

From: Tammy Stokes

Email: sandwell_localplan@sandwell.gov.uk

Date: 11th December 2024

The Planning Inspectorate
Room 3J, Kite Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

(FAO Lee McClean, Local Plans Team)

Dear Mr McClean,

Submission of the Sandwell Local Plan

In accordance with Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), the Council wishes to submit the above Local Plan document for independent examination. The Plan contains both strategic and non-strategic policies and contains a vision for Sandwell to 2041. The vision includes the Council being at the forefront of the climate change agenda and mitigating the impacts of climate change, with healthier residents, a sustainable economy and thriving town centres that will put Sandwell at the forefront of urban renaissance in the West Midlands region. A number of representations have been received with regard to the new climate change policies and it is anticipated that these representations could be a topic of discussion at the Examination.

The proposed Spatial Strategy aims to achieve a balance of housing and employment growth across the borough while at the same time, incorporating many elements of a green growth strategy. The strategy is realistic about what is achievable over the next 15 years, whilst at the same time being forward-looking and designed to deliver development that positively enhances opportunities for Sandwell residents to benefit from a greener and healthier environment.

The policies that make up the development strategy set out the scale and distribution of new development for the Local Plan period to 2041 and aim to achieve the delivery of at least 10,434 net new homes and the retention and protection of at least 1,221ha of employment land (of which 28ha is currently vacant). However, Sandwell is not able to identify sufficient land supply to meet the identified need of 26,350 new homes and 211ha of employment land. It is anticipated that these shortfalls will be a main issue to be discussed at the Examination. The Council has sought to resolve the housing and employment land shortfall through the Duty to Co-operate process, details of which are included within the submitted documents.

Directorate of Place

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Both the submitted documents and supporting documents are listed in an appendix 1 to this letter and available from the weblink: <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/localplanexamination>

With regard to the Hearing sessions for the Examination in Public, the Council would usually expect them to take place at Sandwell Council House (Council Chamber and associated rooms), Oldbury, West Midlands. However, the Council are happy to look for an alternative venue should this prove not to be suitable. The Council is also happy to hold virtual hearing sessions should the Inspector require them.

Finally, the Council wishes to give notice that it has appointed an independent Programme Officer for the Examination, whose contact details are set out below:

Louise St John Howe
PO Services
PO Box 10965
Sudbury
Suffolk
CO10 3BF

07789 486419

louise@poservices.co.uk

I would be grateful if you would confirm receipt of our submission. The Council is looking forward to working with both PINS and the appointed Inspector(s).

Yours sincerely,



Tammy Stokes

Assistant Director – Spatial Planning and Growth

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APPENDIX ONE - DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED

1. Sandwell Local Plan and appendices
2. Sandwell Local Plan Policies Map
3. Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment and appendices
4. Consultation Statement
5. Summary of representations made at Regulation 18 and the Council's response
6. The number of representations made at regulation 20 and a summary of the main issues
7. Copies of the representations made at Regulation 20 in both respondent and document order
8. Duty to Co-operate Compliance Statement
9. Local Development Scheme
10. Annual Monitoring reports – 2022/23 and 2023/24 (reduced version)
11. Equality Impact Assessment

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