

## **South Worcestershire Development Plan Review Examination – 2025 Timeline**

**17th December 2025** - EXAM 124D - Planning Inspectorate's Response to Matthew Pennycook Letter (EXAM 124B) published.

**11th December 2025** - A short consultation opportunity is currently underway in relation to the government's intention to abolish the Duty to Co-operate. Further details can be found in the following correspondence which has been published on the examination website:

The written ministerial statement of 27 November 2025 by Matthew Pennycook MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning, providing an update on the implementation of Government reforms to the plan-making system in England (EXAM 124A). The letter from the Minister to the Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate of the same date titled Local plan reforms – Update to the Duty to Co-operate (EXAM 124B). Our letter to the Councils dated 28 November 2025 (EXAM124) and the Councils' response dated 8 December 2025 (EXAM124C)

In the examination to date the Inspectors have had regard to the representations made concerning the Duty to Cooperate, addressed this through their MIQs and discussed this during the hearings. Whilst the Duty to Cooperate is to be abolished, national policy for maintaining effective cooperation such as that set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (September 2023) in paragraphs 24-27 remain, and this continues to be a matter for their assessment of soundness. If you wish to provide further brief comments specifically regarding the soundness aspects of cooperation, please send them to the Programme Officer by 5.00 pm on 2 January 2026.

**8th December 2025** - EXAM 124C - LPA's Response to EXAM 124 – Inspectors' Letter re DtC WMS published.

**28th November 2025** - The following documents have been published:

EXAM 124 - Inspectors Letter to LPAs re Duty to Co-operate Written Ministerial Statement

EXAM 124A - Written Ministerial Statement – Reforming Plan Making

EXAM 124B - Matthew Pennycook Letter to Planning Inspectorate Chief Executive

**21st November 2025** - EXAM 123 - Worcestershire Regulatory Services – Technical Guidance Note for Planning published.

**23rd October 2025** - EXAM 118A - Post Hearing Letter Clarification – South Worcester Development published.

**10th October 2025** - EXAM 118 - Inspectors' Post Hearing Letter re Mitton, Local Housing Need and Supply published together with the following documents:

EXAM 116A - EXAM 116 Comments from Breedon and Breedon's Norton PC

EXAM 116B - EXAM 116 Comments from Neville Sleigh

EXAM 119 - Statement of Common Ground Further Update on Transport Matters and Curlew Surveys with Barratt David Wilson and Mac Mic Group

EXAM 120 - Infrastructure Delivery Plan – Updated for Mitton

EXAM 121 - Mitton Updated Viability Appraisal

EXAM 122 - Statement of Common Ground Update on Transport Matters at Mitton with the Cotswolds National Landscape Board

**1st October 2025** - EXAM 117 - Note on Infrastructure Reserved Matters Application and Condition on 13/00656/OUT Outline Application published.

**25th September 2025** - EXAM 116 - Note and Updated Drawing re Mitton M5 J9 published.

**23rd September 2025** - EXAM 112 - Natural England Position re Mitton Access published together with the following Flood Risk Related Documents:

EXAM 113 - Note from LPAs re EA Flood Mapping

EXAM 114 - Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Addendum

EXAM 114A - Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Addendum – Appendix A

EXAM 114B - Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Addendum – Appendix B

EXAM 114C - Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Addendum – Appendix C

EXAM 115 - Note from LPAs re Five Year Housing Land Supply Buffer also published.

**12th September 2025** - EXAM 110 -Section 106 Agreement – Worcester South and EXAM 111 - Decision Notice – Worcester South published.

**27th August 2025** - Written Statements received ahead of the continued hearing sessions on the 4th of September have been published via an update to the [Written Statements Index](#).

Submissions for the continued sessions in respect of Matter 4 (Provision for Housing), Matter 5, Housing Land Supply and Matter 9 (Mitton) can be found at the end of the respective Matter sections in the index. EXAM 78A - Updated Statement of Common Ground with Gloucestershire County Council also published.

**11th August 2025** - Appendices to the Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment have been added to the [Evidence Base list](#) as CCRM15A & 15B.

**23rd July 2025** - In addition to the further hearing Guidance Note, Matters, Issues and Questions and Programme, the following documents have been published today:

- EXAM 100 - [Worcestershire Strategic Transport Model – Cotswold Impact Technical Note](#)
- EXAM 101 - [M5 Junction 9 – Updated Committed Developments Technical Note](#)
- EXAM 102 - [PJA Junction Designs \(within Tewkesbury\)](#)
- EXAM 103 - [PJA – Outline Sustainable Travel Strategy \(Mitton\)](#)
- EXAM 104 - [PJA – Impact within Cotswold National Landscape \(Mitton\)](#)
- EXAM 105 - [Lepus Consulting – Breeding Curlew Survey at Mitton](#)
- EXAM 106 - [Statement of Common Ground between South Worcestershire Authorities and Mercian Waste re Throckmorton](#)

**22nd July 2025** - EXAM 99C - Inspectors' Response to EXAM 99A re 5YHLS published.

**18th July 2025** - EXAM 99B - Letter from Vistry Group re Delivery of Worcester South published.

**15th July 2025** - EXAM 99A - Councils' Response to Inspectors' Post Hearing Letter published.

**7th July 2025** - EXAM 99 - Inspectors' Post Hearing Letter published.

**23rd June 2025** - EXAM 98A - LPA Response to Inspectors' Queries re Local Housing Need (EXAM 98) published.

**6th June 2025** - EXAM 98 - Inspectors' Note on Local Housing Need published.

**5th June 2025** - EXAM 96 - National Highways Position Update on Mitton & EXAM 97 - Note on Evidence Base Sources for Environmental Character Areas published.

**28th May 2025** - EXAM 93A - LPA Response to Suggested Revisions to Proposed Modifications to SWDPR28 from Cotswolds and Malvern Hills National Landscapes published.

**19th May 2025** - Documents ENV5 - Malvern Hills National Landscape Management Plan and ENV6 - Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan added to the Councils' [Evidence Base Documents List](#).

**8th May 2025** - EXAM 93 - Suggested Revisions to Proposed Modifications to SWDPR 28 from the Cotswolds and Malvern Hill National Landscapes published together with EXAM 94 - LPA Note re SWDPR 37 relating to Air Quality.

**2nd May 2025** - EXAM 90 - Statement of Common Ground between LPAs and Natural England re Policy SWDPR 07 - Green Infrastructure (Updated) published.

**29th April 2025** - EXAM 89A - Mitigation Plan for Lawn Farm 2 published.

**24th April 2025** - EXAM 34 - Hearings Programme updated. EXAM 91 - Matter 16 Policy Running Order and EXAM 92 - Update Statement of Common Ground re Transport & Curlew Surveys for Mitton published.

**23rd April 2025** - EXAM 90 - Statement of Common Ground between LPAs and Natural England re Policy SWDPR 07 - Green Infrastructure published.

**10th April 2025** - EXAM 89 - Map showing Welland NDP allocation, MHNL, MHT landownership, Local Green Space and SWDPR proposed allocation (updated 10th April) published.

**4th April 2025** - EXAM 87 - Matter 11 Action Response: RLCE Allocations and AONB Environs Study published, together with EXAM 88 - Cales Farm Decision Notice and EXAM 88A - Cales Farm Section 106 Agreement.

**1st April 2025** - EXAM 85 - Appeal Decision - Land South of Stourport Road, Great Witley published along with EXAM 86 - Lad at Hartlebury - Site Appraisal Layout.

**28th March 2025** - EXAM 84 - Note on the Deliverability of the Travelling Showpersons Site at Rushwick published.

**27th March 2025** - EXAM 83 - Statement of Common Ground between LPAs and Mses Massingham & Cooper re The Daves, Crophorne published.

**26th March 2025** - EXAM 82 - Statement of Common Ground between LPAs and Malvern Hills National Landscape Team published.

**20th March 2025** - EXAM 34 - Hearings Programme updated. **Please note there have been some changes to the timing of some sessions. Matter 14: Wychavon Allocations will not commence before 2pm on the 26th March. Matter 16: Transport, Green Infrastructure, Historic Environment, Tourism, Leisure and Community Facilities has been brought forward from Wednesday 30th April to Tuesday 29th April.** Two further Statements of Common Ground have also been published:

EXAM 80 - Statement of Common Ground between LPAs and Historic England

EXAM 81 - Statement of Common Ground between LPAs and Natural England re Mitton

**14th March 2025** - Suite of documents referred to during the Matter 9 discussions in relation to Throckmorton published, comprising of:

EXAM 79 - Statement of Common Ground between LPAs, Evesham Vale Growers, Marshalls Transport and Mary Rimell.

[EXAM 79A](#) - Letter from Evesham Vale Growers.

[EXAM 79B](#) - Letter from Pinnacle International Capital

[EXAM 79C](#) - Letter from Worcestershire County Council

**12th March 2025** - [WS8/5A](#) - Matter 8 Speaking Note from Kevin Poole published.

**10th March 2025** - [EXAM 78](#) - Statement of Common Ground between LPAs and Gloucestershire County Council published.

**7th March 2025** - [EXAM 77](#) - Matter 2 Action Point - Distribution of Development across the Settlement Hierarchy, [EXAM 34](#) - Latest Hearings Programme and an Additional Written Statement for Matter 16 from Tetlow King on behalf of Abbey College published.

**4th March 2025** - [EXAM 73](#) - LPA Scott Schedule re Disputed Delivery on Sites published. In addition three further Statements of Common Ground have also been published comprising of:

[EXAM 74](#) - Statement of Common Ground between LPAs, Worcestershire County Council and National Highways.

[EXAM 75](#) - Statement of Common Ground between LPAs and Worcestershire Parkway Combined Landowners re Section 106 Approach

[EXAM 76](#) - Statement of Common Ground between LPAs and Worcestershire Parkway Combined Landowner Group re Housing Land Supply and Delivery.

**3rd March 2025** - [EXAM 72](#) - Statement of Common Ground between Combined Landowner Group for Worcestershire Parkway and [EXAM 34](#) - Update Hearings Programme published.

**27th February 2025** - Two documents have been updated. [EXAM 1G](#) - Briefing Note - Malvern Hills Act and a New Local Development Scheme has been agreed - [EXAM 53](#).

**26th February 2025** - [EXAM 71](#) - Statement of Common Ground between LPAs, Worcestershire County Council and Ainscough Strategic Land re SWDPR 57 - Land at Hanbury Road published.

**25th February 2025** - [EXAM 70](#) - Statement of Common Ground with Barberry Developments - Land at Bluebell Farm, Earls Croome published.

**24th February 2025** - Two further Statements of Common Ground published ([EXAM 68](#) - LPAs, County Council & Barwood Strategic Land re Rushwick and [EXAM 69](#) - Stratford-on-Avon District Council)

**21st February 2025** - [EXAM 34](#) - Hearings Programme updated.

**19th February 2025** - [Written Statements Index](#) updated with submissions from CPRE Worcestershire.

**17th February 2025** - Written Statements received in response to the Inspectors' Matters, Issues and Questions have been published through an Index of Written Submissions.

Additional Statements of Common Ground also published, comprising of:

[EXAM 64 - Malvern Hills Trust](#)

[EXAM 65 - West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner, Police & Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Services.](#)

[EXAM 66 - Planning Prospects re Land at Junction of Berkeley Way and Parsonage Way](#)

[EXAM 67 - Combined Landowners of Worcestershire Parkway Strategic Growth Area](#)

**5th February 2025** - A number of Statements of Common Ground have been submitted and published. See [Examination Documents List](#) References EXAM 54 through to EXAM 63.

**21st January 2025** - [EXAM 51 - Regulation 18 SWDPR](#) , [EXAM 52 - Regulation 18 Interactive Policies Map \(Link opens to external website\)](#) and [EXAM 53 - Local Development Scheme - September 2023](#) published as Examination Documents.

**15th January 2025** - [EXAM 19J - Councils' Progress Update 15.01.25](#) published.

**8th January 2025** - [EXAM 49 - Statement of Common Ground with Redditch Borough Council](#) and [EXAM 50 - Statement of Common Ground with Bromsgrove District Council](#) published.

**4th January 2025** - A number of new Examination Documents have been uploaded to an updated Examination Documents List

In summary they include information regarding:

Gypsies and Travellers (EXAM 22A)

Five Year Housing Land Supply (EXAM 30A)

C2 Need and Supply (EXAM 37)

First Homes (EXAM 38)

Infrastructure Delivery (EXAM 39 and 40)

Viability (EXAM 41 and 41A)

Transport Modelling (EXAM 42 - 47A)

Statement of Common Ground with National Highways (EXAM 48)

**3rd January 2025** - EXAM 34 - Draft Hearings Programme, EXAM 35 - Inspectors' Guidance Notes and EXAM 36 - Inspectors' Matters, Issues and Questions published. EXAM 19H - Councils' Progress Updates 18.12.24 & EXAM 19I - 03.01.25 also published.

**2nd January 2025** - EXAM 32 - Areas of Informal Recreation Topic Paper and EXAM 33 - Sustainability Appraisal Addendum concerning Areas of Informal Recreation published.