



Duty to Cooperate (DtC)

Black Country Authorities (BCA's) and Telford & Wrekin Council (TWC)

Date of meeting: 4pm Tuesday 15th April 2025

In attendance:

██████████ - Telford & Wrekin Council (████)

██████████ - Dudley Council (████)

██████████ – Sandwell Council (████)

██████████ – Walsall Council (████)

██████████ – City of Wolverhampton Council (████)

██████████ – Telford and Wrekin Council (████)

Apologies:

██████████ – City of Wolverhampton Council (████)

Notes:

Telford Update

- 17th March started consultation of Reg 19 plan
- Consultation ends 5th May
- TWC going under the updated (December 2024) NPPF
- Objections likely to be focused on the Sustainable Communities sites but don't foresee anything major emerging issues at this moment in time, but will be reviewing responses in detail
- Aiming to submit late June / early July
- Delegated authority (via Cabinet) to submit the plan
- BCA's want TWC to make it clear that the allocations within the plan is the maximum capacity for the borough and therefore no additional capacity available – TWC confirmed this was the case and will clarify this as part of submission.
- TWC stated there was also circa 5% buffer to allow for potential under delivery during plan period.

Dudley Update

- Finished consultation in November 2024 and submitted 14 February 2025
- Reg 19 consultation received approx. 700 reps, 200 responses
- DMBC were advised minor mods won't be examined
- Advised to complete all of their topic papers before examination
- Finalising dates for hearings – likely to start in the Summer 2025

- Telford confirmed no other cross boundary issues with Dudley and have formalised this in a letter to Dudley MBC.

Sandwell Update

- End of consultation in September, submitted in December before the NPPF came out
- 46 Respondents and 376 representations
- Hearing sessions likely to start in the Summer 2025

Wolverhampton Update

- Only had 48 responses – submitted by end of March after close of consultation in January
- Look at response to Reg 19 consultation statement to see how they dealt with not recommending any minor mods
- Their inspectors have been appointed, just waiting to hear from them

Walsall Update

- Working on their timetable
- Reg 18 consultation likely for the Autumn
- Currently procuring work for their evidence base

SoCG

- May need to make some adjustments to the document TWC have amended

Other

- BCA's pointed out the recent changes in affordability ratios that will impact TWC housing need figure. TWC may be expected to update housing need figures prior to submission or as part of the examination.
- BCA's suggested that TWC may be expected to have a later plan start date for housing purposes, in accordance with the standard method, and may need to extend the Plan end date to ensure 15 years from adoption. This may result in a reduction in the global contribution from TWC to the BCA's.
- BCA's suggested that the next LPA to submit takes the lead on updating the GBBCHMA Statement of Common Ground.

Actions

- TWC to send an email to Sandwell/Walsall/Wolverhampton to agree whether there are any non-housing cross boundary issues that require a Statement of Common Ground.