

**ID24**

**Shropshire Local Plan Examination**

**Stage 1 (Duty to Cooperate) Matters, Issues and Questions**

**Introduction**

A number of stage 1 hearings took place in July 2022 covering numerous legal and strategic issues. This focussed hearing session will further consider the Duty to Cooperate matter, following the submission of further evidence by the Council. This evidence can be found on the examination website (GC14 & GC15 – GC15I). Please also see the Council's letter, GC19 which is of relevance to this matter.

**Matter 1 – The Duty to Co-operate**

**Issue**

Whether the Council has complied with the duty to cooperate in the preparation of the Local Plan.

**Questions**

General

1. It has emerged that the Association of Black Country Authorities (ABCA): Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton have decided to cease work immediately on the Joint Black Country Local Plan and instead each develop their own Local Plan to a timescale to be agreed by each authority (GC19). What implications, if any, does this have for the examination in relation to the duty to cooperate in the preparation of the Local Plan and the submitted statements of common ground (SoCG) with ABCA?
2. Are the SoCG with neighbouring authorities and stakeholders still relevant and up to date?

Overall housing provision

3. Having regard to the additional evidence that has been submitted by the Council (GC15 – GC15I), has the Council maximised the effectiveness of the Local Plan by engaging constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with the prescribed bodies on housing matters during the preparation of the Local Plan?
4. What has been the outcome of co-operation and how has this addressed the issue of overall housing provision?

Jobs growth and employment land provision

5. Having regard to the additional evidence that has been submitted by the Council (GC15 – GC15I), has the Council maximised the effectiveness of the Local Plan by engaging constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with the prescribed bodies on employment related matters during the preparation of the Local Plan?
6. What has been the outcome of co-operation and how has this addressed the issue of jobs growth and employment land provision?

Minerals and waste

7. What discussions have taken place with neighbouring authorities and the Aggregates Working Party regarding the use of the 3 year average sales for sand and gravel plus 20% and what level of agreement has been reached regarding use of this figure?
8. The Waste Technical Background report notes that the potential for further landfill capacity is very limited. Has there been any discussion with neighbouring authorities about potentially accommodating waste needing disposal after existing landfill capacity has been exhausted?
9. Having regard to the additional evidence that has been submitted by the Council (GC15 – GC15I), has the Council engaged constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in maximising the effectiveness of the preparation of the Local Plan? What has been the outcome of co-operation and how has this addressed the issue of minerals and waste?

Other strategic matters

10. Having regard to the additional evidence that has been submitted by the Council (GC15 – GC15I), has the Council maximised the effectiveness of the Local Plan by engaging constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with the prescribed bodies on all other strategic matters during the preparation of the Local Plan?

**THE END**