

Sandwell MBC Local Development Scheme



Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

November 2023

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Local Development Scheme (LDS) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and sets out: -
- the Local Development Documents (LDDs), which are to be defined as Development Plan Documents (DPDs);
 - the subject matter and geographical area to which each DPD is to relate;
 - which DPDs are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authority; and
 - the timetable for the preparation and revision of the DPDs
- 1.2 The LDS sets out the timetable for the preparation or revision of any LDDs covering Sandwell for the period 2023-2026 and supersedes all previous versions of the Sandwell LDS.

2 Sandwell Development Plan Documents

- 2.1 The Local Development Documents, which are to be defined as Development Plan Documents, covering the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council local authority area through this LDS are: -
- Black Country Core Strategy – adopted 2011 (subsequently Black Country Plan)
 - Sandwell Site Allocations & Delivery Development Plan Document - adopted 2012
 - West Bromwich Area Action Plan – adopted 2012
 - Smethwick Area Action Plan – adopted 2008
 - Tipton Area Action Plan – adopted 2008
 - Statement of Community Involvement - adopted 2016
- 2.2 The Black Country Core Strategy was a strategic plan prepared jointly by the four Black Country authorities to cover the Black Country area (Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton) for the period 2006-2026. The Core Strategy addressed strategic priorities for the Black Country, covered all subject areas at a strategic level and indicated broad locations for development on a key diagram. When it was adopted in 2011, the Core Strategy replaced various policies and allocations in the Sandwell Unitary Development Plan (2004).
- 2.3 The Area Action Plans were prepared to set out local policies, allocations and designations for key regeneration areas identified in the Black Country Core Strategy. These Area Action Plans replaced various policies and allocations in the Sandwell Unitary Development Plan when they were adopted.

3 Timetable for Preparation and Revision of Sandwell Development Plan Documents

3.1 The NPPF requires all local planning authorities to complete a review of local plan documents that have been adopted for five or more years and to decide either:

- that their policies do not need revising and publish their reasons for this decision; and / or
- that one or more policies do need revising and update their LDS to set out the timetable for this revision.

3.2 This LDS fulfils the requirements of the NPPF in this regard, as set out below:

DPD	Years since adoption	Need for revision 2023-26?	Current position and way forward
Black Country Core Strategy	12	N/a	Review abandoned. Replacement strategy, the Black Country Plan, was abandoned for political reasons in late 2022.
Sandwell Site Allocations and Delivery DPD (Sandwell Local Plan)	11	Yes	Review currently underway and revision timetable included in this LDS. Now known as the Sandwell Local Plan (SLP)
West Bromwich Area Action Plan	11	Yes	In recognition of the levels of cost and time that are needed to pursue a separate Area Action Plan, the inclusion of the revised WBAAP in the new SLP has taken place: the WBAAP forms the basis of a discrete chapter in the SLP. Profiles / insets are also provided for Sandwell's other main town centres as part of the same exercise. The West Bromwich interim planning statement and masterplan have been prepared to provide certainty for developers bringing forward new schemes until the new Local Plan is adopted.
Smethwick Area Action Plan	15	Yes	Profiles / insets of town centres within Smethwick now form part of the emerging SLP, which is at Regulation 18 stage and has been out to public consultation.
Tipton Area Action Plan	15	Yes	Profiles / insets of Tipton town centre now forms part of the emerging SLP, which is at Regulation 18 stage and has been out to public consultation.

- 3.3 From 2016 to 2022, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, with Dudley, Wolverhampton and Walsall Councils, carried out work on the proposed review of the Black Country Core Strategy. The subject matter scope of the new Black Country Plan was intended to be wider than the existing Core Strategy, including new site allocations and a review of existing allocations, where appropriate. It also included strategic policies for the Black Country, as defined in the 2021 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 3.4 The BCP went through a round of public consultation that attracted around 20,000 comments and objections. Around half of these related to sites in the Dudley green belt. Dudley Council eventually withdrew from the BCP review process, and the four Black Country authorities then decided to undertake their own separate local plans. These plans will draw on the evidence base and draft policies drawn up for the BCP but will relate more specifically to the individual local authority.
- 3.5 The Sandwell Local Plan review was brought forward to replace the BCP. Work was undertaken on an initial Issues and Options document, that went out to public consultation during February - March 2023.
- 3.6 Building on the responses to the Issues and Options paper, a draft SLP was produced and went out to consultation between 6th November and 18th December 2023.
- 3.7 The revised timetable for the Sandwell Local Plan is set out below:

Sandwell Local Plan

Issues & Options Consultation	February - March 2023
Draft Plan consultation (Reg 18)	November - December 2023
Plan Publication	Summer 2024
Submission to Secretary of State and Examination in Public	Late 2024 – early 2025
Adoption	Late 2025 – early 2026