

Dudley Long Term Plan for Towns (LTPFT)

Board Meeting no1 – 10th May 2024

Agenda Item no 5 - Proposed Boundary amendments

Purpose - *For Decision*

The paper introduces the LTPFT boundary provided by Government and the opportunity to amend it.

Recommendation

That DMBC officers be authorised to respond to DLUHC and to agree the proposed amended LTPFT boundary.

Context

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) has provided the definitive boundary for the Dudley LTPFT programme. This is based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) 'Built Up Areas' boundary for Dudley. DLUHC states that:

- There is scope to make representations to alter this boundary, where an amendment remains within the spirit of the programme and includes the town that was originally selected. An example could be where essential green spaces may have been excluded, due to the ONS emphasis on 'built up' areas.
- Alterations to the boundary should not reduce the size of the area or extend the boundary to bring in additional, separate population centres (i.e. different towns) and the proposed area must remain contiguous.

Proposed boundary changes must be submitted to DLUHC by 15th May 2024, to enable approval and for DLUHC to approve the drawdown of capacity funding by 1st June, to support the preparation of the Investment Plan.

Proposed changes

The proposed boundary has been reviewed and several changes are proposed, as shown in red on the attached plan. These relate to four green space areas:



- Around Dudley Castle, Zoo and the Black Country Museum;
- Wrens Nest;
- Russells Hall; and
- Saltwell Nature Reserve.

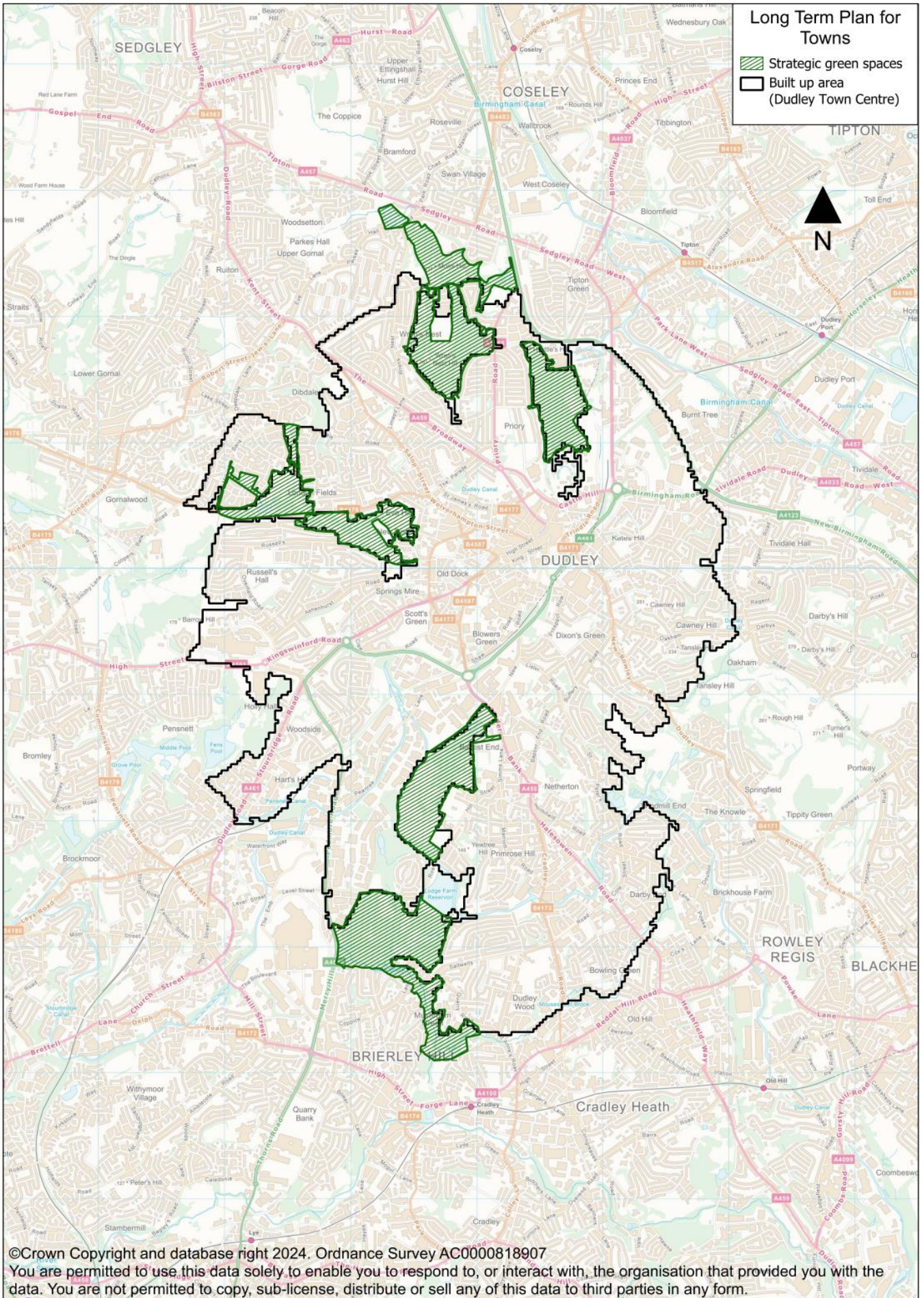
The rationale for the proposed amendments is:

- The green spaces are important. They provide valuable local community resource and would benefit from support to improve facilities and security. Several are also important to the town's heritage and visitor economy – and their inclusion in the programme will assist in securing support to their improvement and protection.

- The 2021 Dudley Town Investment Plan highlighted the importance in improving the connections between the Castle Hill/Zoo area with Dudley Town centre – inclusion of this area will support this objective.
- The LTPFT guidance identifies potential interventions that could be supported. This includes 'H3 – the creation of, and improvement to local green spaces, and improvements to the natural environment and inclusion into wider public spaces'; H4, H5 and H6 also refer to interventions that support heritage and the visitor economy.

Long Term Plan for Towns

-  Strategic green spaces
-  Built up area (Dudley Town Centre)



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