

Mr P Lewis and Mr S Dean
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

9 October 2024

Dear Mr Lewis and Mr Dean,

South Worcestershire Development Plan review – Fortnightly Update

Please find below an update on the progress of the South Worcestershire Development Plan review.

If you have any further questions about the work we are doing regarding the evidence or queries, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Macleod

Director of Planning and Infrastructure
Malvern Hills and Wychavon District
Councils



Duncan Rudge

Head of Planning
Worcester City Council

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South Worcestershire Development Plan,
Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore WR10 1PT



Progress Update

Item	Status	Comment
Analysis of Proposed Policies against December 2023 Written Ministerial Statement Resource: SWC Officers	This has been published on the Examination website.	Submitted to Inspectors 17.09.2024
Curlew at Mitton – ‘Review of Natural England’s Position Statement June 2024’ - Supplementary report relating to SWDPR 54: Land at Mitton: A report in response to Natural England’s Position Statement re SA54 (EXAM 8)	This has been published on the Examination website.	Submitted to Inspectors 12.09.2024
Updated Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (HOU3) Resource: SWC Officers and external consultant	The updated GTAA has been published on the Examination website. An updated topic paper will be produced by the end of October.	The updated GTAA was submitted to Inspectors 25.09.2024 The topic paper is on track for delivery 31.10.2024
Updated Retail and Town Centres Study (ECO12, EXAM4 and EXAM4A – EXAM4C) Resource: SWC Officers and external consultant	This has been published on the Examination website.	Submitted to Inspectors 01.07.2024
Economic Land Monitoring Report to 31 March 2023 Resource: SWC Officers	This has been published on the Examination website.	Submitted to Inspectors 24.09.2024

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Item	Status	Comment
Additional evidence base report relating to Areas of Informal Recreation Allocations (ALL1) Resource: SWC Officers and external consultant	This has been published on the Examination website.	Submitted to Inspectors 12.09.2024
Updated Historic Environment Topic Paper and Heritage Appraisals (SP24 – SP26) Resource: SWC Officers and external consultant	This has been published on the Examination website.	Submitted to Inspectors 17.09.2024
Updated Housing Requirements for Designated Neighbourhood Areas (HOU6) with 2021 Census data Resource: SWC Officers	This has been published on the Examination website.	Submitted to Inspectors 24.09.2024
Updated Economic Development Needs Assessment (ECO1 – ECO11) Resource: SWC Officers and external consultant	This will be submitted by 31.10.2024 alongside a topic paper.	Officers continue to work on this report, which is in its final draft, and it is on track to be delivered 31.10.2024 alongside the topic paper, which is also in its final draft.
Updated Housing Topic Paper (HOU4) Housing Topic Paper Resource: SWC Officers	This will be submitted to the Inspectors by 31.10.2024	This report is on track to be delivered by 31.10.2024
Update Housing Trajectory (HOU5) Resource: SWC Officers	This will be submitted to the Inspectors by 31.10.2024	This is on track to be delivered by 31.10.2024

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Item	Status	Comment
<p>Transport Modelling (SWTM) with sensitivity analysis Resource: Worcestershire County Council, National Highways, external consultants and SWC Officers</p>	<p>The transport modelling will be completed by 02.12.2024 and will be submitted to the Inspectors by 31.12.2024</p>	<p>The Councils have scheduled a workshop between all parties w/c 14.10.2024 to discuss the output from the first two scenarios, 'Do Nothing and Do Minimum'. This workshop will act as an opportunity to align all parties on the results of the scenarios and to aid efficiency in the 'Do Something' scenario stage. All parties continue weekly update Teams calls.</p>
<p>Updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan (INF1), incorporating output from updated evidence documents and Transport Modelling with sensitivity analysis. Resource: SWC Officers and external consultant</p>	<p>Draft will be submitted by 31.12.2024</p>	<p>Officers are working on preparing the IDP concurrently and with input from our WSTM stakeholders to ensure the submission date of 31.12.2024 is achieved.</p>
<p>Updated SWDPR and Community Infrastructure Levy Viability Review (VIA1), incorporating output from updated evidence documents.</p> <p>Updated Retail and Commercial Community Infrastructure Levy Viability Review (VIA2), incorporating output from updated evidence documents.</p> <p>Updated Strategic Site Local Plan Viability Report (VIA3), incorporating output from updated evidence documents and Transport Modelling with sensitivity analysis.</p>	<p>Draft will be submitted by 31.12.2024</p>	<p>Officers are working on preparing the IDP concurrently and with input from our WSTM stakeholders to ensure the submission date of 31.12.2024 is achieved.</p>

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Item	Status	Comment
Resource for all above: SWC Officers and external consultant		
Schedule of Main Modifications Resource: SWC Officers	Prior to Hearings	We intend to send these to the proposed timescale.
HRA evidence re nutrient neutrality Resource: SWC Officers and external consultant	We intend to send these to the proposed timescale prior to examination.	Officers are working to address any issues in relation to Nutrient Neutrality, as relates to the River Wye SAC catchment (River Lugg SSSI component only). This concerns a small area of the Malvern Hills District and, further, the SWDPR does not propose any site allocations within this area. Whilst Natural England did not raise any issues regarding Nutrient Neutrality during the Regulation 19 consultation stage, they have since raised concerns directly to the Councils. It is proposed that a Statement of Common Ground sets out any actions the Councils intend to take in response to the issues raised. The Inspectors of the SWDPR can then instruct if an update of the HRA (CD6 and CD7) is considered necessary.
All Statements of Common Ground	Prior to Hearings	Statements of Common Ground are progressing, and we intend to send these to the proposed timescale.

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