

Redditch Borough Council

Town Hall,
Walter Stranz Square,
Redditch,
Worcs, B98 8AH



Planning Policy,
Sandwell MBC,
Council House,
Freeth Street,
Oldbury, B69 3DE

Via Email

15th December 2023

Dear Planning Policy

Thank you for consulting Redditch Borough Council on the Draft Sandwell Local Plan

Officers of the Council note the content of the draft Local Plan and in particular those issues highlighted in the Duty to Cooperate letter received on the 17th August 2023, namely meeting unmet housing need, meeting unmet employment need, as well as some transport issues.

Officers of the Council have read the Balanced Green Growth strategy which Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council has developed and acknowledge that this strategy currently leaves a shortfall of 18,606 homes and 143 hectares of employment land. It is also noted that the expectation remains that some of this shortfall will be met under the Duty to Cooperate across the Housing Market Area and the Functional Economic Market Area.

Redditch Borough Council remains committed to the Duty to Cooperate and will continue to engage in discussions. Redditch BC is an authority which is constrained by Green Belt and any significant future development for either housing or employment needs will require removing land from the Green Belt. With the current uncertainties around the role that Green Belt land is expected to play for future development needs, caused by the as yet unconfirmed reforms to the NPPF originally announced in December 2022, officers of the Council are unable to comment further at this stage as to the validity or otherwise of the approach taken by Sandwell MBC with this draft Local Plan.

As stated above the Council will continue to engage under the Duty to Cooperate and in due course will welcome further discussions on the approach taken by Sandwell MBC and we look forward to investigating further any cross boundary infrastructure requirements required.

Yours sincerely

Mike Dunphy
Strategic Planning and Conservation Manager

