



**Sandwell Local Plan
Consultation Statement Addendum
June 2025**

1. Introduction

Sandwell Council submitted the Sandwell Local Plan and accompanying information to the Secretary of State on 11 December 2024. Inspector C Jack BSc (Hons) MA MA(TP) MRTPI from the Planning Inspectorate has been appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out the independent examination of the Local Plan.

Following submission, Sandwell Council identified three proposed main modifications to the Local Plan which it considers are necessary to ensure the Local Plan is found sound at examination.

1. The proposed allocation of part of Rowley Regis Golf Course, Tuppity Green, Rowley Regis, B66 9EJ for housing development.
2. Changes to the wording of Policy SCC4 – Embodied Carbon and Waste.
3. The removal of Hill House Farm as a potential Habitat Bank for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and its replacement with Ray Hall Pastoral Land.

Sandwell Council invited representations on its proposed main modifications under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 between 09:00 Monday 28th April and 17:00 Monday 9th June 2025.

The purpose of this statement is to describe how Sandwell Council consulted people and organisations during the additional Regulation 19 consultation in accordance with its Statement of Community Involvement (examination library reference MON/002). It should be read as an addendum to the submission version of the Consultation Statement (SUB/009).

2. Additional Regulation 19 Publication Consultation

The purpose of the consultation was to provide residents, statutory bodies and organisations with an opportunity to make representations on three main modifications to the Local Plan that are being proposed by Sandwell Council. The consultation took place without prejudice to the Inspector's final conclusions on whether the proposed main modifications should be included within the Local Plan.

2.1 Methods of Engagement

Officers were granted authority from Sandwell Council's Cabinet to undertake a public consultation on the proposed main modifications and submit them to the Local Plan Examination at a meeting on 9 April 2025 (item 28/25 refers).

The Council used the Sandwell Local Plan Consultee Database as the starting point for the engagement process. Everyone on this database received an e-mail containing information on the consultation and how to respond.

As each stakeholder group is different, the Council has used a variety of methods and approaches to ensure it reached as wide an audience as possible. Below is a summary of the key groups and the ways in which it engaged with them throughout the consultation process.

a) Communities

- Notified through a press release by Sandwell Council published on 29 April 2025.
- Hard copies of the consultation documents and feedback form were available at all of the Council's 19 libraries for the full six-week duration of the consultation.
- Notified through posts on Sandwell Council's social media platforms.
- Notified in the Council's weekly email newsletter distributed on 2 June 2025.

- Sandwell Local Plan website (www.sandwell.gov.uk/localplan) and Sandwell Local Plan Examination website (www.sandwell.gov.uk/localplanexamination) were updated with details on how to view the consultation documents and submit representations.
- Details provided on Sandwell Local Plan website and feedback form on how to contact a planning policy officer by phone, email or post.

b) Businesses

- Notified through a press release by Sandwell Council published on 29 April 2025.
- Notified through posts on Sandwell Council's social media platforms.
- Notified in the Council's weekly email newsletter distributed on 2 June 2025.
- Sandwell Local Plan website (www.sandwell.gov.uk/localplan) and Sandwell Local Plan Examination website (www.sandwell.gov.uk/localplanexamination) were updated with details on how to view the consultation documents and submit representations.
- Details provided on Sandwell Local Plan website and feedback form on how to contact a planning policy officer by phone, email or post.

c) Landowners and Investors

- Many are on the consultation database and received an email which provided information on how to view the consultation documents and submit representations on 28 April 2025.

d) Partners

- Many are on the consultation database and received an email which provided information on how to view the consultation documents and submit representations on 28 April 2025.

e) Other specific groups

- Statutory consultees and other prescribed bodies, such as the Environment Agency and National Highways, are on the consultation database and received an email which provided information on how to view the consultation documents and submit representations on 28 April 2025.

f) Duty to Co-operate

- In order to try to address some of the housing shortfall, Sandwell has been continuing with the Duty to Cooperate discussions with neighbouring authorities that were started as part of the Black Country Plan. Activity relating to the Duty to Cooperate is set out in the Duty to Cooperate Statement (DtC 001).

2.2 Consultation Materials

Press Release: A press release was made by Sandwell Council on day after the consultation opened on 29 April 2025.

Sandwell Local Plan website: The Sandwell Local Plan website (www.sandwell.gov.uk/localplan) and Sandwell Local Plan Examination website (www.sandwell.gov.uk/localplanexamination) were updated with details on how to view the consultation documents and submit representations on 28 April when the consultation started.

Consultation Software: Consultation software (OpusConsult by JDi Solutions Ltd) was used to produce an interactive digital version of the Main Modifications Consultation Document and

Sustainability Appraisal Addendum that is easy to use and allowed representors to tag comments on individual proposed main modifications.

Consultation Notifications: The consultation software allows Mailshots to be sent to all those in the database with email addresses. This was used to notify all contacts on the database of the launch of the consultation on 28 April 2025.

Proposed Main Modifications Consultation Document

A hard copy version of the Main Modifications Consultation Document and hard copies of the feedback form were available at all of the Council's 19 libraries for the full six-week duration of the consultation.

Paper Response Form: Throughout the consultation period the online consultation portal was widely promoted, to encourage as many people as possible to use this method for replying. A paper response form was also produced to capture the representations of those who do not wish to or could not use the online method.

Social Media Posts: Posts were made on the Council's social media accounts about the consultation.

Media releases were published on the following platforms.

Date (2025)	Newspaper / Website	Article
Tuesday 29 th April	Press release published by Sandwell Council	Consultation launch
Tuesday 29 th April	Post made on Council's X (Twitter) account about consultation launch	Consultation launch
Tuesday 29 th April	Post made on Council's Facebook account (approximately 53,000 followers) about consultation launch	Consultation launch
Tuesday 29 th April	Post made on Council's Instagram account (approximately 5,500 followers) about consultation launch	Consultation launch
Friday 2 nd May	Short article on consultation included in Council's weekly email newsletter which is sent to approximately 30,000 email addresses of residents and businesses in the borough	Consultation launch

2.4 Representations Received during the Consultation

During the six weeks of consultation the following number of representations were received.

		Submission Method (respondent)			Status (comment)			Totals
Document	Respondents	Web	Email	Paper	Support	Object	Comment	
Proposed Main Modifications Consultation Document	8	5	3	0	3	3	7	13
Sustainability Appraisal Addendum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	8	5	3	0	3	3	7	13

Of the 13 representations received, 3 expressed their support for the proposed main modifications, 3 objections were received and there were 7 general comments. The representations are set out in a separate table which accompanies this statement.

3. Conclusion

Sandwell has been committed to involving stakeholders and the local community in the development of the draft local plan. This is clearly demonstrated by the range and breadth of consultation and involvement since work commenced on the Issues and Options in 2022.

The purpose of this statement is to describe how Sandwell Council consulted people and organisations during the additional Regulation 19 consultation in accordance with its Statement of Community Involvement (examination library reference MON/002). It should be read as an addendum to the submission version of the Consultation Statement (SUB/009).