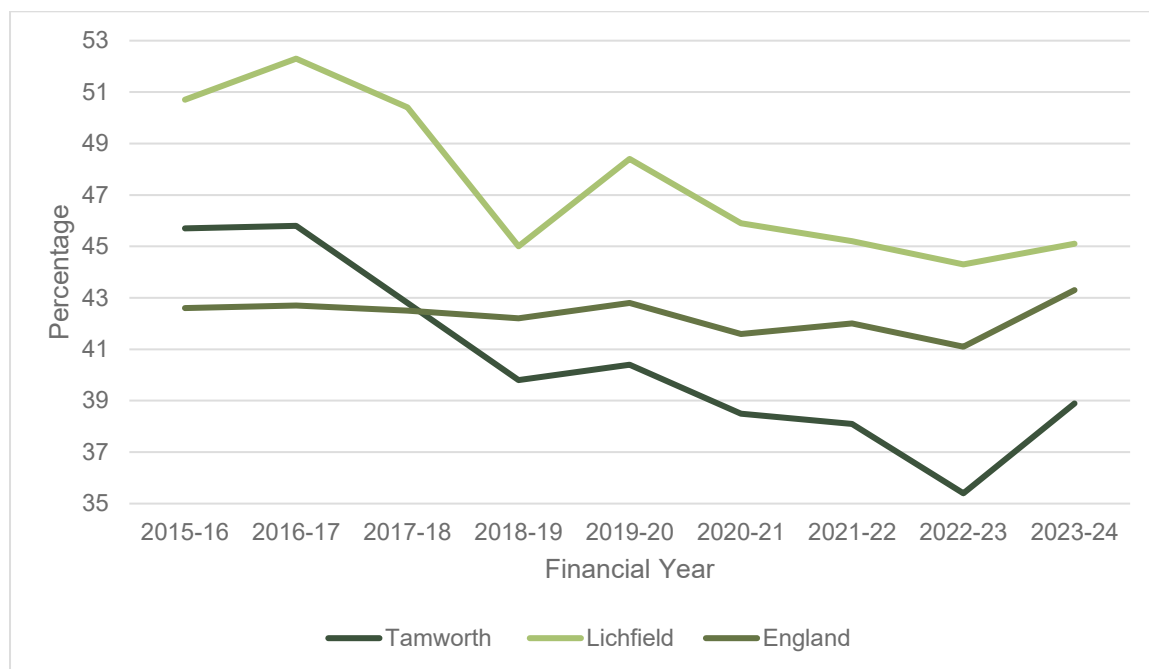


Figure 16-1: Percentage Household Recycling Rates in Tamworth and England over time²⁴⁵

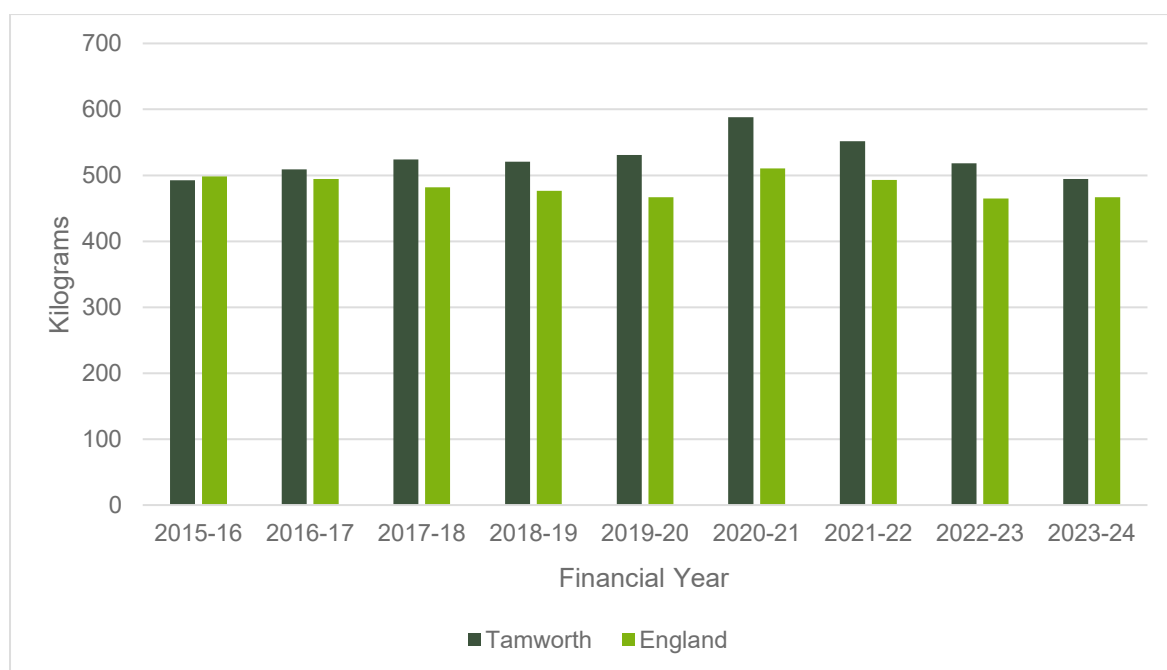


Figure 16-2: Quantity of household waste per person in Tamworth over time (kg)²⁴⁶

²⁴⁵ Recycling Rates for Local Authorities. [Waste management - Local Authority Data Explorer](#) (Accessed 04/07/2025)

²⁴⁶ Recycling Rates for Local Authorities. [Waste management - Local Authority Data Explorer](#) (Accessed 06/05/2025)



16.2 Key Sustainability Issues

The following key sustainability issues have been identified:

- Local Authority Waste Collection (LAWC) includes landfill, recycling, composting and incineration;
- Recycling rates for LAWC in Tamworth are below the national average;
- Household recycling rates for LAWC in Tamworth decreased between 2015 and 2023, but increased during the 2023-24 financial year;
- The quantity of household waste produced in Tamworth is greater than the national average;
- In order to implement the circular economy, new developments need to ensure that there is adequate space for waste separation; and
- To support the waste hierarchy, buildings should be repurposed and demolition waste should be recycled where possible.

16.3 Likely Evolution without the Local Plan

With an increasing population within the Borough, it is likely that the amount of waste produced will continue to rise. Offering more options for waste disposal, such as the introduction of food waste bins, would help to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Development within the Borough could produce waste from construction.

16.4 Data Gaps

An update to the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (2007-2020) is currently being prepared.



17.0 The Proposed SA Framework

This chapter presents the proposed SA Framework (**Table 17-1**) containing SA Objectives and decision making considerations. The Local Plan and its alternatives will be tested against the SA Objectives. These objectives are supported by decision making considerations, which will be used to help guide the assessment of the plan and its alternatives. The considerations included in the Framework should not be interpreted as an exhaustive list, and they may not be applicable in every circumstance. Baseline data evidence will also be referred to when using the SA Framework to assess the Local Plan and its alternatives.

The structure of the SA Framework has been drawn from the consultants' experience of developing assessment frameworks. The SA Objectives and decision making considerations have been developed to address the key messages from the PPP review and the Sustainability Issues, as demonstrated within Appendix B.

Changes to the SA Framework resulting from stakeholder engagement are shown using **red text**. Changes resulting from statutory consultee comments are shown in underlined text.

Table 17-2: SA Matrix Key

Key	Explanation
✓	SA objectives may support each other
×	SA objectives may undermine each other
	SA objectives have no/minimal relationship

Table 17-3 (Table 17-3) to provide a holistic overview of how the SA objectives interact with each other. The inclusion of the matrix supports the following requirement of the SEA Directive²⁴⁷:

“The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.”

The matrix will help to pinpoint where one objective may undermine another (e.g. housing and biodiversity), allowing early identification of where careful mitigation and management will be needed within the Local Plan. This may not mean that the SA objectives are completely incompatible however, as some aspects of the objectives may undermine, whilst others support (e.g. economy and housing). The matrix will also help to pinpoint where one objective may support another (e.g. health and transport), allowing multi-benefit policies to be designed.

²⁴⁷ [A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive](#) (Accessed 01/10/25)



Table 17-1: SA Framework

Proposed SA Objective	Decision Making Considerations (Does the policy or option...?)
SA1 Economy: To deliver economic growth and support the creation of new businesses, whilst supporting the growth and retention of existing businesses	• Protect and retain the right amount of land to address existing and new business and employment needs? • Encourage and support high value businesses that will enhance the local economy? • Promote economic regeneration opportunities? • Support the local economy to become more diverse and resilient? • Enables centres, including the town centre, to enhance their viability and vitality? • Support the visitor economy and leisure sector? • Support flexible working practices through the provision of digital infrastructure and connectivity?
SA2 Employment: To create greater employment opportunities and high value jobs for all across the Borough	• Help to widen and diversify the local employment market? • Support the provision of high value local jobs? • Contribute to enhancing educational and training opportunities/skills?
SA3 Accessibility: Improve local accessibility to education, healthcare, employment, community, recreational and cultural facilities	• Ensure everyone has equitable access to local services and facilities, including: - Education facilities? - Health facilities? - Employment facilities? - Community facilities? - Recreation facilities? - Cultural facilities? • Protect and enhance existing facilities and services which meet local needs? • Deliver new facilities and services to meet an identified local need? • Increase education facility provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities? <u>Increase capacity to provide education provision for children with SEND to meet identified needs?</u> • Ensure everyone has safe and convenient access to local services and facilities within a reasonable distance (appropriate to the type of facility)? • Ensure development is built to accessible and inclusive design standards to address the needs of a range of users, including those who are disabled, elderly, and families with children?



Proposed SA Objective	Decision Making Considerations (Does the policy or option...?)
SA4 Health: Maintain and improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of residents	• Promote good health, including healthy behaviours and active lifestyles? • Reduce health inequalities between communities? • Support the mental health of residents? • Increase and/or improve access to health facilities and services? • Increase and/or improve access to green infrastructure/open space? • Encourage the protection of allotments and encourage the delivery of new spaces to grow food? • Encourage easy access to healthy food?
SA5 Quality of Life: Create safe and attractive places which contribute towards quality of life and community cohesion	• Provide attractive and inclusive places which provide opportunities for communities to interact, including those with sensory and mobility issues? • Reduce opportunities for crime and promote feelings of safety? • Ensure that everyone has access to a range of facilities to meet their everyday needs? • Improve quality of and access to cultural heritage? • Ensure that everyone has access to a range of different types of outdoor space? • Ensure provision of private amenity space? • Reduce inequalities associated with deprivation across the Borough?
SA6 Housing: To deliver a range of housing sites and ensure everyone has access to high quality and affordable housing, which meets the needs of all residents	• Increase the delivery of homes built to accessible and adaptable standards? • Improve the condition and sustainability of the existing housing stock to improve climate change resilience and living environment? • Contribute towards <u>meeting</u> housing need and deliver new homes? • Contribute towards meeting identified needs for all sections of society, including the provision of affordable homes and specialist homes? • Support all residents to live independently? • Ensure that an appropriate mix of dwelling size, type and tenure is provided? • Provide self-build and custom-build housing opportunities? • Avoid the loss of, or other negative impact on, the Borough's existing housing stock?
SA7 Sustainable Travel: Reduce or minimise the need to travel and promote the use of sustainable travel modes	• Encourage new development to be located within an accessible distance to facilities, services and, for example, jobs in order to reduce journey length/time and/or the need to travel? • Maximise access to public transport services by improving public transport connections to new and existing destinations?



Proposed SA Objective	Decision Making Considerations (Does the policy or option...?)
including walking, cycling and public transport usage.	• Maximise opportunities for active travel (including walking and cycling) by improving and creating safe and secure active travel networks?
SA8 Air, Light and Noise Pollution: Minimise air, light and noise pollution and ensure that future growth does not lead to the deterioration of environmental conditions	• Maintain and improve air quality within the Borough? • Ensure that new and existing communities are not adversely affected by poor air quality? • Minimise noise pollution, ensuring that sensitive receptors, including new and existing communities are not adversely affected by ambient noise? • Avoid exacerbating light pollution by keeping external lighting to the minimum required for safety and security?
SA9 Soils and Water Pollution: Minimise soils and water pollution and ensure that future growth does not lead to the deterioration of environmental conditions	• Protect and maintain soil quality • Prevent soil pollution? • Improve or remediate contaminated land? • <u>Protect groundwater quality in source protection zones?</u> • Maintain and improve surface water and groundwater quality?
SA10 Minimising Contributions to Climate Change: Reduce emissions that contribute toward climate change and support the achievement of a net zero carbon Borough	• Minimise carbon emissions from new developments, both in their construction and future use, through energy efficiency and sustainable use of materials? • Encourage the re-use of existing buildings? • Reduce carbon emissions of existing buildings? • Reduce the need to travel by private vehicle? • Support the shift towards use of electric and ultralow emissions vehicles (ULEVs)? • Encourage renewable energy generation or use of energy from renewable sources to minimise greenhouse house emissions?
SA11 Adaptation to Climate Change: Adapt to the effects of climate change including extreme weather and overheating and strengthen climate change	• Ensure new development is designed to withstand future climate change (e.g. overheating, increased storm severity and to withstand extreme weather changes)? • Ensure surface and groundwater water resources are used efficiently?
SA12 Flood Risk: Minimise current and future flood risk	• Reduce flood risk and ensure new development provides sustainable urban drainage? • Ensure new development is directed away from areas of fluvial flood risk? • <u>Restore watercourses to a more natural state?</u>



Proposed SA Objective	Decision Making Considerations (Does the policy or option...?)
SA13 Biodiversity: Safeguard and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and improve connectivity between functional habitats	• Avoid adverse effects on internationally designated habitats sites? • Maintain and enhance nature conservation assets, including nationally and locally designated wildlife sites? • Supports the achievement of biodiversity net gain (BNG) in new developments? • Support habitat connectivity through linking existing and new functional habitats and creating an improved network of blue and green infrastructure across the Borough? • Improve non-designated habitat maintenance? • Protect sites of geological importance?
SA14 Historic Environment: Conserve and enhance the significance of heritage and archaeological assets and their settings	• Conserve and enhance designated and non-designated heritage, cultural and archaeological assets, historic landscapes and features, and their settings? • Improve the condition of the historic environment including heritage at risk, through conservation and renewal efforts? • Maintain and enhance access to and understanding of heritage, cultural and archaeological assets and features for enjoyment and educational purposes? • Ensure that new development uses existing historic character and heritage significance to guide design? • Encourage heritage-led regeneration? • Encourage the re-use, retention and repair of historic assets?
SA15 Landscape and Townscape: Protect and enhance local distinctiveness and landscape and townscape quality	• Maintain and strengthen local landscape and townscape character and distinctiveness? • Avoid coalescence of settlements and/or urban sprawl? • Promote high quality design which successfully responds to its context such as edge of settlement or urban environments? • Improve the appearance landscape and/or townscape? • Safeguard natural landscape and townscape features such as trees and hedgerows?
SA16 Land Resources: Ensure the efficient use of land and mineral resources	• Protect Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land? • Prioritise the development of previously developed, degraded, and/or under-used land? • Avoid the sterilisation of minerals resources and safeguard existing mineral resource areas?



Proposed SA Objective	Decision Making Considerations (Does the policy or option...?)
SA17 Waste: Minimise the generation of waste and effectively manage waste that is created in line with the Circular Economy	• Enable waste to be treated in line with circular economy principles (e.g. recycling, re-using, composting)? • Require adequate waste separation facilities in new and existing developments in order to encourage more recycling? • Support the circular use of the built environment by encouraging the repurposing and refurbishing of buildings, instead of demolition? • Safeguard existing waste management sites as key infrastructure for enabling circular economy practices?

Table 17-2: SA Matrix Key

Key	Explanation
✓	SA objectives may support each other
✗	SA objectives may undermine each other
	SA objectives have no/minimal relationship

Table 17-3: SA Framework Compatibility Matrix

	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15	SA16	SA17
SA1		✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
SA2	✓		✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
SA3	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
SA4	✗	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗



	SA1	SA2	SA3	SA4	SA5	SA6	SA7	SA8	SA9	SA10	SA11	SA12	SA13	SA14	SA15	SA16	SA17
SA5	×	×	✓	✓		✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×
SA6	×	×	✓	✓	✓		×	×	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×
SA7	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×		✓	×	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×
SA8	×	×	×	✓	×	×	✓		×	✓	×	×	✓	×	×	×	×
SA9	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×		×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓	×
SA10	×	×	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓	×		✓	×	×	✓	×	×	×
SA11	×	×	×	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓	✓		✓	×	×	✓	×	×
SA12	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	✓		×	×	×	×	×
SA13	×	×	×	×	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×		×	✓	✓	×
SA14	×	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓	×	×	×		✓	×	✓
SA15	×	×	✓	×	✓	×	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	✓	✓		✓	×
SA16	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	×	✓	×	✓		×
SA17	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	×	×	



18.0 Next Steps

The next stage of the SA is Stage B in which plan alternatives are tested against the SA Framework. Information on the relative sustainability performance of alternatives will be used to inform decision making before the preferred options are developed into a draft Local Plan and that is in turn tested against the SA Framework. The formal SA Report will be prepared (SA Stage C) to accompany the draft Local Plan during consultation (SA Stage D).

Consultation comments and any changes made to the draft Local Plan will be considered and, if necessary, changes made to update the SA prior to further consultation or submission of the Local plan.





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