

South Worcestershire Development Plan Examination

Main Modifications

Public Consultation: 9 October – 20 November 2015

South Worcestershire Councils

GUIDANCE NOTE – How to Respond to the Main Modifications

Context and guidance for interested parties on the current public consultation into Main Modifications to the South Worcestershire Development Plan following Stage 2 of the Examination (February to June 2015)

Further information / advice can be obtained from each of the three authorities' Planning Policy teams – please contact either Rosie Murray at Malvern Hills (01684 862354), Adrian Becker at Worcester City (01905 722545) or Fred Davies at Wychavon (01386 565367).

Guidance for the Main Modifications consultation process

- A. The purpose of this document is to offer you guidance on responding to the Main Modifications to the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) that have arisen during the on-going Examination process. Main Modifications are those identified changes to the Plan that are considered necessary to ensure it is sound.
- B. The SWDP is being examined by an independent inspector (Mr Roger Clews) whose role is to assess whether the Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Co- operate, legal and procedural requirements and whether it is sound.
- C. A local planning authority should submit a plan for examination which it considers is “sound” – namely that it is:
- ***Positively Prepared*** – *the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development;*
 - ***Justified*** – *the plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;*
 - ***Effective*** – *the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities; and*
 - ***Consistent with National Policy*** – *the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework.*
- D. The Inspector is therefore seeking comments on the Main Modifications through a focussed consultation process, to run for six weeks from **Friday 9 October to Friday 20 November 2015 (5.00pm)**.
- E. This consultation is not an opportunity to raise matters that either were, or could have been, part of the earlier representations or hearings on the submitted plan. Comments should be confined to the Main Modifications and Sustainability Appraisal (Addendum Report) as published.
- F. This Main Modifications consultation follows on from the Stage 2 Examination hearings which were held between February and June 2015. Following the close of the consultation, representations received in response to the Main Modifications will be collated by the South Worcestershire Councils (SWC) and forwarded to the Inspector. The Inspector will consider all the valid responses made to this consultation, together with those made during the previous consultations on the Proposed Submission version of the SWDP (January to February 2013) and the Proposed Modifications (October to November 2014). Following the

Main Modifications consultation, the Inspector’s final recommendations will be made in a report to the SWC.

- G. The SWC will not comment on / respond to the representations received. Responses to these Main Modifications are for the Inspector to consider. Please note that the South Worcestershire Councils do not expect there to be further public examination hearings into the plan, so there will be no opportunity to discuss any representations at public hearings, unless exceptionally the Inspector considers this to be appropriate.

How to comment

H. If you wish to make a representation seeking a change to the Main Modifications, you should:

- i. Make clear in what way the published Main Modification is not sound or not legally compliant, having regard to the tests set out in paragraph C above.
- ii. Support your representation by evidence showing why the Main Modifications should be changed.
- iii. Say precisely how you think the Main Modifications should be changed.
- iv. Where there are a large number of identified or very similar responses to a particular modification, it would assist the inspector if individuals could work together on presenting a joint representation.

I. All submission documents, including the Main Modifications, background papers and the Sustainability Appraisal, are available to view on the SWDP website at: www.swdevelopmentplan.org. Hard copies of the Main Modifications and consultation forms, plus background evidence, will be available for inspection at the customer service centres of Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District Councils:

Worcester	Wychavon	Malvern
Customer Service Centre/Worcester Library , The Hive, Sawmill Walk, The Butts, Worcester, WR1 3PB	Pershore One Stop Shop Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore WR10 1PT	Malvern Customer Service Centre , Graham Road, Malvern, WR14 2HU
St Johns Library , Glebe Close, St Johns, Worcester, WR2 5AX	Evesham Community Contact Centre , Abbey Road, Evesham, WR11 4SB	Tenbury Wells Customer Service Centre , 24 Teme Street, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8AA
Warndon Library , The Fairfield Centre, Carnforth Drive, Worcester, WR4 9HG	Droitwich Spa Community Contact Centre , Droitwich Spa Library, Victoria Square, Droitwich Spa, WR9 8DQ	Upton-upon-Severn Customer Service Centre , School Lane, Upton upon Severn, WR8 0LE

J. Please note the following:

- Representations may be by post or email.
- Representations should ideally be made using the form provided.
- Representations received after 5:00pm on Friday 20 November may not be accepted.