



**Sandwell Local Plan**

**Consultation Statement**

**December 2024**

## 1. Overview of the Consultation Process

This Consultation Statement provides an overview of the consultation process carried out both internally and externally by Sandwell MBC during the preparation of the new Sandwell Local Plan (SLP).

This Statement provides information on the following: -

- An overview of the Council's engagement activities, across all individuals, groups and stakeholders during the Issues and Options, Regulation 18 Draft Plan and Regulation 19 Publication Plan stages of the local plan-making process, including which bodies and persons were invited to make representations.
- Which engagement activities were used during the Issues and Options, Regulation 18 Draft Plan and Regulation 19 Publication Plan stages of the local plan-making process (both informal and formal).
- How individuals, groups and stakeholders were invited to make representations to inform the Local Plan process.

Separate documents have been produced, **Issues and Options Consultation: Summary of Representations and the Council's Response** and **Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation: Summary of Representations and the Council's Response**, both documents summarize the representations received to the consultations and the Council's response.

### 1.1 Background to the Consultation

The new Sandwell Local Plan will replace the current Development Plan (including the Black Country Core Strategy and the Sandwell Sites Allocations and Delivery Development Plan Document). At the time of the Core Strategy adoption, there was a clear commitment to review it five years after adoption, to ensure the spatial objectives and strategy were being effectively delivered and to keep the plan up to date. Work commenced on the review in 2016 in the form of the Black Country Plan. This is in line with national planning guidance, which states that "*most Local Plans are likely to require updating in whole or in part at least every five years*". Rolling the plan forward would also enable longer term needs to be addressed. The need for a review has been given greater urgency by new challenges that have emerged since 2011.

The decision was made in late 2022 to cease work on the Black Country Plan, which meant that the Council had to commence work on a Local Plan for Sandwell.

The Sandwell Local Plan will be examined for "soundness" by an independent planning inspector, whose role is to assess whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate and other legal and procedural requirements. The tests of soundness include considering whether the Sandwell Local Plan is founded on a robust and credible evidence base and whether it represents the most appropriate strategy for the borough when considered against reasonable alternatives. The responses to the consultation exercises will form part of this evidence base: they will be used to help decide the matters to be considered in the documents and guide the policy choices where options exist.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbourhoods, local organisations and businesses is essential. It also states that a wide selection of the community should be proactively engaged, so that Local Plans, as far as possible, reflect a collective vision and set of agreed priorities for the sustainable development of that area. As such, in order for the Sandwell Local Plan to be found "sound" and able to be adopted, the Council needs to be able to demonstrate that consultation has taken place throughout the

process and that it has tried to engage actively with people who have a stake in the future of the area.

The Council has an adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which provides guidance on who will be involved in the production of planning documents and the techniques that might be used. SCIs set out the minimum levels of involvement that interested people should be entitled to expect, but Sandwell Council hopes to exceed these levels. The consultation requirements will vary depending on what document is being worked on and what stage has been reached in its production.

At each stage, public consultation will be carried out as the Sandwell Local Plan starts to evolve. Although there is flexibility around this is achieved at the discretion of local planning authorities, the National Planning Policy Framework and Guidance sets out the stages required:

**Stage 1 Issues and Options** – It is the first stage and sets out the planning and development issues that need to be addressed during the plan period and some broad options about how they might be addressed. It does not identify development sites or draft policy working. Views are sort on key challenges facing Sandwell over the plan period and the level of growth to be planned for and the opportunities to accommodate this growth.

- **Stage 2 Regulation 18 Draft Plan** – following further evidence gathering and consideration of matters raised during the consultation on the Issues and Options, a more detailed document is produced, which sets out the likely emerging policies, proposals and allocations that will be considered in the final publication document. The consultation provides an early opportunity for communities, businesses, landowners, developers and statutory bodies to have a say and comment on the draft Local Plan before it is considered further and finalised for the next (Regulation 19) consultation stage.
- **Stage 3 Regulation 19 Publication** – The last stage of public engagement before the Sandwell Local Plan is finalised and approved by the Council, ready for submission to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. The consultation is focused on whether the Plan is legal compliant and if it meets the tests of soundness.
- **Stage 4 Regulation 20 Examination in Public** – the Secretary of State Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government appoints a Planning Inspector to hold a Public Enquiry or Hearing on published plan to enable final public scrutiny of the Sandwell Local Plan. The Inspector examines whether the plan is sound and recommends any changes which need to be made to ensure soundness is achieved.
- **Stage 5 Adoption** – Once the recommendations of the Planning Inspector have been considered, the Sandwell Local Plan can then be adopted by the Council.

**Figure One: Stages of Consultation**



This timetable above is set out with the aim of adopting the revised Sandwell Local Plan in 2025.

## **2. Issues and Options Consultation and Call for Sites**

### **2.1 Method of Engagement**

At the Issues and Options stage, the Council consulted widely, utilising the Sandwell Local Plan Consultee Database as a starting point. Everyone on this database received an e-mail or postal letter with information on the consultation and how to respond. The consultee database is made up of roughly 500 consultees, including statutory (specific) organisations, general consultation bodies, and local consultation bodies, along with many individual residents.

The Council has sought to engage positively with a range of groups throughout the process, and not only at times of consultation. As part of the Duty to Cooperate (DtC), the Council has met on several occasions with neighbouring and closely related authorities to discuss and identify any cross-boundary issues and how to tackle them. A separate statement will be prepared which sets out how the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate is being managed through the production of the Sandwell local Plan.

## **2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Methods**

The Council undertook Member engagement in the run-up to the Cabinet meeting, seeking authority to undertake the Issues and Options consultation and throughout the consultation period.

In recognition of the role other teams within the Council play in the production of the Plan, internal engagement was undertaken with teams and staff. This included:

- Use of internal communication methods (weekly bulletins, internal webpages, team meetings etc.) to promote the consultation and to encourage individuals to have their say.
- Emails sent to relevant officers and teams notifying them of the Cabinet process and the start of the consultation.

As each stakeholder group is different, a variety of methods and approaches were used to ensure as wide an audience as possible was reached. Below is a summary of the key groups and the ways in which they were engaged with throughout the consultation process.

### **a) Communities**

- Notified through press release/article.
- Hard copies of the documents at the Council's receptions and at Libraries.
- Notified through social media.
- Council's weekly newsletter
- Support from Councillors to circulate the information and promote events.
- Articles in the Sandwell Herald newspaper
- Working with Area Partnerships to promote the consultation and events through their local channels and meetings.

### **b) Businesses**

- Notified through press release/article.
- Council's business database mailshots,
- Promoted through the Sandwell Business Engagement Team, Chamber of Commerce

### **c) Landowners and Investors**

- Many are on the consultation database so received notifications of the consultation.
- Landowners were sent letters about sites already identified for allocations to establish their ongoing involvement.
- Invited to submit sites through the 'Call for Sites' process.

#### **d) Partners**

- Many are on the consultation database so received notifications of the consultation.

#### **e) Other specific groups**

- Statutory consultees and other prescribed bodies, such as Environment Agency and Historic England, were automatically notified when consultation took place.

#### **f) Duty to Co-operate**

- To try to address some of the housing shortfall, Sandwell has been continuing with the Duty to Cooperate discussions with neighbouring authorities that were started as part of the Black Country Plan.

### **2.3 Consultation Materials**

**Press Release:** A press release was released the week before Issues and Options consultation opened on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2023.

**Sandwell Local Plan website:** As part of the review a dedicated page has been set up on the Council's website.

**Consultation Software:** Consultation software was used to produce an interactive on-line document that is easy to use and to manage the consultation responses.

**Consultation Notifications:** The consultation software allows Mailshots to be sent to all those in the database with email addresses. This was used to notify all contacts of the launch of the consultation.

As there are also several contacts who do not have email addresses or who prefer to be contacted via post. The Council wrote to these contacts.

**The Issues and Options Document:** An Issues and Options document was produced that.

aimed to guide interested parties through the issues facing Sandwell and ask questions to aid the consultation. The document contained the following chapters.

- 1) Introduction – including the scope of the review and details on how people could get involved.
- 2) Sandwell Today, the Existing Strategy - summarising the current strategy and its delivery.
- 3) The Strategic Challenges and Opportunities – setting out the key issues that the review needs to address.
- 4) Reviewing the Strategy to Meet New Challenges and Opportunities – which presented the level of growth that needs to be planned for and the options to delivery these.
- 5) Delivering Growth, Infrastructure and Delivery – a review of the issues around delivering the social and physical infrastructure that would be needed to support growth.
- 6) Review of Existing Core Strategy Policies and Proposals – a summary of the current policies and the potential changes to the policies.

A total of 30 hard copies of the Issues and Options document were printed for consultation events and libraries.

**On-line Consultation Document:** The consultation software hosted an interactive version of the Issues and Options consultation document allowing consultees to comment on the document as they make their way through the different sections. This will also eventually allow the consultees to see what comments have been submitted by others. Individuals received automatic notifications confirming that their consultation responses have been made. Following the consultation period all consultation representations have been collated and grouped together to allow for easier reviewing by officers. Paper/email copies have also been accepted and were entered into the system by officers. A total of 564 formal responses were received to the consultation via online submissions or paper response forms.

**Paper Response Form:** Throughout the consultation period the online consultation portal was widely promoted, to encourage as many people as possible to use this method for replying. A paper response form was also produced to capture the representations of those who didn't wish to or couldn't use the online method.

**Call for Sites Questionnaire:** To inform the Plan, a Call for Sites exercise was undertaken in parallel with the Issues and Options consultation, inviting landowners, developers and

anyone who is aware of suitable sites to submit them for consideration through the plan making process. A questionnaire was produced to facilitate the collection of information on sites and individuals were able to plot the sites themselves via the consultation portal. Paper/email responses were also accepted and entered into the system. The call for sites process ran from February 2023 to March 2023.

**Summary Leaflet:** A summary leaflet was produced that provided an overview of the key consultation issues and questions in order to encourage people to get involved in the consultation without requiring them to use the full Issues and Options paper. This included a freepost address.

**Media Releases:** In order to break down the different elements of the Issues and Options consultation into accessible information the issues were presented as key themes that were considered to reflect some of the themes that mattered the most to communities and businesses.

Media releases were published in the following newspapers and on social media platforms.

Date	Newspaper / Website	Article
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	SMBC Residents Newsletter	Consultation launch
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	SMBC Website	Consultation launch
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	SMBC Facebook Page – 10,482 views	Consultation launch
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Staff Newsletter	Consultation launch
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	SMBC Residents Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Staff Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	SMBC Residents Newsletter	Consultation reminder

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Staff Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	SMBC Residents Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Staff Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	SMBC Facebook – 6,635 views	Consultation reminder
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	SMBC Instagram – 1,176 views	Consultation reminder
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	SMBC Twitter – 1,975 views	Consultation reminder
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	SMBC Residents Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Staff Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	SMBC Residents Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Staff Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Sandwell Herald – approximately 146,000 copies distributed	Consultation reminder
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	SMBC Facebook Page – 7,992 views	Consultation reminder
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	SMBC Instagram – 1,166 views	Consultation reminder
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	SMBC Twitter – 1,294 views	Consultation reminder
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	SMBC Residents Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Staff Newsletter	Consultation reminder

**Frequently Asked Questions:** A list of frequently asked questions was produced to support the consultation and provide further details on the process were necessary including information on why the review was taking place and the different stages of plan making. This was available on the website: <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/planning/sandwell-local-plan/2>

## 2.4 Representations Received during the Consultation

During the six weeks of consultation the following number of representations were made to Issues and Options document.

Document	Respondents	Submission Method			Status			Totals
		Web	Email	Paper	Support	Object	Comment	
Issues & Options	46	328	282	3	0	0	613	613
Call for Sites	11	14	5	0	0	0	0	19
<b>Totals</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>632</b>



The representations received were reviewed by officers, with many of them helping informed the next stage of the plan.

### **3. Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation**

The Regulation 18 Draft Plan consultation took place from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Members of the public, local authorities, businesses, developers and other stakeholders who have an interest in Sandwell were invited to have their say on the draft document, which set out a number of emerging policies, proposals and allocations. The comments received in response to the consultation were considered and responded to and informed the production of the final publication document.

#### **3.1 Methods of Engagement**

The Council utilising the Sandwell Local Plan Consultee Database as the starting point for its current engagement process. Everyone on this database received an e-mail or postal letter containing information on the consultation and how to respond.

The Council undertook Member engagement in the run-up to the Cabinet meeting, seeking authority to undertake public consultation on the Draft Local Plan. In addition. recognition of the role other teams within the Council play in the production of the plans internal engagement was undertaken with teams and staff.

As each stakeholder group is different, the Council has used a variety of methods and approaches to ensure it reached as wide an audience as possible. Below is a summary of the key groups and the ways in which it plans to engage with them throughout the consultation process.

#### **a) Communities**

- Notified through press release/article.
- Hard copies of the documents at the Councils' receptions and at Libraries and leisure centres.
- Notified through social media.
- Council's weekly newsletter
- Support from Councillors to circulate the information and promote events -
- Articles in the Sandwell Herald newspaper
- Working with Area Partnerships to promote the consultation and events through their local channels and meetings.
- One to one meeting available by appointment

#### **b) Businesses**

- Notified through press release/article.
- Councils' business databases mailshots,

- Promote and engage through the Sandwell Business Engagement Team, Chamber of Commerce

#### **c) Landowners and Investors**

- Many are on the consultation database so received notifications of the consultation.
- Landowners sent letters.

#### **d) Partners**

- Many are on the consultation database so will receive notifications of the consultation

#### **e) Other specific groups**

- Statutory consultees and other prescribed bodies, such as Environment Agency and Historic England, are automatically notified when consultation takes place.

#### **f) Duty to Co-operate**

- In order to try to address some of the housing shortfall, Sandwell has been continuing with the Duty to Cooperate discussions with neighbouring authorities that were started as part of the Black Country Plan.

A list of the prescribed bodies and statutory bodies, along with those that registered on the consultation database and/or responded to the consultation are contained in Appendix A at the end of the document.

### **Consultation Events**

Presentations were made to the six Town Boards across the borough.

No public specific consultation events were held during the consultation period; however, the Planning Policy Team did offer one to one meetings with those who wished to discuss the plan in person. The meetings were available on an appointment basis and were offered in-person or via video call.

Since the Issues and Options consultation, Sandwell has kept stakeholders up to date with the plan preparation process. Available evidence has been published during 2023. Regular e-bulletins have been issued in relation to these events.

### **3.2 Consultation Materials**

**Press Release:** A press release was released the week before the Draft Plan consultation opened on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2023.

**Sandwell Local Plan website:** As part of the review a dedicated page has been set up on the Council's website.

**Consultation Software:** Consultation software was used to produce an interactive on-line document that is easy to use and to manage the consultation responses.

**Consultation Notifications:** The consultation software allows Mailshots to be sent to all those in the database with email addresses. This was used to notify all contacts of the launch of the consultation.

As there are also several contacts who do not have email addresses or who prefer to be contacted via the post the Council wrote to these contacts.

**The Regulation 18 Draft Plan:** document was produced and included the following chapters.

- 1) Introduction – Why does Sandwell need a Local Plan
- 2) Sandwell 2041: Spatial Vision, Priorities and Objectives
- 3) Spatial Strategy
- 4) Development Strategy
- 5) Policies
- 6) Delivery, Monitoring and Implementation
- 7) Appendices

A total of 50 hard copies of the Regulation 18 Draft Plan were printed and a copy was made available at each of the Council's 19 libraries.

**On-line Consultation Document:** The consultation software hosted an interactive version of the Issues and Options consultation document allowing consultees to comment on the document as they make their way through the different sections. This will also eventually allow the consultees to see what comments have been submitted by others. Individuals received automatic notifications confirming that their consultation responses had been made. Following the consultation period all consultation representations have been collated and grouped together to allow for easier reviewing by officers. Paper/email copies have also been accepted and were entered into the system by officers. A total of 652 formal responses were received to the consultation via online submissions or paper response forms.

**Paper Response Form:** Throughout the consultation period the online consultation portal was widely promoted, to encourage as many people as possible to use this method for replying. A paper response form was also produced to capture the representations of those who didn't wish to or couldn't use the online method.

**Summary Leaflet:** A summary leaflet was produced that provided an overview of the key points of the Regulation 18 Draft Plan to encourage people to get involved in the consultation.

**Display Stands -** A number of pop-up display stands were produced and displayed in the Council House, libraries and leisure centres across the Borough.

**Media Releases:** In order to provide an overview of the Regulation 18 Draft Plan consultation into accessible information the issues were presented as key themes that were considered to reflect some of the themes that mattered the most to communities and businesses.

Media releases were published in the following newspapers and on social media platforms.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Newspaper / Website</b>	<b>Article</b>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Sandwell Herald – approximately 146,000 copies distributed	Consultation launch
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Express & Star	Consultation Launch
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Staff Newsletter	Consultation Launch
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Residents Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Staff Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Residents Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Staff Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Sandwell Leisure Trust Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Residents Newsletter	Consultation reminder
December	West Bromwich Business Improvement District Newsletter	Consultation reminder
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	Express & Star	Consultation close
November/December	Facebook – 13,700 views	Consultation
November/December	Instagram – 8,758 views	Consultation
November/December	X – 4,610 views	Consultation

### 3.4 Representations Received during the Consultation

During the six weeks of consultation the following number of representations were made to the Regulation 18 Draft Plan.

Document	Respondents	Submission Method			Status			Totals
		Web	Email	Paper	Support	Object	Comment	
Reg 18 Draft Plan	67	121	523	0	130	104	410	649
Reg 18 SA	3	0	4	0	0	1	3	4
<b>Totals</b>	70	121	527	0	130	105	413	653

In total 653 representations were received from 70 respondent, 130 expressed their support for the Plan, there were 104 objections and 410 comments.

The representations received were reviewed by officers, with many of them helping informed the next stage of the plan.

## 4. Regulation 19 Publication Consultation

The Regulation 19 Publication Plan consultation took place from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The final draft local plan sets out a strategy for how much, where and what type of development will take place in the borough up to 2041. It will provide planning policies and site allocations to guide changes and new development proposals.

The purpose of the consultation is to provide residents, statutory bodies and organisations with an opportunity to make representations on the local plan before it is examined in public by an independent planning inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Department. During the consultation the Council sort comments on the Plan's soundness, legal compliance and how it has been prepared. The respondents to the consultation were also given the opportunity to ask to be heard at the public examination sessions.

### 4.1 Methods of Engagement

The Council utilising the Sandwell Local Plan Consultee Database as the starting point for its current engagement process. Everyone on this database received an e-mail or postal letter containing information on the consultation and how to respond.

The Council undertook Member engagement in the run-up to the Cabinet meeting, seeking authority to undertake public consultation on the Draft Local Plan. In addition, recognition of the role other teams within the Council play in the production of the plans internal engagement was undertaken with teams and staff.

As each stakeholder group is different, the Council has used a variety of methods and approaches to ensure it reached as wide an audience as possible. Below is a summary of the key groups and the ways in which it plans to engage with them throughout the consultation process.

#### **a) Communities**

- Notified through press release/article.
- Hard copies of the documents at the Councils' receptions and at Libraries and leisure centres.
- Notified through social media.
- Council's weekly newsletter
- Support from Councillors to circulate the information and promote events -
- Articles in the Sandwell Herald newspaper
- Working with Area Partnerships to promote the consultation and events through their local channels and meetings.
- One to one meeting available by appointment

#### **b) Businesses**

- Notified through press release/article.
- Councils' business databases mailshots,
- Promote and engage through the Sandwell Business Engagement Team,  
Chamber of Commerce

#### **c) Landowners and Investors**

- Many are on the consultation database so received notifications of the consultation.

#### **d) Partners**

- Many are on the consultation database so will receive notifications of the consultation

#### **e) Other specific groups**

- Statutory consultees and other prescribed bodies, such as Environment Agency and Historic England, are automatically notified when consultation takes place.

## f) Duty to Co-operate

In order to try to address some of the housing shortfall, Sandwell has been continuing with the Duty to Cooperate discussions with neighbouring authorities that were started as part of the Black Country Plan.

### 4.2 Consultation Materials

**Press Release:** A press release was released the week before Regulation 19 Publication Plan consultation opened on the 23rd<sup>th</sup> of September 2024.

**Sandwell Local Plan website:** As part of the review a dedicated page has been set up on the Council's website.

**Consultation Software:** Consultation software was used to produce an interactive on-line document that is easy to use and to manage the consultation responses.

**Consultation Notifications:** The consultation software allows Mailshots to be sent to all those in the database with email addresses. This was used to notify all contacts of the launch of the consultation.

As there are also several contacts who do not have email addresses or who prefer to be contact via the post the Council wrote to these contacts.

**The Regulation 19 Publication Plan:** document was produced and included the following chapters.

- 1) Introduction – Why does Sandwell need a Local Plan
- 2) Sandwell 2041: Spatial Vision, Priorities and Objectives
- 3) Spatial Strategy
- 4) Development Strategy
- 5) Policies
- 6) Delivery, Monitoring and Implementation
- 7) Appendices

A total of 50 hard copies of the Regulation 19 Publication Plan were printed and a copy was made available at each of the Council's 19 libraries.

**On-line Consultation Document:** The consultation software hosted an interactive version of the Issues and Options consultation document allowing consultees to comment on the document as they make their way through the different sections. This will also eventually allow the consultees to see what comments have been submitted by others. Individuals received automatic notifications confirming that their consultation responses had been made. Following the consultation period all consultation representations have been collated and grouped together to allow for easier reviewing by officers. Paper/email copies have also been accepted and were entered into the system by officers. A total of 373 formal responses were received to the consultation via online submissions or paper response forms.

**Paper Response Form:** Throughout the consultation period the online consultation portal was widely promoted, to encourage as many people as possible to use this method for replying. A paper response form was also produced to capture the representations of those who didn't wish to or couldn't use the online method.

**Summary Leaflet:** A summary leaflet was produced that provided an overview of the key points of the Regulation 19 Publication Plan in order to encourage people to get involved in the consultation.

**Media Releases:** In order to provide an overview of the Regulation 19 Publication Plan consultation into accessible information the issues were presented as key themes that were considered to reflect some of the themes that mattered the most to communities and businesses.

Media releases were published in the following newspapers and on social media platforms.

Date	Newspaper / Website	Article
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Pressure Release – Sandwell MBC website	Consultation launch
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Post on Sandwell's MBC Facebook, Instagram and X pages	Consultation launch
Wednesday 04 <sup>th</sup> October	Article in Sandwell Weekly New	Consultation reminder
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Post on Sandwell MBC's X page	Consultation reminder
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Post on Sandwell MBC's Instagram page	Consultation reminder
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Article in Sandwell Weekly New	Consultation reminder
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Post on Sandwell MBC's Facebook, Instagram and X pages	Consultation reminder
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Article in Sandwell Weekly News	Consultation reminder
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Post on Sandwell MBC's Facebook, Instagram and X pages	Consultation reminder
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Post on Sandwell MBC's Facebook and Instagram pages	Consultation close
September/October	Facebook – 25,400 views	Consultation
September/October	Instagram – 1,749 views	Consultation
November/December	X – 3,072 views	Consultation



#### 4.4 Representations Received during the Consultation

During the six weeks of consultation the following number of representations were received.

Document	Respondents	Submission Method			Status			Totals
		Web	Email	Paper	Support	Object	Comment	
Reg 19 Publication Plan	45	90	281	0	103	108	160	371
Reg 19 SA	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>373</b>

Of the 373 representations received, 103 expressed their support for the plan, 109 objections were received and there were 161 general comments. Also, 32 representations did not find the plan legally compliant, 137 representations expressed the plan as unsound and only one expressed the plan does not comply with Duty to Cooperate (DtC).

The representations made to the Regulation 19 Publication will be submitted alongside the Submission Plan to the Secretary of State. Where they will be reviewed by the Planning Inspector appointed to review the plan at the examination.

#### 5. Conclusion

Sandwell has been committed to involving stakeholders and the local community in the development of the draft local plan. This is clearly demonstrated by the range and breadth of consultation and involvement since work commenced on the Issues and Options in 2022.

#### Issues and Options Consultation

Issues and Options consultation reached a wide range of people, businesses, landowners and developers who live, work or have a vested interest in Sandwell. Methods of publicity for the consultation including events, social media and a dedicated Sandwell Local Plan website helped to highlight the issues and the different decisions that may be required in the coming years to accommodate growth and development across the Borough up to 2041. The consultation was more far-reaching than any other planning consultation carried out within Sandwell previously and generated approximately 564 representations from 46 respondents.

All comments made have been considered by the Council as part of the development of the next stage of the plan. In undertaking this exercise, it is recognised that there will sometimes be local opposition to proposals, and it is necessary to assess the material issues raised to the consultation rather than simply responding to the number of responses on an issue.

Where there have been objections to the Plan (evidenced in the detailed summary - ***Issues and Options Consultation: Summary of Representations and the Sandwell Councils' Response***) that have not led to a change to the Local Plan, this does not mean the Council has failed to consider responses. It is the role of the Local Plan to balance the material considerations raised as part of the process against a number of other issues, whether these be other consultation responses, evidence base documents, or the application of national planning policy. It is this 'planning balance' which is central to the plan-making process, with consultation responses informing the approach towards what the Council believes to be a 'sound' Plan when assessed against the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and also to ensure it is legally compliant.

### **Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation**

The Regulation 18 Draft Plan reached a wide range of people, businesses, landowners and developers, who live, work or have a vested interest in Sandwell. Methods of publicity for the consultation including events, social media and a dedicated Sandwell Local Plan website helped to highlight the issues and the different decisions that may be required in the coming years to accommodate growth and development across the Borough up to 2041. In total the social media posts were viewed 27,000 across Facebook, Instagram and X (Twitter). The consultation was more far-reaching than the previous planning consultation carried out within Sandwell previously and generated approximately 652 representations from 67 respondents.

All comments made have been considered by the Council as part of the development of the next stage of the plan. In undertaking this exercise, it is recognised that there will sometimes be local opposition to proposals, and it is necessary to assess the material issues raised to the consultation rather than simply responding to the number of responses on an issue.

It is the role of the Local Plan to balance the material considerations raised as part of the process against a number of other issues, whether these be other consultation responses, evidence base documents, or the application of national planning policy. It is this 'planning balance' which is central to the plan-making process, with consultation responses informing the approach towards what the Council believes to be a 'sound' Plan when assessed against the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and also to ensure it is legally compliant.

### **Regulation 19 Publication Plan Consultation**

The Regulation 19 Publication Plan reached a wide range of people, businesses, landowners and developers, who live, work or have a vested interest in Sandwell. Methods of publicity for the consultation including events, social media and a dedicated Sandwell Local Plan website helped to highlight the issues and the different decisions that may be required in the coming years to accommodate growth and development across the Borough up to 2041. The consultation generated 373 representations to the plan from 45 respondent.

The representations have been reviewed by officers and a table of the main issues identified has been collated. A report of the representations will form part of the submission to the Secretary of State and will be reviewed by the Planning Inspector appointed to hold the examination.

## Appendix A – Regulation 18 Consultees/Registered on the Consultation Database

<b>Prescribed and Statutory Bodies</b>
Canals and Rivers Trust
DEFRA
The Coal Authority
Environment Agency
Historic England
National Highways
Natural England
Network Rail
RAWP
RTAB
Severn-Trent
South Staffs Water
Sport England
Transport for West Midlands
West Midlands Ambulance Service
West Midlands Fire
West Midlands Police
Western Power Distribution/National Grid
<b>Neighbouring Councils</b>
Birmingham City Council
Bromsgrove DC
Redditch DC
Cannock Chase DC
Dudley MBC

Lichfield DC
North Warwickshire DC
Shropshire
Solihull MBC
South Staffordshire DC
Stafford DC
Stratford DC
Tamworth DC
Telford & Wrekin
Walsall MBC
Wolverhampton City Council
Wyre Forest DC

### Sandwell Local Plan Consultation Database Contacts

Organisation
ANCER SPA Ltd
Avison Young
Barratt West Midlands
Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust
Birmingham City Council
Bloor Homes
Bromsgrove District Council
BTS Surveyors
Campaign to Protect Rural England West Midlands Group
Canal and River Trust
Chance Heritage Trust
Churchill Living
City Of Wolverhampton Council
Clowes Developments (UK) Limited
Coneygre Redevelopments
Consortium of Housebuilders and Land Promoters
Dudley MBC
Environment Agency
FCC Environment
Fisher German
Folkes

Friends of Sheepwash Local Nature Reserve
Geestar Investments Limited
Gladman Developments Ltd
Habinteg
Harris Lamb
Heyford Developments
Historic England
Home Builders Federation
Iceni Projects
iLockerz - Intelligent Lockers
JLL
Keon Homes
Lichfield District Council
Lovell Partnerships Ltd
Maddox & Associates Limited
McCarthy & Stone
Monarchi Developers Limited
National Gas
National Highways
Natural England
NHS Property Services
Nurton Developments
Oldbury (Smethwick) Limited
Palmer Timber Limited
Planning Issues
Planning Prospects Ltd
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Midlands (PCCWM)
Preston Baker
Redditch Borough Council
Redrow Homes
Rentplus UK Limited
RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)
Sandwell Liberal Democrats
Savills
Sevo Planning Limited
Shropshire Council
South Staffordshire Council
South Staffordshire Water
Sport England
Stephenson Halliday
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Sustrans
Swifts Local Network: Swifts & Planning Group
Tetlow King Planning
TfWM
The Coal Authority

The Planning Bureau on behalf of McCarthy Stone
The Tyler Parkes Partnership Ltd
Turley
Vulcan Property II Limited
Wain Estates
Walsall Council
West Midlands Housing Association Planning Consortium
West Midlands Police
West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Body
West Waddy Archadia (WWA)
Woodland Trust

Individual	
S	Ade
S	Ahmed
J	Allen
C	Amos
L	Babb
L	Babbington
J	Bahia
G	Ball
C	Bate
B	Bhandal
J	Billingham
S	Birdie
M	Blades
G	Blunt
K	Borton
A	Bow
R	Bradley
N	Bubalo
C	Buchanan
C	Carruthers
C	Cavell
H	Chahal
C	Chudyk
G	Collins
P	Colver
I	Costa
A	Croot
H	Davies
M	Davies
J	Davison
S	Day
J	Deane

G	Dolman
A	Elias
C	Elliott
E	Elstone
A	Fermahan
J	Gabrilatsou
G	Gadair
E	Garrehy
B	Geddes
V	Goodwin
E	Govani
S	Green
J	Green
M	Griffin
I	Hall
S	Hardcastle
H	Harrison
C	Heales
J	Hendy
C	Heywood
W	Hirose
M	Hodder
L	Hodges
S	Holloway
J	Hollyman
A	Hope
F	Horton
E	Hughes
A	Hussain
K	Inglis
I	Ingram
A	Ingram
J	James
T	Johnson
M	Jones
R	Kang
Kr	Kaul
D	Kaur
A	Kayumbi
P	Kenna
S	Lambeth
A	Lane
L	Lawrence
M	Lindsley
P	Lowe
N	Loydon
G	Madden

D	Magher
I	Maniar
P	Mayne
M	McCoy
L	McCullagh
D	Millard
A	Miller
H	Nagra
M	Nairn
M	Patel
D	Payne
N	Pellegram
E	Penkett
S	Pickles
A	Porteous
K	Priest
N	Ramsey
L	Rashid
S	Richards
C	Richards
N	Richards
W	Richardson
L	Rollins
S	Sahajpal
P	Sams
M	Sattar
A	Singh
C	Smallwood
G	SMITH
S	Smith
K	Smith
L	Spiers
N	Stanford
M	Still
T	Strongman
N	Styles
D	Taylor
F	Team
S	Tedstone
P	Tomlinson
J	Tonks
R	Williams
G	Wynter
A	Yates OBE