



North Warwickshire  
Borough Council

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Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council  
Planning Policy Team  
FAO Jacqui Padbury

Sent via email

Date : 02/02/24

Dear Jacqui,

### North Warwickshire Borough Council

I am writing to confirm the work carried out between Nuneaton and Bedworth BC (NBBC) and North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) for plan making purposes.

NBBC consulted NWBC at Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 stages of the production of the current proposed Local Plan. NWBC has made representations at all stages. Three issues were identified at Regulation 19 stage, these were Duty to Co-operate, Employment and Housing.

Members from both authorities have met, with the last meeting held on Friday 15 December 2023. A NBBC Member and officer explained the changes they had made to the previous version of their Local Plan and their plans to submit the Plan as soon as possible. In particular, there was discussion around the Statement of Common Ground, housing, employment and highways especially the A5.

In relation to Issue 1. - The Duty to Co-operate, the two local authorities have actively worked across the Coventry and Warwickshire area, primarily through the CSWAPO group (Coventry, Warwickshire & Solihull Association of Planning Officers). CSWAPO jointly commissioned the 2022 HEDNA as well as other work such as the Water Cycle Strategy. Previously a Memorandum of Understanding was agreed across the Coventry/Warwickshire area. Following the publication of the HEDNA a new Statement of Common Ground has been drafted and discussed with all authorities within the sub-region. It was this document that the representations related to.

In terms of the Duty to Co-operate, the NWBC recognises the work NBBC have done and we consider they have passed the legal test. Notwithstanding this, NWBC has not yet agreed to sign the Statement of Common Ground as drafted for the Coventry and Warwickshire area. We do not consider this to be a failure in the Duty to Co-operate, but the SoCG needs further changes to better reflect the pro-active work NWBC has been doing in delivering housing and employment growth for neighbouring authorities within the current adopted Local Plan. The draft SoCG will be the subject of a board report for consideration by the LDF Sub-committee and further comments will be forwarded in due course.

Although changes have been made to the NBBC local plan there remain some issues which will need to be considered by the Local Plan Inspector. These are:

- 1 Housing - NWBC understands the desire of NBBC to grow but does not understand the effect this may have on growth elsewhere and why the growth cannot be attributed to dealing with the housing needs of the wider area.
- 2 Employment - NWBC considers there should be provision of strategic employment sites included in the plan.

In addition, there is joint concern over speculative applications along the A5 and the continuing lack of investment for improvements along the route.

The two local planning authorities will continue to work proactively together, although this of course does not mean that there will always be agreement on the way forward.

Yours sincerely

*DM Barratt*

Dorothy Barratt  
Forward Planning & Economic Development Manager

Some changes were requested and are still required of the C & W SoCG as it is considered it needs to reflect the large contribution NWBC is making to the housing provision for neighbouring areas including Coventry, Birmingham and Tamworth.