

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

20 November 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 (SWDPR).

In addition to our regular update, we would like to highlight a letter addressed to yourselves from Mr Peter Denton, Chief Executive of Homes England following a meeting between Mr Denton; Nick Harris, Chief Executive of National Highways; Paul Robinson, Chief Executive of Worcestershire County Council and Vic Allison, Chief Executive of Wychavon District Council on 29 October 2024.

The letter, dated 15 November 2024, reinforces the commitment between National Highways and Worcestershire County Council in terms of the punctual delivery of the Transport Modelling, which supports the SWDPR, to yourselves by 31 December 2024.

If you have any further questions about the work we are doing regarding the evidence or general 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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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	<p>The updated GTAA has been published on the Examination website.</p> <p>An updated topic paper will be produced by the end of October.</p> <p>Further work regarding intensification of existing sites due to be submitted by 31.12.2024.</p>	<p>The updated GTAA was submitted to Inspectors 25.09.2024</p> <p>Submitted to Inspectors 24.10.2024</p> <p>The report regarding the intensification of existing sites is in progress and is on target to be delivered inline with the delivery date.</p>
Updated Retail and Town Centres Study (ECO12, EXAM4 and EXAM4A – EXAM4C)	This has been published on the Examination website.	Submitted to Inspectors 01.07.2024

SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE Development Plan

Item	Status	Comment
Resource: SWC Officers and external consultant		
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
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.	Submitted to Inspectors 23.10.2024
Updated Housing Topic Paper (HOU4) Housing Topic Paper Resource: SWC Officers	This will be submitted to the Inspectors by 31.10.2024	Submitted to Inspectors 23.10.2024

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Item	Status	Comment
Update Housing Trajectory (HOU5) Resource: SWC Officers	This will be submitted to the Inspectors by 31.10.2024	Submitted to Inspectors 23.10.2024
Transport Modelling (SWTM) with sensitivity analysis Resource: Worcestershire County Council, National Highways, external consultants and SWC Officers	The transport modelling will be completed by 02.12.2024 and will be submitted to the Inspectors by 31.12.2024	The transport modelling is progressing, and all parties are working toward the delivery dates within this timetable.
Updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan (INF1), incorporating output from updated evidence documents and Transport Modelling with sensitivity analysis. Resource: SWC Officers and external consultant	Draft will be submitted by 31.12.2024	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.
Updated SWDPR and Community Infrastructure Levy Viability Review (VIA1), incorporating output from updated evidence documents. Updated Retail and Commercial Community Infrastructure Levy Viability Review (VIA2), incorporating output from updated evidence documents.	Draft will be submitted by 31.12.2024	Officers are working on preparing the viability documents concurrently and with input from our WSTM stakeholders to ensure the submission date of 31.12.2024 is achieved.

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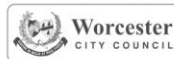
Item	Status	Comment
<p>Updated Strategic Site Local Plan Viability Report (VIA3), incorporating output from updated evidence documents and Transport Modelling with sensitivity analysis.</p> <p>Resource for all above: SWC Officers and external consultant</p>		
<p>Schedule of Main Modifications Resource: SWC Officers</p>	Prior to Hearings	We intend to send these to the proposed timescale.
<p>HRA evidence re nutrient neutrality Resource: SWC Officers and external consultant</p>	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.
<p>All Statements of Common Ground</p>	Prior to Hearings	Statements of Common Ground are progressing, and we intend to send these to the proposed timescale.

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Homes
England

The Housing and Regeneration Agency

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Date: 15 November 2024

Dear Mr Lewis and Mr Dean,

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review

I am writing to inform you that Homes England convened a meeting on 29 October 2024 between Nick Harris, Chief Executive of National Highways; Paul Robinson, Chief Executive of Worcestershire County Council and Vic Allison, Chief Executive of Wychavon District Council.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Transport Modelling being undertaken to support the Evidence base into the Examination of the Local Plan. I am pleased to report that National Highways and the County Council are collaborating and that they are both confident that the deadline for this outstanding evidence will be submitted by 31 December 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Denton

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