

Publication of the Sandwell Local Plan 2024-2041

Statement of Representations Procedure and Notification of Public Consultation

Sandwell Council is proposing to submit the Sandwell Local Plan to the Secretary of State under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

The Sandwell Local Plan is now published in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended). Representations are invited in accordance with Regulation 20.

The Sandwell Local Plan is designed to guide and manage the development of the Borough and is intended to replace the existing Black Country Core Strategy (2011) and the Sandwell Site Allocations and Delivery Development Plan Document (2012) upon adoption by the Council.

The Council invites representations on the Local Plan. At this stage of consultation, the Council is seeking views as to whether the Local Plan is legally compliant and meets the tests of 'soundness' as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (as amended in December 2023).

The Local Plan will be examined by an independent inspector whose role is to assess whether the plan has been prepared in line with the relevant legal requirements (including the Duty to Cooperate) and whether it is "sound". The intention as set out in the timetable for the Local Plan, known as the Local Development Scheme, is for the Local Plan to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in Winter 2024. Comments made at this stage of consultation will be sent to the Inspector appointed to examine the Local Plan.

The Plan covers the whole of Sandwell and is being made available for representations between Monday 23rd September 2024 to Monday 4th November 2024.

Making a representation

We request that you make representations using the Council's Representation form which is available on our website <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/localplan>, at the Council House, Oldbury and in libraries across the Borough. Representations should focus on whether the Plan complies with legal requirements, the Duty to Cooperate, and whether the document is 'sound'. The 2023 National Planning Policy Framework sets out 4 tests of soundness that Local Plans are considered against when they are examined. Local Plans must be:

- positively prepared - providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs; 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;

- justified an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;
- effective - deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground; and.
- consistent with national policy - enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in this [National Planning Policy] Framework and other statements of national planning policy, where relevant.

Further guidance on understanding these terms is provided alongside the representation form. Representations must be received by the Council no later than 5pm on 4th November 2024 or they will be marked as late representations and may not be considered.

Please note, when submitting comments, the Council is unable to treat the views expressed as confidential. All comments will be made public and will be submitted to the Secretary of State along with the Sandwell Local Plan and other relevant supporting evidence following this consultation.

We are unable to accept anonymous representations.

Any responses received containing comments that are inflammatory, offensive, or otherwise inappropriate will be rejected and will not be published. On occasion, rejected comments may be redacted from the rest of a submission in those instances where this approach is considered to be appropriate.

Please do not submit representations that identify any specific personal details about yourself or another party which could put someone at risk. Your comments and name will be published but other personal information will remain confidential.

All duly made representations received within the statutory consultation period will be submitted to the Secretary of State, who will appoint an Inspector to carry out an independent examination of the Plan and its evidence base. Representations must be provided digitally via the consultation website or in writing using the standard representation form. These may be posted, emailed or handed in at the Council House reception.

When making your representation, you are also able to request if you would like to be heard at the independent examination in public. For this we will need you to provide your contact details. Your contact information will be held securely in line with the Council's Privacy Statement- <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/privacynotice>. You can also request to be notified about the next stages.

The Sandwell Local Plan and supporting documents, together with the representation form and guidance notes will be made available online on the Council's website. Paper copies of the representation form and guidance notes will be posted on request. The Council will accommodate any other accessibility issues where possible. Paper copies of the consultation documents, representation forms and guidance notes will be made available at the libraries across the Borough.

Representation may be made online at [Sandwell Local Plan Online Consultation](#)

Representations may be emailed to the Council: Sandwell_localplan@sandwell.gov.uk

Representations may be posted to the Council:

Planning Policy,
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council,
Planning Policy,
Council House,
Freeth Street,
Oldbury,
B69 3DE

Persons requiring additional help with accessing the consultation materials or representation forms should telephone 0121 569 4054 and ask for Planning Policy. A Planning Officer will then be able to assist.