

National Highways

Operations Directorate (Midlands),
The Cube
100 Wharfside Street
Birmingham
B1 1RN

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Please ask for: Andy Miller

Telephone no: 0121 569 4249

Date: 21/03/25

F.A.O. Kathryn Simmonite

Dear Kathryn,

Sandwell Local Plan Submitted for Examination

I am writing to set out the current position in relation to the Sandwell Local Plan (SLP) and the representation submitted by National Highways in response to the Regulation 19 consultation carried out between 23rd September and 4th November 2024.

To recap, Sandwell Council, along with Dudley, Walsall and City of Wolverhampton Councils, commissioned SWECO to prepare a Transport Modelling report to support the preparation of their emerging Local Plans.

The Sandwell Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for Examination on 11th December 2024. The Transport Modelling Report, the subsequent Addendum Note and your Technical Note in response to it, form part of the evidence base for the plan at examination.

Following our meeting on 5th February you subsequently confirmed in your email of 12th February that you do not consider the outstanding matters set out in your Technical Note of 21st November 2024 to be matters that would affect the soundness of the SLP.

On this basis, a Statement of Common Ground is not considered necessary. Furthermore, Sandwell commits to continue to work in partnership with yourselves to refine the mitigation measures proposed to support the SLP, and any further mitigations identified as work progress. In particular, we look forward to continuing ongoing work in relation to the improvements at Birchley Island/M5 Junction 2 and, in the future, M5 Junction 1.

I will share this letter with colleagues at Dudley, Walsall and the City of Wolverhampton councils and suggest that we consider some joint discussions as the four authorities progress our individual plans.

I will continue to keep you informed of progress as we move towards the Examination hearings and thank you for your ongoing engagement in the Local Plan process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AM', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Andy Miller
Strategic planning &
Transportation Manager