

# Shropshire Local Plan

## Guidance Note:

**Shropshire Local Plan Examination: Further Consultation Focusing on Additional Material Prepared in Response to the Planning Inspectors Interim Findings**

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. On the 3rd September 2021, the draft Shropshire Local Plan was submitted for examination. Stage 1 Hearings were held in July 2022 and January 2023.
- 1.2. Subsequently, on 15th February 2023, the examining Inspectors issued their Interim Findings (reference number ID28) and supplemented this with further correspondence related to their Interim Findings on the 4th October 2023 (reference number ID36) and 16th January 2024 (reference number ID37).
- 1.3. In responding to the Interim Findings and subsequent correspondence, the Council has prepared additional documentation relating to a range of issues.

## 2. Consultation

- 2.1. To inform the ongoing examination, the examining Inspectors have requested that Shropshire Council undertake a public consultation on the following documents:
  - [GC25: The newly proposed draft policy on Housing Provision for Older People and those with Disabilities and Special Needs and its explanation.](#)
  - [Updated Additional Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Shropshire Local Plan Report.](#)
  - [Updated Housing and Employment Topic Paper.](#)
  - [Updated Green Belt Topic Paper.](#)
- 2.2. **Shropshire Council is therefore undertaking a public consultation focused on these four documents.**
- 2.3. The purpose of this consultation is to seek views from all parties on these four documents. It is important to note this consultation is **not** inviting comments on other aspects of the draft Shropshire Local Plan.
- 2.4. This consultation has been informed by the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

## 3. Consultation Period

- 3.1. **This consultation will last for 6 weeks, running from 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 until 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Any response must be submitted and received by Shropshire Council by 5pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024.**

## 4. Viewing the Documents

- 4.1. The four documents subject to consultation, and further information on this consultation is available via Shropshire Council's 'Get Involved' webpage at: <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/draft-shropshire-local-plan/>.
- 4.2. You can also look at other documents relevant to the Local Plan on the Examination Library webpages via: <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/local-plan-review/draft-shropshire-local-plan-2016-2038-examination/examination-library/>.
- 4.3. If you do not have access to a computer, the four documents are available to view electronically using available computer/tablet facilities at the Shirehall Council Office in Shrewsbury; Customer Access Points; and Shropshire libraries (*during each facilities specified opening times and subject to the availability of computer/tablet facilities, use of which may be by appointment*).
- 4.4. Further information about Customer Access Points is available on the Shropshire Council website at: [www.shropshire.gov.uk/customer-services/customer-access-points/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/customer-services/customer-access-points/).
- 4.5. Further information on libraries is available on the Shropshire Council website at: [www.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-library/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-library/).

## 5. What Information to Provide When Responding to the Consultation

- 5.1. When responding to this consultation please clearly identify:
  - Your name and contact details.
  - Which of the four documents your comments address.
  - The relevant paragraph(s) of each document you address.
  - Whether you consider there are issues of soundness or legal compliance.
  - Your comments.
  - Whether you consider it necessary to attend a hearing session(s) to discuss your comments.
- 5.2. To ensure an effective and fair examination, it is important that the Inspectors and all other participants in the examination process are able to know who has responded to this consultation. As such we cannot accept anonymous responses, so please ensure you provide your name and contact details.

- 5.3. Personal data will be processed in line with our [Planning Policy Privacy Notice](#). Responses will be published on the **Shropshire Council Website** alongside the name of the respondent.
- 5.4. Shropshire Council will also make responses available to the examining Inspectors so that they can be taken into account through the examination. The examining Inspectors will determine the most appropriate procedure to consider comments made during this consultation.
- 5.5. You should consider the following before making a response on legal compliance:
- a. The documents subject to this consultation form part of the evidence base for the draft Shropshire Local Plan. This plan should be included in the Local Planning Authorities (LPA's) current Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the key stages set out in the LDS should have been followed.
  - b. The process of community involvement should be in general accordance with the LPA's SCI, which sets out the LPA's strategy for involving the community in the preparation and revision of plans and the consideration of planning applications.
  - c. The LPA is required to provide a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) report when it publishes a plan – the documents subject to this consultation include an updated additional SA document (which should be read alongside SD006.01 - Sustainability Appraisal and Site Assessment Environmental Report of the Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Draft of the Shropshire Local Plan). The SA should identify the process by which SA has been carried out, the baseline information used to inform the process, and the outcomes of that process. SA is a tool for assessing the extent to which the plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.
  - d. The draft Shropshire Local Plan should comply with all other relevant requirements of the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended* and the *Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended*.
- 5.6. The tests of soundness are set out in paragraph 35 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Plans are sound if they are:
- a. **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;
  - b. **Justified** – an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;

- c. **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
  - d. **Consistent with national policy** – enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the NPPF.
- 5.7. If you think that the content of the documents subject to this consultation are not sound because they do not address a particular issue, you should consider the following before responding:
- a. Is the issue with which you are concerned already covered specifically by national planning policy?
  - b. Is the issue with which you are concerned already covered by documents prepared to inform earlier stages of plan making or within the draft Shropshire Local Plan itself?
  - c. If the issue is not covered elsewhere, in what way does this make the documents not sound?
  - d. How could this be addressed?
- 5.8. When submitting a response you should set out clearly in what way you consider the consultation documents are legally compliant/non-compliant and/or sound/unsound, having regard as appropriate to the soundness criteria above. Your response should be supported by evidence wherever possible. Please also use this opportunity to provide any other comments about these documents that you consider appropriate. It would also be helpful if you say precisely what modifications, if any, are required.
- 5.9. You should succinctly provide all evidence and supporting information necessary to support your response. Do not assume you will have a further opportunity to make submissions. Any further submissions will only be made if invited by the examining Inspectors, based on the matters and issues they identify.
- 5.10. Where groups or individuals share a common view on the consultation documents, it would be very helpful if they would make a single response which represents that view, rather a large number of separate responses repeating the same points. In such cases the group should indicate how many people it is representing and how the response has been authorised.
- 5.11. Please consider carefully how you would like your response to be dealt with in the examination: whether you are content to rely on your written response, or whether you wish to take part in relevant hearing session(s). Only respondents who are seeking a change to the draft Shropshire Local Plan as a result of changes required to the documents subject to this consultation have a right to be heard at

the hearing session(s), if they so request. In considering this, please note that written and oral responses carry the same weight and will be given equal consideration in the examination process.

- 5.12. The Council has prepared a **two-part Consultation Response Form** and this **supporting guidance** to assist those responding to the consultation. These documents are available on the Council's 'Get Involved' webpage.

## 6. Where to Submit a Consultation Response

- 6.1. Responses can be submitted to Shropshire Council by emailing: [planningpolicy@Shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@Shropshire.gov.uk)  
*If submitting your own response, please enter your last name in the subject field of the email. If submitting a response on behalf of a client, please enter their last name in the subject field of the email.*
- 6.2. The Council's preference is for responses to be emailed. However, they can also be submitted by post to: Planning Policy, Shropshire Council, PO BOX 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ.
- 6.3. *Please Note: You must provide your name and contact details. We cannot accept anonymous responses. Responses received will be published on the Council's website and shared with the Planning Inspectors.*
- 6.4. *The information you provide will be used and retained in accordance with our [Planning Policy Privacy Notice](#).*
- 6.5. The purpose of this consultation is to seek views from all parties on these four documents. It is important to note this consultation is **not** inviting comments on other aspects of the draft Shropshire Local Plan.

## 7. Further Information

- 7.1. If you have any queries regarding this consultation or require any assistance in viewing the documents or submitting representations, please contact the Planning Policy Team by emailing: [planningpolicy@Shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@Shropshire.gov.uk)
- 7.2. Further information on the examination of the draft Shropshire Local Plan is available via the draft Shropshire Local Plan examination webpages at: [www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/local-plan-review/draft-shropshire-local-plan-2016-2038-examination/](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-planning/local-plan-review/draft-shropshire-local-plan-2016-2038-examination/)