

## **Examination of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review**

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20 December 2023

Mr D Rudge

Interim Director

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review

Dear Mr Rudge

### **Examination of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review**

#### **Recent changes in national planning policy**

1. You will be aware that the Government has recently revised its national planning policy and guidance through a number of publications and Written Ministerial Statements.
2. On 19 December 2023 the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations made a written statement 'The Next Stage in Our Long Term Plan for Housing Update'. On that day the Government also published its revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and a revised Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, Planning Practice Guidance in respect of the Green Belt and the Housing Delivery Test: 2022 measurement. In addition, on 13 December 2023, Baroness Penn, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities issued a statement 'Planning - Local Energy Efficiency Standards Update'.
3. It would be helpful to us if the Councils would provide a brief note, setting out what, if any, they consider the implications of the published documents have for the submitted South Worcestershire Development Plan Review and our examination of it. In asking this, we particularly direct you to the transitional arrangements set out in paragraph 230 of the revised NPPF. Detailed comments regarding implications for particular policies of the submitted Plan should be addressed through statements in due course. We appreciate that you may wish to reflect on the implications of the new national planning policy documents in responding to the initial questions that we have posed, so please advise us of when you would be in a position to respond to our requests.

4. Once we receive your response, we should be able to finalise the Matters Issues and Questions (MIQs) for the examination and determine how the examination should proceed. Representors will be able to have regard to the recent expressions of national planning policy and guidance in responding to our MIQs when they are published.
5. Please publish this letter on the examination website.

Yours sincerely

*P Lewis and S Dean*

INSPECTORS