

Sandwell Local Plan – Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation Form

Draft Plan Regulation 18 Consultation (November 2023)

We are inviting your views on the Draft Sandwell Local Plan and this form should be used to make comments in response to this consultation.

The consultation period begins on **Monday 6th November 2023** and ends at **5pm** on **Monday 18th December 2023**

Comments can also be submitted online using our website at <https://sandwell.oc2.uk/>. We would encourage you to respond to our Sandwell Local Plan – Regulation 18 Draft Plan consultation using our online form as it saves time and reduces cost.

However, if you prefer, you can use this version of the response form and email it to Sandwell_LocalPlan@sandwell.gov.uk or post it to Sandwell Local Plan, Planning Policy, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3DE

PLEASE NOTE:

This form has two parts:

- Section 1: Personal details
- Section 2: Your representation/comments on the Draft Plan or Sustainability Appraisal
- Section 3: A declaration which you will need to read and sign

1. Please complete a separate response for each part of the Draft Plan / Sustainability Appraisal that you wish to comment on. If you wish to make comments on more than two parts, please copy and paste the text in Section 2 or complete more than one paper form.
2. Responses must include your name and address.
3. **Your comments cannot be treated as confidential.** By completing this form, you agree to your details being shared and your name and comment (but not your address or other personal details) being made available for public viewing.
4. It is recommended that groups that share a common view send a single response rather than multiple copies of the same response. Please attach a list of the contact details of each person who supports the comments, including their names and addresses.
5. Further paper copies can be provided by emailing Sandwell_LocalPlan@sandwell.gov.uk
6. Completed forms should be received by us no later than **5pm on 18th December 2023**

For official use only:

Respondent No:		Representation Number:	
Date Received:			

Section 1- Your Details

	1. Personal details	2. Agent's details (if applicable)
Title	Mr	
First name	Stuart	
Last Name	Morgans	
Job Title (where relevant)	Principal Planning Manager	
Organisation (where relevant)	Sport England	
House No./Street	Sportpark, 3 Oakwood Drive	
Town	Loughborough	
Post Code	LE11 3QF	
Telephone Number		
Email address		

Notes:

1. If you are an agent responding on behalf of an organisation please ensure that your details are in the Agent's details column and give the details of the client you are responding for in the Personal Details column, only the title, name and organisation boxes are necessary.
2. If you are responding as an individual (e.g. a resident) you do not need to fill in the job title and organisation boxes unless you are responding as a member of an organisation.

Please indicate which of this best describes you / your role in responding to this consultation			
Resident or Individual		Local Authority	
Planning Agent or Consultant		Public service provider e.g. education establishment, health etc	
Developer or Investor		Public agency /organisation	X
Landowner		Community or Organisation	
Business		Charity	
Land & Property Agent or Surveyor		Other (please specify in space below)	

Please note that copies of all comments received, including the name(s) of the respondent(s) will be made available for the public to view. All other personal details will remain confidential. Sandwell Council will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. Our Privacy Notice is at the end of this form.

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Date Received:			

Section 2: Your Representation / Comments

Please complete a separate copy of this section for each part of the document(s) you wish to comment on (i.e. Draft Plan or Sustainability Appraisal)

Title of document you are commenting on

Sandwell Local Plan Main Document

To which part of the document do your comments relate? Please state the policy number, Sandwell Local Plan reference number, paragraph number, page number or figure number

SHW4 - Open Space and Recreation

What is the nature of your comments? (Mark as appropriate)

General comment

X

Support

Objection

X

Please provide your comment below:

Expand this box as necessary. If attaching additional sheets, please clearly mark these with the title of document and part of the document that the comment relates to, and your name.

It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Sport England notes the contents of para 6.43 which seeks to explain the different purposes of policies SHW4 and SHW5 (which relates to playing fields and built sports facilities).

Sport England also notes and supports the reference in para 6.45 to encouraging implementation of Sport England's Active Design policy, though more accurately this should be referred to as guidance rather than policy. Also, we consider that several other policies in the Plan draw from our Active Design principles, but are not expressly referenced in the policy justification for those policies. As such, we would not wish policy SHW4 to be seen as the only policy for which Active Design is of relevance since this is one of several policies where we consider that the principles of Active Design to apply.

The policy makes reference to meeting local standards of provision for various open space typologies with reference to Appendix K. Appendix K lists in part 6 that this includes playing fields and sports pitches, however this also includes a note that the availability, access and quality of sports facilities/playing pitches will be assessed using data from the Council's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2022), with reference also made to policy SHW5 and Appendix J (which extracts some headline findings from the PPOSS. There is no reference to quantity of playing field provision in the note.

As such, we consider that as drafted its unclear whether or not policy SHW4 should be interpreted to be a relevant policy in respect of playing fields or not. Since we understand that policy SHW5 is intended to be the relevant policy that addresses the need for and protection of playing fields and built sports facilities, we strongly recommend amending the drafting of policy SHW4, its reasoned justification and the appendix to make it clearer that policy SHW4 does not relate playing fields and built sports facilities.

This is important because the drafting of part 7a) of the policy introduces a criterion that the loss of open space can be supported where is a robust and overriding matter of public interest at stake. This criterion does not accord policy SHW5, Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and para 99 of the NPPF, and so policy SHW4 conflicts with these policies, and so we must raise objection to it in so far as it may be seen as a relevant policy for assessing the impact on playing fields and other sports facilities. The drafting of part 7c) is also at odds with policy SHW5 and our Playing Fields Policy where it states that a financial contribution could be accepted to mitigate quantitative loss of open space. To address this we are strongly of the view that to avoid unnecessary mis-interpretation and conflict with other policies, that the policy explanation should make it clear that policy SHW4 does not apply to playing fields and sports facilities.

As such, part 8h) of the policy would also need to be amended since this also makes reference to the role of supporting outdoor sport and physical activity, we would suggest this is amended to refer to informal opportunities for physical activity to make a clear distinction from the types of formal provision covered by SHW5.

Without prejudice to the above point, Sport England supports the reference in part 4ciii) to expanding community use of open space and recreation facilities at places of education where this can help meet identified needs. We also support the reference in part 4cv) to improving access for all.

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Section 3: Declaration

How we will use your personal information

The personal information you provide on this form will be processed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018. The information you provide will only be used for the purposes of the preparation of the Local Plan as required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and may be used by the council to contact you if necessary regarding your submission. Your name, organisation and comments will be made available for public inspection when displaying and reporting the outcome of the statutory consultation stage and cannot be treated as confidential. You will not be asked for any unnecessary information and in order to protect personal data, we will not publish signatures, telephone numbers, addresses or email addresses on the internet. To understand more about why we collect your information, what we do with your information, how you can access your information, your personal information rights, how and to whom to raise a complaint about your information, please visit our privacy notice page at <http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/privacynotices>

Please sign and date this form. Forms signed electronically will be accepted.

Declaration:

By completing and signing this form, I agree to my name, organisation and representations being made available for public inspection on the internet.

Signature: 

Date: **14/12/2023**

I understand that in submitting my representations, that my details will be added to the Sandwell Local Plan Consultation database and I may be contacted at future stages of the local plan process.

All personal data will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation ('GDPR'). If you do not wish to be contacted further, please advise us.

☐	No, I do not wish to be contacted about the Local Plan
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Thank you for taking time to complete and return this response form.

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