



South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) - Duty to Cooperate

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to set out the actions the South Worcestershire Councils have carried out under the provisions of the statutory Duty to Cooperate (DtC).

2. Background

- 2.1. Under the Localism Act 2011, the requirements of the DtC apply to "the preparation of Development Plan Documents" e.g. the South Worcestershire Development Plan. The DtC is one of the legal tests which the Planning Inspectorate apply in the examination of Local Plans. These legal tests are significant in that if it is not passed the examination inspector cannot recommend any modifications which address the failure so the local plan making authority has to withdraw the Local Plan. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019 (paragraphs 24-27 refer) and associated planning regulations require strategic plan making authorities e.g. the SWC, to cooperate with each other when preparing Local Plan policies and allocations of land in order to address any strategic cross boundary matters, This includes dealing with unmet development needs (employment, housing, retail etc) and any strategic infrastructure needs , Green Infrastructure, Climate Change mitigation/ adaptation and so on.
- 2.2. One of the tests set out in the National Planning Policy Framework for whether a plan is 'sound' is that it should be effective. The revision of the National Planning Policy Framework in July 2018 introduced a requirement to present evidence in a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) to show that a plan is deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred. This paper and the completed SoCG proformas hereto attached at Appendix 1 provides a written record of the progress made for the SWDPR Issues and Options stage by the SWC This paper and the proformas set out the cross boundary issues discussed and what has been agreed in order to address them.
- 2.3.
- 2.4. The SWC had produced a DtC pro forma which is consistent with the subsequently published guidance issued by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS).

The pro forma helped frame the discussion and engagement with all neighbouring local planning authorities (LPAs) i.e. Bromsgrove District, Cotswold District, Herefordshire Unitary, Redditch Borough, Stratford-on-Avon, Tewkesbury (representing the Cheltenham/Gloucester/Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy councils) and Wyre Forest District during December 2018. Subsequently communication with the relevant County Councils i.e. Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Warwickshire has been undertaken as well as with Birmingham City Council and the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership

- 2.5.** For the Issues and Options stage of the SWDPR there were no proposed allocations of land for development and consequently no identified cross boundary development needs nor associated infrastructure matters could be identified. Also it was reasonably evident that given the indicative housing requirement and the availability of land submitted through the call for sites process(Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment) that new employment and housing growth could be accommodated within the administrative areas of the SWC without the need for neighbouring councils to help provide it. As the spatial development strategy had not been formulated the infrastructure implications for the required growth were not known. Consequently, cross boundary matters to date have been primarily concerned with keeping the interested parties informed/consulted on with respect to various aspects of the SWDPR evidence base such as the two AONB landscape and visual sensitivity studies, Green Belt Study, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Transport modelling and a Water Cycle Study. However, discussions also covered other plan making topics such as existing infrastructure constraints and projects as well as well as the process timetable
- 2.6.** It is reassuring to note that to date the neighbouring LPAs have all agreed to the principle of preparing a SoCG which is required for the pre-submission SWDP Review. Typically, these are more involved and difficult if the plan making authority is unable to meet all its identified development needs within its own administrative or joint plan making area and thereby need neighbouring LPAs to help out which to date is not the case for the SWDPR.
- 2.7.** The neighbouring LPAs are also reviewing their Local plans but with the exception of Wyre Forest District Council are no further into the plan making process viz a viz looking at whether they need the South Worcestershire Councils to assist them in meeting their growth requirements. The current absence of strategic cross boundary issues could equally reflect the relative plan making positions of neighbouring authorities and / or the absence of defined future development requirements or identified infrastructure needs in their areas. This clearly therefore represents a dynamic situation and that is why plan making authorities are required to keep their Statements of Common Ground under review.
- 2.8.** For the purposes of plan making across south Worcestershire, the joint plan making arrangement between the south Worcestershire Councils provides, to date, appropriate evidence of on-going co-operation under the duty. With respect to neighbouring councils the intention is that whilst the South Worcestershire Councils will agree an individual statement with each neighbour or relevant DTC body, a single south Worcestershire Statement of Common Ground will be prepared.

- 2.9.** A summary of the matters discussed with each of the neighbouring LPAs and County Councils are set out in the proformas attached at Appendix 1
- 2.10.** The completed proformas for each of the councils engaged are set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.11.** Regarding Worcestershire County Council (WCC), its officers have been engaging positively with the SWDPR from the onset, particularly in respect of the transport and Green Infrastructure evidence. The WCC and are also represented on the Officer Steering Group (OSG) as well as the Joint Advisory Panel which comprises five members from each of the SWC.. It has been agreed that given WCC's strategic role it would be sensible to draft a DtC position statement between the south Worcestershire Councils and WCC once the full round of DtC meetings and discussions have taken place and this may give rise to specific actions for WCC.
- 2.12.** With respect to the other neighbouring County Councils, i.e. Gloucestershire, Shropshire and Warwickshire, they were sent the pro forma but meetings have not been held yet as the respective parties agreed that it would be premature given the infrastructure needs and impacts are unknown until the Preferred Options stage is reached.
- 2.13.** The Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership have also been engaged. They have been involved in the development of the evidence base specifically the Economic Development Needs Assessment whose conclusions are consistent with WLEP aspirations. Their next input will be in discussing the employment allocations proposed in the Preferred Options .
- 2.14.** To date Birmingham City Council have not indicated that they are likely to request that the SWC should help with meeting the City's large, albeit the quantum remains uncertain, unmet housing requirement . The Birmingham Housing Market Area does not extend as far south as the SWC administrative areas and those local planning authorities which lie closer to Birmingham would be expected to help out under the DtC in the first instance. However, there may be a knock-on effect from those north Worcestershire local planning authorities that share a boundary with the Birmingham Housing Market Area. The SWC have contacted Birmingham City Council confirming our position on the matter.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1.** This Duty to Cooperate in a continuous process throughout the preparation of Local Plans and this paper report reflects a snapshot i.e. the SWDPR Issues and Options stage. The SWC will be contacting all the aforementioned councils (and WLEP) as soon as the Preferred Options are published for consultation . A further iteration of the proformas will be produced and of course signed Statements of Common Ground will need to be submitted, alongside the SWDPR Pre-submission document and associated papers, to the Government's Planning Inspectorate.

APPENDIX 1:

SWDPR Issues & Options – Summary of Cross Boundary Matters Identified and Discussed/Agreed.

Neighbouring Council	Matters Identified
Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils	Agreed to share the draft Stage 2 Green Belt Study and any outputs from transport modelling where it affects the A38 or M5.
Cotswolds District Council	Agreed to send a draft of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Environs Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study for comment as well as the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle studies.
Herefordshire Council	Agreed to send a draft of the Malvern Hills AONB Environs Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study for comment as well as the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle studies.
Stratford District Council	HGV policy for the Vale of Evesham; continuing protection of the Chord Lines (rail) at Honeybourne; infrastructure implications of development at Long Marston Airfield and Long Marston Depot; Share outputs of the Green Belt and Cotswold AONB studies
Tewkesbury Borough Council (also representing the other Joint Core Strategy plan making i.e. Cheltenham Borough and Gloucester City councils)	Land at Mitton. Tewkesbury requested that further planned growth at Mitton be considered; share a draft of the Cotswolds AONB and Environs Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study; share outputs of transport modelling for the A46(T) and M5.
Wyre Forest District Council	Any planned development at Arley Kings or Astley could have an unacceptable impact on traffic congestion in Stourport town centre; share draft studies on the Green Belt and the SFRA and Water Cycle studies.
Forest of Dean District Council	The Forest of Dean has confirmed that there are no matters of concern at this stage.
Gloucestershire County Council	No matters have been identified at this stage.

Neighbouring Council	Matters Identified
Warwickshire County Council	No matters have been identified at this stage.
Worcestershire County Council	Sharing of technical evidence to include the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and transport modelling; will need to look at the implications for education provision and minerals extraction re the Preferred Options allocations.
Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership	No matters have been identified at this stage. WLEP support the quantum of employment land demand set out in the Economic Development Needs Assessment.

APPENDIX 2:

SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW – ISSUES & OPTIONS		
Duty to Cooperate – Meetings Pro forma		
Council/s:	Bromsgrove & Redditch Councils	
Meeting date:	5 th December 2018	
Venue:	Redditch Borough Council offices	
Attendees:	Mike Dunphy (BDC, RBC) Gary Williams & Fred Davies (South Worcestershire Councils)	
Agenda Item:	BDC / RBC Position	SWC Position
1. Local Plan Review Timescale	<p>The timetable for the SWDPR is noted and RBC & BDC have no comments to make at this stage.</p> <p>BDC, RBC likely to make a joint representation to the SWDPR IOs.</p>	<p>Timetable for SWDPR is as per 2018 SWC LDS.</p> <p>Noted that BDC will commence their Local Plan review in 18 months – 2 years; Currently no plans for RBC to review.</p>
2. Statement of Common Ground and timing	Happy in principle with regard to proposed arrangements for producing a SCG; There will have to be separate ones for BDC and RBC.	SWC draft SCG be informally agreed with all DTC parties by 31 st May 2019.
3. Approval mechanism	SCG will need to have council and cabinet approval.	<p>The draft SCG needs to be agreed by the Joint Advisory Panel on 23 July 2019.</p> <p>Subsequently it will need to be signed off by Leaders and planning Portfolio Holders and appended to the SWDPR Preferred Options Council Reports in October 2019.</p>
4. Identification of Strategic issues;		
i. unmet housing, employment & retail needs	<p>Given the current plan making intentions / timetable for RBC / BDC there is no current or emerging evidence to suggest that housing, employment or retail needs arising in RB and BD needs to met within the SWDPR area.</p> <p>At present BD has no specific timetable for the production of a new SHMA.</p> <p>This element of the emerging SCG will be kept under review.</p>	The SWCs consider that technical evidence collected so far for the SWDPR does not suggest that any housing, employment and retail needs cannot be met within the SWC's administrative boundaries and that it should be redirected to either RB or BD.
ii. Transport – infrastructure and impacts	Agreed that transport potentially represents a cross boundary strategic issue which is likely to include:	Agreed that transport potentially represents a cross boundary strategic issue which is likely to include:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A38 corridor • M5 corridor • Rail connections to the conurbation • Possibly development impacting on The Ridgeway (A441) <p>Transport infrastructure – Transport models are to be commissioned for BDC and RBC. RB and BD will informally share progress with this modelling work with the SWCs and would look to the SWCs to do the same re SWDPR transportation evidence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A38 corridor • M5 corridor • Rail connections to the conurbation • Possibly development impacting on The Ridgeway (A441) <p>The SWC wish to be informed regarding progress with models for RB and BD and any early outputs that may impact on the network in SW and any allocations emerging through the SWDPR.</p> <p>Agreed that that SWC would, in confidence, share any key outputs from the modelling work being developed with WCC to support the SWDPR</p>
iii. Environment – Green Belt, Flood Risk; Water supply; SPAs, SSSIs etc	Referred to the Birmingham GB Study carried out by GL Hearn; no SPA nor SSSO issues at this stage.	Part 1 Green Belt Study published; SFRA underway; Water Cycle study underway.
5. Any other business	BDC and RBC wish to remain in both the Birmingham and Worcestershire LEP.	The SWCs indicated that they would await the outcome of the current national LEP boundary review / consultation.

SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW – ISSUES & OPTIONS		
Duty to Cooperate – Meetings Pro Forma		
Council/s:	Cotswold District Council	
Meeting date:	Friday 14 th December 2018	
Venue:	CDC offices, Cirencester	
Attendees:	James Brain (CDC), Fred Davies (SWC)	
Agenda Item:	Cotswolds District Council Position	SWC Position
6. Local Plan Review Timescale	Note the SWDPR timetable; will make representations on the SWDPR Issues & Options.	Timetable for the SWDPR is as per the published 2018-2021 Local Development Scheme.
7. Statement of Common Ground and timing	Supportive of agreeing a Statement of Common Ground and the proposed arrangements; Initially no material cross boundary issues identified.	The full SoCG , duly signed by the respective Leaders and planning portfolio holders would be appended to the Preferred Options committee reports which will be considered by the SWC in October 2019.
8. Approval mechanism	Would mirror those of the SWC.	A draft SoCG would need to be supported by the Joint Advisory Panel prior to the consideration of the Preferred Options by the SWC in October.
9. Identification of Strategic issues;		
i. unmet housing, employment & retail needs		Given the published overall development requirements , the availability of land following the “Call for Sites”(not yet subject to planning appraisal) and the technical evidence to date does not indicate that any of the SWC growth requirements need to be met beyond the study area
ii. Transport – infrastructure and impacts	Too early at this stage to know if there are likely to be any cross boundary infrastructure implications.	Too early in the plan making process to know what and where infrastructure needs to be provided. SWC will share any draft transport modelling reports with CDC.
iii. Environment – Green Belt, Flood Risk; Water supply; SPAs, SSSIs etc		The Cotswolds AONB & Environs Study will be published alongside the Preferred Options. SWC to share a draft with CDC for comment. SWC preparing an SFRA and a Water Cycle Study and will share those also with CDC. It was noted that land near Honeybourne is Special Landscape Area (CDC Local Plan EN16 refers) .
10. Any other business	CDC likely to publish their review Issues and Options towards the	

	<p>end of 2019; Environmental issues likely to be in the south and west of the district; Preparing a Town Centre Master Plan for Cirencester, which is likely to be included within an SPD and the town council's Neighbourhood Plan; Fairford US airbase to receive £500mn investment from US government and the neighbouring settlement likely to be expanded re the need for more forces' accommodation.</p>	
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SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW(SWDPR) – ISSUES & OPTIONS		
Duty to Cooperate – Statement of Common Ground Meetings Pro forma		
Council/s:	Forest of Dean	
Meeting date:	N/a	
Venue:	N/a	
Attendees:	N/a – Officer contact :- Forest of Dean ,Peter Williams; South Worcestershire Councils(SWC)- Fred Davies.	
Agenda Item:	FoDDC responses	SWC responses
11. Local Plan Review Timescale	Commenced review 2019 Issues and options consultation Sept 2019- adopt 2023	Timetable for the SWDPR is as per the published 2018-2021 Local Development Scheme i.e. Preferred Options to be published for consultation to be published for consultation in November 2019.
12. Statement of Common Ground and timing	TBA-	The first Duty to Cooperate report , to include agreed Statements of Common Ground , will be considered by the Joint Advisory Panel on 23 July; A DtC will be appended to the Preferred Options report to be considered by each of the SWC in October.
13. Approval mechanism		Ideally to be signed by Leaders and Managing Director/Chief Executive and approved by each of the SWC at their formal council meetings in October 2019.
14. Identification of Strategic issues;	To follow Sept 2019 consultation	
i. unmet housing, employment & retail needs	Very unlikely to require allocation in SWC, looking to meet need in FoDDC. Strategy for FoDDC will be developed after consultation	For an indicative requirement of 14,000 dwellings and 170 hectares of employment land the availability of land and technical evidence suggests that the SWC can satisfy their requirements within the SWDPR plan area i.e. SWC are not looking to Forest of Dean District Council to allocate land to meet SWDPR requirements.
ii. Transport – infrastructure and impacts	Unlikely to be major development in FoDDC area adjoining SWC allocations in keeping with rural nature and settlement heirarchy	The SWC are currently obtaining evidence as to the infrastructure implications for the provisional spatial development strategy. The land to the south of the plan area abutting Forest of Dean is very rural with settlements which are low down the likely development hierarchy so highly unlikely to be a focus for growth

		of any type.
iii. Environment – Green Belt, Flood Risk; Water supply; SPAs, SSSIs etc	FoDDC studies likely to mirror SWC, and reflect rural nature of area.	The SWC have commissioned a number of technical studies to inform the SWDPR. For Forest of Dean the most relevant one is likely to be the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
15. Any other business		To be confirmed.

SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW – ISSUES & OPTIONS		
Duty to Cooperate – Meetings Pro forma		
Council/s:	Gloucestershire	
Meeting date:	Not needed at this stage	
Venue:	N/a	
Attendees:	Fred Davies(SWC), Simon Exell	
Agenda Item:	Gloucestershire responses	SWC responses
16. Local Plan Review Timescale		SWC are aiming to publish, for consultation, the SWDPR Preferred Options in November 2019 which would be as per the published 2018-2021 Local Development Scheme.
17. Statement of Common Ground and timing		SWC need a draft SoCG (to be signed at this end by Planning Portfolio Holders and Leaders) to be agreed by 31 May 2019.
18. Approval mechanism		A finalised/agreed SoCG would be appended to the SWDPR Councils report on the Preferred Options for consideration in October 2019.
19. Identification of Strategic issues;		Typically the matters of common interest at the county council level are to with infrastructure especially transport and education. It is at the Preferred Options stage of plan making that proposed allocations of land for development are set out and it's these that will have implications for infrastructure.
i. unmet housing, employment & retail needs		For now, given the emerging technical evidence base and the quantum of land available the SWC consider it very likely that they can meet their housing ,employment and retail requirements within their administrative areas.
ii. Transport – infrastructure and impacts		As set in 4 above.
iii. Environment – Green Belt, Flood Risk; Water supply; SPAs, SSSIs etc		With respect to flood risk the SWC have commissioned a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and they are happy to share a draft for comment .
20. Any other business		Tbc.

SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW – ISSUES & OPTIONS		
Duty to Cooperate – Meetings Pro Forma		
Council/s:	Herefordshire Council	
Meeting date:	Monday 10 th December 2018 (<i>updated August 2019*</i>)	
Venue:	Herefordshire Council offices, Plough Lane, Hereford	
Attendees:	Fred Davies, Gary Williams (South Worcestershire Councils), Angela Newey (Herefordshire Council)	
Agenda Item:	Herefordshire Council Position	SWC Position
21. Local Plan Review Timescale	* Responded to the Issues and Options document stating that it did not raise any cross boundary issues and that the South Worcestershire Councils have engaged constructively with Herefordshire Council in relation to Duty to Cooperate requirements and an emerging Statement of Common Ground.	SWDPR timetable is as per the published 2018-2021 Local Development Scheme.
22. Statement of Common Ground and timing	Supportive of principle of undertaking a Statement of Common Ground.	A duly signed SoCG needs to be appended to the SWC council reports on the Preferred Options in October 2019.
23. Approval mechanism	The SOCG will be signed off by the Herefordshire Council cabinet member for Planning and transportation.	Initially a draft SoCG will be considered by the Joint Advisory Panel in advance of the Preferred Options. Subsequently the SoCG will need to be signed by respective leaders and planning portfolio holders.
24. Identification of Strategic issues;		
i. unmet housing, employment & retail needs	<p>The Herefordshire Core Strategy adopted in 2015 makes provision for all Herefordshire growth requirements to be met within the Herefordshire Council area. A review of the Core Strategy (scope to be determined) is anticipated to commence in late 2019.</p> <p>The Traveller Sites DPD is under examination. Additional sites consultation just completed on two sites identified which will meet the 5 Year Supply; no impact on SWC.</p>	At this stage, given the published housing requirement to 2041, the availability of land arising from the Call for Sites(Nb not yet subject to planning appraisal) and the technical evidence produced to date it appears that all SWC growth requirements can be met within the SWDP plan area.
ii. Transport –	The Hereford Transport Package	As the spatial development

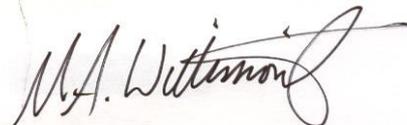
<p>infrastructure and impacts</p>	<p>includes the Hereford bypass to the west of the city and associated improvements to walking, cycling, bus and public spaces within Hereford. <i>*A decision has been taken recently to pause work on the bypass and southern link road to allow further time to review these schemes in more detail and look at other options. The outcome of this review could impact on the Core Strategy scope and timescale for review.</i></p>	<p>strategy is yet to be formulated it is premature to indicate what infrastructure is needed including that to make the additional growth sustainable. SWC agreed to share the draft transport modelling assessments.</p>
<p>iii. Environment – Green Belt, Flood Risk; Water supply; SPAs, SSSIs etc</p>	<p>The Environment Agency in partnership with Natural England has developed a Nutrient Management Plan to ensure that the River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC) achieves and maintains favourable conditions with respect to phosphate.</p> <p>The plan also takes into account proposed development growth within Herefordshire and calculates the predicted impact that development will have on the phosphate levels within the SAC.</p> <p>Hereford Integrated Catchment Strategy is being prepared to address issues related to flooding across Hereford and identify measures needed to enable growth in the city. This is being carried out in association with the Environment Agency. This work will be of the HAP evidence base in relation to flood risk. This will include work carried being carried out in relation to Natural Flood Management Project which will run until 2021/21.</p>	<p>The SWC referred to the Malvern Hills AONB Environs Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study which will be published on the www.swdevelopmentplan.org website, albeit it does not include land to the west of the Malvern Hills. The SWC are also preparing an SFRA and Water Cycle Study and is happy to share drafts with HFC for comment. Given the direction of flow of cross boundary watercourses it is highly unlikely that any SWDPR development strategy could have a detrimental impact on the River Wye SPA.</p>
<p>25. Any other business</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Plans for neighbouring parishes: Colwall (Reg 14 consultation ended March 2018) Cradley (adopted) Whitbourne (adopted) Brimfield and Little Hereford Group (adopted), Middleton on the Hill and Leysters Group (adopted) All other neighbouring parishes are not progressing or preparing an NDP and therefore will be</p>	<p>Malvern Town Neighbourhood Plan out to consultation, no proposed allocations and is proposing to protect 70+ so called 'key views'.</p>

	included in Rural Areas Sites Allocation Document. Minerals and Waste Local Plan pre-submission consultation to take place in Spring 2020.	
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Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Duty to Co-operate in relation to South Worcestershire Development Plan Review-
Date of decision:	2 September 2019
Decision maker:	Acting Assistant Director for Regulation, Environment and Waste
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Within the scheme of delegation point 65.</p> <p>To act on behalf of the council in respect of all land use planning matters administered by the Local Planning Authority under the Town and Country Planning Acts, secondary legislation and any related statutory instruments, including those listed below:</p> <p>The Town and Country Planning (Development Plan) Regulations 1991</p>
Wards:	N/A
Consultation:	Consultation will be carried out on the development plan and its supporting evidence in line with the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and associated regulations.
Decision made:	To inform the South Worcestershire Councils that Herefordshire Council will work with them to agree a Statement of Common Ground in relation to both authorities' development plans and to confirm that there are no strategic cross boundary issues identified at this stage.
Reasons for decision:	<p>Government requires neighbouring local authorities to agree Statements of Common Ground in order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working by strategic plan-making authorities. The statements should identify any strategic cross-boundary matters and document the cooperation between plan making authorities in addressing any such issues.</p> <p>The South Worcestershire Councils (Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon Councils) are reviewing the joint South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). Initial discussions between officers of the South Worcestershire councils and Herefordshire Council concluded that, at this stage, there are no strategic cross boundary issues but the Councils will continue to work together should any issues arise at future stages of the SWDP and also in relation to the forthcoming review of the Herefordshire Core Strategy.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	This decision will enable us to meet the requirements of government planning policy and to ensure effective strategic planning.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	No other options available.
Details of any declarations of interest	None

Signed



Date: 2 September 2019

SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW – ISSUES & OPTIONS		
Duty to Cooperate – Meetings Pro forma		
Council/s:	Stratford District Council	
Meeting date:	Wednesday 12 th December 2018	
Venue:	Stratford DC offices	
Attendees:	Fred Davies, Gary Williams (SWC), John Careford (SDC)	
Agenda Item:	Stratford District Council Position	SWC Position
26. Local Plan Review Timescale	SDC will submit a representation on the SWDPR I&Os; no substantive issues to raise at this stage.	The review is on track as per the published 2018-2021 Local Development Scheme
27. Statement of Common Ground and timing	Agree with the principle of preparing a Statement of Common Ground.	A SoCG, agreed by both officer parties, needs to be informally agreed by the Joint Advisory Panel. Subsequently the SoCG will need to be signed by the respective Leaders and planning portfolio holders in advice of the Preferred Options Council reports.
28. Approval mechanism	JC to check with his cabinet member.	Following on from 2. above a SoCG will be appended to the SWDP Preferred Options which will be considered by the SWC in October 2019
29. Identification of Strategic issues;		
i. unmet housing, employment & retail needs	Note that SWC not looking to meet any of its development needs in Stratford District.	At this stage SWC consider that given the availability of land (following the Call for Sites) , albeit not yet subject to planning appraisal no technical evidence suggests that the SWC cannot meet their development needs within the SWDP study area.
ii. Transport – infrastructure and impacts	Although unlikely to re-opened, would like the Honeybourne Chord Lines to continue to be safeguarded by SWDP4; Need to jointly agree the planning merits of continuing with SWDP 11:Vale of Evesham Heavy Goods Vehicles Control Zone.	Agree with SDC' position.
iii. Environment – Green Belt, Flood Risk; Water supply; SPAs, SSSIs etc	The principal common main river is the River Avon and, given its direction of flow, it can only be development in Stratford District which could give rise to a cross boundary issue; No SSSI/SAC issues identified at this stage.	SWC to share draft GB and Cotswolds AONB and Environs Lanscape and Visual Sensitivity studies. SWC would also like to see similar draft technical studies undertaken for SDC.

<p>30. Any other business</p>	<p>Long Marston Airfield, allocated in the SDC 5, has secured £13.4m Government funding through the Garden Village / Town programme. It is a joint venture with Carla Homes and will eventually deliver 3,500 homes; Planning permission for 400 secured and outline planning application for the 3,100 balance has been submitted;</p> <p>Looking ahead, SDC may look at the land between LMA and the LM Depot to the south where St Modwen's has planning permission for 1,000 dwellings adjacent to the Sims Metals approval (WD ; 370 homes).</p>	<p>Need to look at the potential infrastructure implications of further strategic growth in this broad location.</p>
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My ref : AJ/cj
Date : 15 August 2019



Mr Fred Davies, Policy Manager
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Civic Centre
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Pershore
Worcestershire
WR10 1PT

**Councillor Daren Pemberton
Deputy Leader of the Council
& Place Portfolio Holder**

Dear Fred

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review – Duty to Co-operate

I am pleased to confirm that it is the view of Stratford-on-Avon District Council that the ongoing plan-making engagement between our two Councils, as evidenced by your accompanying Duty to Co-operate Meetings Pro-forma dated 12th December 2018, in our view satisfies the requirements of the Duty to Co-operate.

I look forward to further engagement as both Councils continue to exercise our local plan-making responsibilities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Daren Pemberton', written over a horizontal line.

Daren Pemberton

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SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW – ISSUES & OPTIONS		
Duty to Cooperate – Meetings Pro Forma		
Council/s:	Tewkesbury (representing the Joint Core Strategy councils i.e. Cheltenham BC, Gloucester CC and Tewkesbury DC)	
Meeting date:	Friday 14 th December 2018	
Venue:	Tewkesbury BC offices	
Attendees:	Fred Davies, Gary Williams (SWC), Matthew Barker (TBC)	
Agenda Item:	JCS Councils Position	SWC Position
31. Local Plan Review Timescale	TBC will be submitting a representation to the I&Os; No substantive issues at this stage.	On track wrt the published 2018-2021 LDS . Preferred Options November 2019. Pre-submission 2020.
32. Statement of Common Ground and timing	Agree with the principle of preparing a Statement of Common Ground. This include all three JCS authorities.	SWC need a draft SoCG (to be signed by planning portfolio holders and leaders) to be agreed by 31 May 2019..
33. Approval mechanism	As for the Mitton Planning statement, i.e. signed by Leader and chief executive.	Full SoCG to be appended to the SWDPR Preferred Options committee report to be considered by the SWC in Autumn 2019.
34. Identification of Strategic issues;	Continued work on the development of the Ashchurch Masterplan. Possible development interest around Jct 1 M50 apparent through the JCS I&O consultation.	Given the published development requirements, the Call for Sites submissions(Nb these have not yet been subject to planning appraisal) and the technical evidence to date it is evident that the SWC should be able to meet it's requirements within the study area.
i. unmet housing, employment & retail needs	JCS Review will identify future housing and employment requirements and determine what any unmet needs are. Potential for for additional growth requirements at Mitton i.e. beyond the 500 set out in the JCS CS.	
ii. Transport – infrastructure and impacts	Impact of development at Tewkesbury/Ashchurch area on road infrastructure in the locality, including within Wychavon. Need to look at the planning merits/justification for continuing with the Lorries in the Vale policy; A46 (T); possible new M5 junction.	
iii. Environment – Green Belt, Flood Risk; Water supply; SPAs, SSSIs etc	Cotswolds AONB; Dixon Wood SSSI (Alstone); Carrant Brook.	SWC to share the outputs of the Cotswolds AONB Environs Study.
35. Any other	Garden Towns bid for the	SWC will be making

<p>business</p>	<p>Ashchurch area (circa 10,000 dwellings). Ashchurch MOD not allocated in the JCS (hence the 2,500 shortfall to 2031 and the review of the JCS); Ashchurch Master Plan out to consultation until Friday 11th January, as part of the Issues & Options consultation (which includes topics such as plan timeframe, how many and type of housing, supporting business and infrastructure); Two small scale Traveller sites proposed at Ripple; need to share transport model information and outputs.</p>	<p>representations on the JCS Issues and Options, including the Ashchurch MOD masterplan .(with respect to highway access, impact on the Cotswolds AONB and Carrant Brook.</p>
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SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW – ISSUES & OPTIONS		
Duty to Cooperate – Meetings Proforma		
Council/s:	Warwickshire	
Meeting date:	Not needed	
Venue:	N/a	
Attendees:	Fred Davies(SWC), Jasbir Kaur(Warwickshire)	
Agenda Item:	Warwickshire responses	SWC responses
36. Local Plan Review Timescale		SWC are aiming to publish, for consultation, the SWDPR Preferred Options in November 2019 which would be as per the published 2018-2021 Local Development Scheme.
37. Statement of Common Ground and timing		SWC need a draft SoCG (to be signed at this end by Planning Portfolio Holders and Leaders) to be agreed by 31 May 2019.
38. Approval mechanism		A finalised/agreed SoCG would be appended to the SWDPR Councils report on the Preferred Options for consideration in October 2019.
39. Identification of Strategic issues;		Typically the matters of common interest at the county council level are to with infrastructure especially transport and education. It is at the Preferred Options stage of plan making that proposed allocations of land for development are set out and it's these that will have implications for infrastructure.
i. unmet housing, employment & retail needs		For now, given the emerging technical evidence base and the quantum of land available the SWC consider it very likely that they can meet their housing ,employment and retail requirements within their administrative areas.
ii. Transport – infrastructure and impacts		As set in 4 above.
iii. Environment – Green Belt, Flood Risk; Water supply; SPAs, SSSIs etc		With respect to flood risk the SWC have commissioned a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and they are happy to share a draft for comment .
40. Any other business		Tbc.

SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW – ISSUES & OPTIONS		
Duty to Cooperate – Meetings Pro forma		
Council/s:	Worcestershire County Council	
Meeting date:	23 April 2019	
Venue:	County Hall, Worcester	
Attendees:	Emily Barker (WCC), Maria Dunn, Fred Davies	
Agenda Item:	Worcestershire County Council responses	SWC responses
41. Local Plan Review Timescale	EB is on the Officer Steering Group for the SWDPR.	On track re the timetable set out.
42. Statement of Common Ground and timing	Yes, agree to the principle of preparing a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG).	Draft SoCG needed by 15 July for the Joint Advisory Panel meeting on 23 July.
43. Approval mechanism	WCC Legal Services view is that a SoCG can be signed off at the Director level.	Will need formal i.e. each SWC approval, along with the Preferred Options.
44. Identification of Strategic issues;	Potentially education and minerals, which in part will depend on where development is allocated.	The SWC will seek WCC officer opinion on draft Preferred Options.
i. unmet housing, employment & retail needs	N/A	N/A
ii. Transport – infrastructure and impacts	WCC has commissioned Jacobs to undertake transport modelling for the free standing settlement options and the towns.	Noted.
iii. Environment – Green Belt, Flood Risk; Water supply; SPAs, SSSIs etc	WCC needs to be kept in the loop regarding the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment work and potential Preferred Options allocations in respect of minerals and waste complications.	Agree.
45. Any other business	None at this stage.	Noted.

SOUTH WORCESTERSHIRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW – ISSUES & OPTIONS		
Duty to Cooperate – Meetings Proforma		
Council/s:	Wyre Forest District Council	
Meeting date:	Wednesday 12 th December 2018	
Venue:	WFDC Offices, Kidderminster	
Attendees:	Fred Davies, Gary Williams, Maria Dunn (SWC), Helen Smith (WFDC)	
Agenda Item:	Wyre Forest District Council responses	SWC responses
46. Local Plan Review Timescale	Will be submitting a representation to the SWDPR Issues & Options.	SWC are on track re the SWDPR and the published 2018 Local Development Scheme.
47. Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) and timing	Supportive of the principle of preparing a Statement of Common Ground.	SWC need a draft SoCG (to be signed by the planning portfolio holders and leaders) agreed by 31 May 2019.
48. Approval mechanism	Will need WFDC Council Approval July 2019.	Full SoCG to be appended to the Preferred Options committee reports for SWC approval in Autumn 2019.
49. Identification of Strategic issues;		
i. unmet housing, employment & retail needs	Due to likely traffic implications for Stourport town centre WFC would not support development at Arley Kings nor Astley.	At this stage, against the published housing requirement, the availability of land (Nb not yet subject to planning appraisal) and the technical evidence produced to date it is evident that the SWC will be able to meet its growth requirements within the study area.
ii. Transport – infrastructure and impacts		Infrastructure impacts not known at this stage. We will share the outputs of the transport modelling of the strategic scale development options.
iii. Environment – Green Belt, Flood Risk; Water supply; SPAs, SSSIs etc		SWC have published a stage 1 Green Belt Study which will be a factor in the consideration of development options (within Wychavon District); preparation of a SFRA and Water Cycle Study underway and SWC happy to share the draft documents with WFDC for comment.
50. Any other business	WFLP Review based on a self-contained housing market area i.e. Wyre Forest; going forward with the 2016 Household	SWC have submitted representations on the WF Core Strategy review Issues & Options consultation.

	<p>Projections (higher than for 2014); Progressing with T/TS DPD (2016-2036) as sufficient suitable sites identified in the district; Aiming for July 2019 re launch of the WFLPR; Strategic housing growth focused at the Kidderminster Eastern Gateway (1,400 dwellings, Taylor Wimpy_ and Lea Castle(Homes England Garden Village 1,400 dwellings + GP surgery and primary school).</p>	
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