

A INTRODUCTION

A1 THE BLACK COUNTRY

A1.1 The Black Country is a vibrant, welcoming multi-cultural society with a population of almost 1.1m people, 450,000 homes and 500,000 jobs. It comprises of the City of Wolverhampton and the Metropolitan Boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall (**Figure A1.1**). Its communities led out the Industrial Revolution capitalising on its unique geology. Today it retains important economic activity at the centre of national road, rail and canal networks.

