

**Inspector Roger Clews BA MSc DipEd DipTP MRTPI**  
**c/o Mrs Helen Wilson**  
**SWDP Programme Officer**  
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10 June 2014

Dear Mr Clews

## **EXAMINATION OF THE SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

### **UPDATE – IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL SITES**

In your letter of 14 April 2014 you requested periodic confirmation of progress of the work proposed by our letter of 7 April 2014 consequent to the release of your Further Interim Conclusions (FIC) (3 April 2014).

Consequent to the three partner authorities of Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District Councils (“the Councils”) acceptance of the revised housing requirement (as proposed by the FIC) and the implications of the March 2014 Planning Practice Guidance, the Councils accepted the need to issue an immediate call for sites. The final date for return was 2 April 2014 and resulted in some 500 sites being nominated. Some of these sites were already known to the Councils; in such cases the submission often represented a change to the site (e.g. intensification or boundary alteration). In other cases the sites were completely new to the Councils. Under these circumstances the Councils considered that there was no option other than to undertake an appropriate assessment process, to include previous objection sites, before proposing through the Examination process a package of additional sites able to satisfy the revised housing requirement.

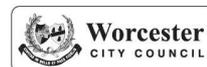
The first stage, broadly equivalent to a SHLAA process, provided an initial screening assessment of each of the sites that came forward or omission sites that have come forward during the SWDP process. This essentially permitted an assessment of the “developability” of each site taking into account its availability, level of flood risk, whether it was environmentally constrained (e.g. by heritage or categorisation as SSSI, AONB or green belt etc.), proximity to settlement and services, etc. In addition and integral to this process the assessment of sites has also assessed their consistency with the existing SWDP spatial strategy and related objectives.

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Those sites that satisfied the initial screening have now been put forward for more detailed assessments including full viability assessment, SA/SEA/IA, transport modelling and an assessment of infrastructure implications.

Officers will be considering the implications of these studies when their outputs become available from mid-July with the aim of providing a list of additional sites that satisfies the housing requirement of the SWDP area and its sub-areas within the stated strategy. This will be published in mid-September with a target date for consideration by each of the Councils on 30 September 2014.

Unfortunately it is not possible to progress this work as set out in the initially intended timetable and a revised timetable is attached to this letter (see Appendix 1). This is due primarily to the scale of the response to the call for sites and the technical and commissioning requirements associated with essential transport modelling which will take slightly longer than envisaged. You will appreciate that the South Worcestershire Authorities are heavily dependent upon assistance and co-operation of other organisations, such as the Highway Authority and their consultants, in turning around this work.

We trust that the information contained within this letter is helpful to you and provides you with sufficient assurance that the Councils are on track to provide a full and appropriate set of sites to meet the revised housing requirement with supporting evidence commensurate with that provided at the submission stage thus allowing the examination of the SWDP to continue to proceed towards the Stage 2 hearings in early 2015. As requested in your April 3 letter we will continue to work closely with the Programme Officer to enable the hearings to proceed at the earliest possible opportunity.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

*P Bayliss*

**Paul Bayliss**  
**SWDP Project Manager**

**Appendix 1**

**EXAMINATION OF SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**UPDATED TIMETABLE AND WORK PLAN REQUIRED TO ADDRESS REVISED HOUSING REQUIREMENT**

**10 June 2014**

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Initially proposed period</b>	<b>Revised period</b>
			<b>7 April 2014</b>	<b>10 June 2014</b>
1	Assessment of additional sites (to include objection sites, sites arising from March 2014 call for sites, etc).	A set of sites which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet the requirements of the SWDP strategy;</li> <li>• Satisfy the SHLAA criteria ;</li> <li>• Have been subjected to the necessary assessments (SA/SEA, FRA, Viability and transport)</li> <li>• Fulfil the Objectively Assessed Housing Need requirement recommendation.</li> </ul>	Until end May 2014	Until end August 2014
2	Update the schedule of proposed modifications to incorporate all FIC recommendations and site requirements	A refreshed / updated set of proposed modifications for agreement by the Inspector for consideration by the Council meetings (see line 3)	By end May 2014	By end August 2014
3	Meetings of the three full Councils to approve proposed modifications to the SWDP (including housing requirement, additional sites and other modifications)	Democratic approval of proposed modifications and assent to move to immediate public consultation.	Around end of June 2014	30 September 2014
4	Public-focussed consultation for six weeks on those modifications proposed above (point 3).	SCI compliant consultation.	Early July – mid August 2014	Early October – mid-November 2014
5	Collation of consultation responses and preparation of summary report	To provide focused consultation results for fast and effective consideration by the Inspector	By Mid-September.	By mid December 2014