

[REDACTED]

From: Policy & Spatial Planning, PSP [REDACTED] >
Sent: 30 October 2020 15:18
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Solihull Local Plan - Draft Submission Plan

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Madam/Sir

Solihull Local Plan – Draft Submission Plan

I am writing to inform you that Solihull Council has published the Draft Submission Plan as part of its Local Plan Review.

This is a statutory consultation (Regulation 19) that is being undertaken, in order for representations to be made on the Plan before it is submitted for examination by a Planning Inspector.

As the plan-making process continues, the number of policy options are refined and become more focussed. This reflects the purpose of the Regulation 19 plan as a planning document with specific policy recommendations for an area, resulting in more formal and technical questions in the consultation process. These questions relate to the four Tests of Soundness and whether the draft Local Plan is compliant with relevant legislation.

Test of Soundness:

- **Positively prepared** – providing a strategy which, as a minimum seeks to meet the area’s objectively assessed needs, and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring authorities is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development;
- **Justified** – an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;
- **Effective** - deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground; and
- **Consistent with national policy** – enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Legal Compliance:

- The plan should be included in the Local Planning Authority (LPA) current Local Development Scheme [LDS] and the key stages set out in the LDS should have been followed.
- The process of community involvement for the plan in question should be in general accordance with the LPA’s Statement of Community Involvement [SCI] (where one exists).
- The LPA is required to provide a Sustainability Appraisal [SA] report when it publishes a plan. This should identify the process by which SA has been carried out, and the baseline information used to inform the process and the outcomes of that process.

- The plan should comply with all other relevant requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended
- LPA should engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with neighbouring authorities and certain other bodies over strategic matters during the preparation of the plan. The LPA will be expected to provide evidence of how they have complied with the duty.

The consultation period runs until **Monday 14th December 2020** and I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to contribute and provide us with your views. Please use the online portal to submit your views via www.solihull.gov.uk/lpr.

There will be a number of webinar sessions for the public to attend virtually to ask questions and give feedback. Further details can be viewed at www.solihull.gov.uk/lpr.

If you have any queries, or would like any further information, please contact a member of the Policy & Delivery Team on 0121 704 8008 or email psp@solihull.gov.uk

Finally, if your contact details have changed or you no longer wish to be included on our database, please let us know.

Yours faithfully,

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