

**Appendix 3(c)**



**Black Country**

**Duty to Co-operate Meetings**

**2023 to 2025**

## **Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

### **Present:**

Ian Culley (Chair), Michele Ross – Wolverhampton		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Philippa Smith, Andy Miller – Sandwell		Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – N/A</b>	
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – Preferred Options Summer 023. R19 Summer 2024. UDP approach Sandwell - 6th Feb I&O. Unitary Plan approach Walsall – I&O Summer 2023 after local elections. Submit June 2026. UDP approach Wolverhampton - current programme anticipates I&O going to Cabinet Feb 2023	
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  <b>Transport</b> – Transport modelling study - completed agree to publish on individual websites Car parking study – completed agree to publish on individual websites  <b>EDNA update</b> – completed – agree to publish on individual websites. IC to ask WECD for extended projections beyond 2040.  <b>Waste</b> – completed but not published. Runs to 2039 and will need updating  <b>Minerals</b> - completed but runs to 2028 and will need updating  <b>Housing</b> – N/A  <b>G&amp;T study</b> - completed agree to publish on individual websites. PM to confirm what approach should be used to define definition of needs  <b>BC playing pitch strategy</b> – completed – published by CWC November  <b>Centres Study</b> – not yet completed and won't be until after 6th February	
5.	<b>HMA and DtC</b>  <b>SoCGs</b>	

	<p><b>Wider HMA SoCG</b> - HMA Statement of Common Ground and Work Programme – Sandwell happy to sign.</p> <p><b>South Warwickshire Local Plan</b> – out for consultation</p>	
6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Regional Air Quality work – some delay in being able to commission the work due to capacity of the consultants and updated information on housing proposals in emerging Local Plans.</p> <p>Traffic modelling – AM to advise on the opportunity to prepare updated traffic modelling work to inform future local plan preparation – ideally in place by mid-2024.</p>	

## **Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

### **Present:**

Ian Culley (Chair), Michele Ross – Wolverhampton		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Philippa Smith, Andy Miller – Sandwell		Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – 19/01/23</b> All actions completed apart from Air Quality work which is in progress	
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – R18 consultation summer with Cabinet late June/July. This subject to the final NPPF being published Sandwell - R18 consultation to 20th March. R18 Draft Plan Autumn 2023 Walsall – R18 I&O consultation June with draft Plan Summer 2024. The latter stages will need to be prepared under the new system Wolverhampton - R18 I&PO July consultation subject to NPPF. R19 Feb 2024 to submit mid-2024 and adopt 2025. Similar timetable to Dudley and Sandwell	
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  <b>Transport</b> – BCT are working up the scope of a commission to update the existing modelling work prepared for the R18 BCP. Discussion reflected the challenges of joint evidence across the BC associated with differing plan programmes and certainty over confirmation of sites. A joint baseline assessment was suggested with the individual LAs commissioning their own work going forward to support individual Local Plans. This proposal to be worked up by BCT officers and circulated to PL. Car Parking Study – completed and published on Sandwell Local Plan consultation.  <b>EDNA update and Strategic Sites Study</b> – Completions data required. Scope is to extend the forecasts to 2041 and provide information on associated employment growth by sector.  <b>Waste and Minerals</b> – proposed way forward to commission joint baseline report and individual reports to support the 4x local plans.  <b>Housing</b> – N/A  <b>G&amp;T study</b> - need to agree to using a common definition (middle definition) but review in the light of emerging case law and Inspectors Reports	ALL

	<p><b>Centres Study</b> – not yet completed and won't be until after 6th February</p> <p><b>SFRA</b> – need for an update is being scoped by the Environment Group</p> <p><b>Water Cycle Study</b> – Environment Group to review in the light of Local Plan consultation responses.</p>	
5.	<p><b>HMA and DtC</b></p> <p><b>SoCGs</b></p> <p><b>HMA Statement of Common Ground and Work Programme</b> - CWC and SMBC have signed. DMBC and WMBC to review.</p> <p><b>South Staffordshire SoCGs</b> – CWC, DMBC and SMBC have signed. WMBC to review</p> <p><b>Approach to DtC going forward</b> – each BCLA will need to write to neighbours including each other to understand their ability to meet shortfalls and highlight the need to apportion the current BC offers. Sandwell to issue DtC letter pre-May on this basis.</p> <p><b>Neighbouring Local Plan consultations</b></p> <p><b>South Warwickshire</b> - All responded in a positive manner.</p> <p><b>Shropshire</b> Local Plan Interim Report – Agreed BCAs to meet Shropshire to discuss potential contributions</p> <p><b>Lichfield</b> – NB to contact Lichfield to understand current position on Examination</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>IC</p> <p>NB</p>
6.	<p><b>AOB</b> N/A</p>	

## Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Present:**

Ian Culley (Chair), Michele Ross – Wolverhampton		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Philippa Smith, Andy Miller – Sandwell		Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall
Apologies:		
		Actions
1.	<b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – 09/03/23</b> Completions data provided. All other actions are on-going	
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – R18 to Cabinet in August/September but may be delayed further subject to the final NPPF being published Sandwell - R18 Draft Plan Autumn 2023 Walsall – will try and progress under the new system depending on whether green belt sites are included Wolverhampton - R18 I&PO reprogrammed to October/November	
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  <b>Transport</b> – paper setting out the potential scope of the transport modelling has been circulated. However, it still needs to be costed. All comments to Andy. Following this, we will be taking free advice on the scope.  <b>EDNA update and Strategic Sites Study</b> – initial numbers have been updated, awaiting commentary and blended approach. Will be shared with Employment Group in the next two weeks. Strategic Sites Study - Info supplied to consultants. Steering Group meets regularly to update on progress.  <b>Waste</b> – update underway.  <b>Housing</b> – N/A  <b>G&amp;T study</b> - Info supplied to consultants. Steering Group meets regularly to update on progress.  <b>Centres Study</b> – Info supplied to consultants. Steering Group meets regularly to update on progress.  <b>SFRA</b> – update is being scoped by the Environment Group. Agreed Walsall need to be part of the update  <b>Water Cycle Study</b> – update is being scoped by the Environment Group. Agreed Walsall need to be part of the update.	ALL   

5.	<p><b>HMA and DtC</b></p> <p><b>SoCGs</b></p> <p><b>HMA Statement of Common Ground and Work Programme</b> - agreed that there is a need to keep the momentum going and be consistent with the previous ABCA position as we are still under the current system. Walsall and Dudley still haven't signed as they are waiting for the revised NPPF.</p> <p><b>South Staffordshire SoCGs</b> – no further progress</p> <p><b>Approach to DtC going forward</b> – Sandwell to write to everyone re housing and employment shortfall and requesting certainty over the DtC offers left on the table through the MoU.</p> <p>Shropshire – BC only  Solihull – BC and B'ham (potentially all to B'ham)  Lichfield – 2000 to BC  S.Staffs – HMA</p> <p><b>Neighbouring Local Plan consultations</b></p> <p><b>Shropshire</b> Local Plan Interim Report – no action at present. Maybe a need for another session at EiP.</p> <p><b>Lichfield</b> – Draft MoU is available but no progress as yet. BCAs need to meet with Lichfield to confirm the status of the 2000 figure.</p>	<p>Sandwell</p> <p>NB</p>
6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>N/A</p>	

## **Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

### **Present:**

Ian Culley (Chair), Michele Ross – Wolverhampton		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Philippa Smith, Andy Miller – Sandwell		Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – 26/04/23</b>	
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – Reg 18 consultation in October after Cabinet in September Sandwell - R18 Draft Plan Autumn 2023 Walsall – will try and progress under the new system depending on whether green belt sites are included Wolverhampton - R18 I&PO reprogrammed to October	
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  <b>Transport</b> – work to cost £15 - 20K and is about to be commissioned.  <b>EDNA update and Strategic Sites Study</b> – info provided to Warwick Economics - overall requirement will not change - still waiting on report Strategic Sites Study - next stage is to discuss where the sites will be located.  <b>Waste</b> – no update.  <b>Housing</b> – N/A  <b>G&amp;T study</b> – no update  <b>Centres Study</b> – no update  <b>SFRA</b> – no update  <b>Water Cycle Study</b> – no update.	
5.	<b>HMA and DtC</b>  <b>SoCGs</b>  <b>HMA Statement of Common Ground and Work Programme</b> – no update  <b>South Staffordshire SoCGs</b> – no further progress	



	<p><b>Sandwell DtC letter – CWC</b> do not want to move away from migration and cited Gt Manchester as an example. BCAs need evidence that Telford have a housing/employment shortfall before they accept the offer of contributions.</p> <p><b>Neighbouring Local Plan consultations</b></p> <p><b>Shropshire</b> – no update <b>Lichfield</b> – no update</p>	
6.	<p><b>AOB</b> N/A</p>	

## **Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

### **Present:**

Ian Culley (Chair), Michele Ross – Wolverhampton		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Philippa Smith, Andy Miller – Sandwell		Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – 26/04/23</b> All actions completed.	
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – R18 Draft Plan - October Cabinet subject to NPPF Sandwell - R18 Draft Plan - October Cabinet Walsall – Local Plan Board meeting 14/7. I&O Feb/Mar under current system, but potential for being unable to adopt under current system and likely to get caught but the introduction of the new system. Wolverhampton - need to re-programme the LDS in the light of NPPF	
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  <b>Transport</b> – work not been commissioned but will go through the TfWM framework.  <b>EDNA update and Strategic Sites Study</b> – report circulated for comment  <b>Waste</b> – report circulated for comment.  <b>Housing</b> – N/A  <b>G&amp;T study</b> - Info supplied to consultants. Steering Group meets regularly to update on progress.  <b>Centres Study</b> – nothing to report  <b>SFRA</b> – each LA to commission its own SFRA work	
5.	<b>HMA and DtC</b>  <b>SoCGs</b>  <b>HMA Statement of Common Ground and Work Programme</b> - Dudley likely to want to hold off until NPPF is published. Walsall position is unclear. HMA SoCG not been signed by Walsall or Dudley. Sandwell keen to progress. CWC position not yet confirmed.  <b>South Staffordshire SoCGs</b> – no further progress	

	<p><b>Approach to DtC going forward</b> – Response to Sandwell letter - Dudley and Walsall drafts being prepared for the end of July. CWC completed in draft.</p> <p><b>Neighbouring Local Plan consultations</b></p> <p><b>Lichfield</b> – Walsall to chase.</p>	NB
6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>N/A</p>	

## **Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

### **Present:**

Ian Culley (Chair), Michele Ross – Wolverhampton		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Philippa Smith, Andy Miller – Sandwell		Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – 05/06/23</b>	
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – Reg18 consultation - autumn Sandwell - R18 Draft Plan - October Cabinet – consultation autumn Walsall – paused awaiting NPPF Wolverhampton - LDS consultation in autumn. LP - Cabinet Jan/Feb. Aiming to consult before the elections. If NPPF released in January will have to go under new system	
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  <b>Transport</b> – review of modelling work commissioned and target date for completion end of September. £9k in total. This could result in the commissioning of additional work for individual LAs..  <b>EDNA update and Strategic Sites Study</b> – potential issue over the Walsall Plan will extend the Plan period to 2042 with implications for the EDNA. Agree to complete the current EDNA and then take a view on the need for an update in 2024 with greater certainty on Plan programmes. Strategic Sites Study - Study is progressing and IC to circulate updated slide pack.  <b>Waste</b> – report circulated for comment.  <b>Housing</b> – N/A  <b>G&amp;T study</b> – no update  <b>Centres Study</b> – remove references to BCP and just refer to Local Plan  <b>SFRA</b> – no update  <b>NRN</b> - WMCA are leading on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (NRS) work but working arrangements to be confirmed. BC already has a NRS which will be plugged into the WMCA work. The BC NRS	

	will be considered by BC Cabinets in the Autumn for the purposes of BNG work.	
5.	<p><b>HMA and DtC</b></p> <p><b>SoCGs</b></p> <p><b>HMA Statement of Common Ground and Work Programme</b> - The next meeting of the Group is September.</p> <p><b>South Staffordshire SoCGs</b> – no further progress</p> <p><b>Approach to DtC going forward</b> – Response to Sandwell letter - Walsall response to be endorsed by Planning Committee in Sept/Oct – CWC in Sept. Dudley to send an officer response followed by formal response in October following cabinet.</p> <p><b>Neighbouring Local Plan consultations</b></p> <p><b>Lichfield</b> – An update report on the local plan will be taken to Lichfield Cabinet in September. LDC has indicated they will not respond until after that meeting. BCAs to arrange a meeting to discuss the way forward with LDC, i.e. to discuss the status of the offer in the submission plan and apportionment.</p> <p><b>Shropshire</b> – to be invited to a meeting with the BCAs to discuss the strategic issues of housing and employment land.</p> <p><b>Coventry Local Plan</b> – work has commenced.</p>	NB
6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>N/A</p>	

## **Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

### **Present:**

Ian Culley (Chair), Michele Ross – Wolverhampton		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Philippa Smith, Andy Miller – Sandwell		Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – 24/10/23</b>	
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – Reg18 consultation - autumn Sandwell - R18 Draft Plan - October Cabinet – consultation autumn Walsall – paused awaiting NPPF and Planning Reform Wolverhampton - LDS will need to be updated when the NPPF is published. Likely to progress R18 consultation early 2024. If NPPF into 2024 is delayed, then may need to progress under the new system. Tight timetable to achieve Plan under the new system dependant on NPPF being issues prior to end of Year.	
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  <b>Transport</b> – no update. Sandwell to chase  <b>EDNA update and Strategic Sites Study</b> – Final report was expected on 9th October. CWC to chase. IC will be updating the Employment Land supply Paper – equivalent of a SHLAA and sets out employment land supply. IC to circulate by the end of the week.  <b>Waste</b> – no update  <b>Housing</b> SHMA will need to updated separately for each LA  GTAA - CWC plan period will need an update to 2042. May need to update the evidence base for 5 year supply. LAs to determine whether GTAA to be updated. CWC to speak to RRR Consultancy.  <b>Centres Study</b> – remove references to BCP and just refer to Local Plan  <b>SFRA</b> – no update  <b>NRN</b> - WMCA are leading on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (NRS) work but working arrangements to be confirmed. BC already has a NRS which will be plugged into the WMCA work. The BC NRS	Sandwell  CWC CWC      CWC

	will be considered by BC Cabinets in the Autumn for the purposes of BNG work.	
5.	<p><b>HMA and DtC</b></p> <p><b>SoCGs</b></p> <p><b>HMA Statement of Common Ground and Work Programme</b> - number of LAs confirmed that they wish to hold off progressing with any work prior to awaiting NPPF outcome.</p> <p><b>South Staffordshire SoCGs</b> – no further progress</p> <p><b>Approach to DtC going forward</b> – Response to Sandwell letter – no change</p> <p><b>Neighbouring Local Plan consultations</b></p> <p><b>Lichfield</b> – Lichfield have Cabinet approval to withdraw Plan and this will go to Full Council for ratification. Dates to be circuited for DtC meeting</p> <p><b>Shropshire</b> – to be invited to a meeting with the BCAs to discuss the strategic issues of housing and employment land.</p> <p><b>Coventry Local Plan</b> – Issues and Options closed in October – Dudley confirmed that they had no comments to raise</p>	<p>WMBC</p> <p>SMBC</p>
6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>N/A</p>	

## **Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

### **Present:**

Ian Culley (Chair), Michele Ross – Wolverhampton		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Philippa Smith, Andy Miller – Sandwell		Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – 13/07/23</b> All actions completed.	
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – will be issuing DtC letters as part of the current consultation. Sandwell - The green belt has been identified as a hard constraint in the Sandwell Local Plan. The explanation for this approach needs to be addressed in the context of the requirements of the current NPPF. Walsall – no change. Wolverhampton – no change.	
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  <b>Transport</b> – Further work is required for Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton Local Plans, to be completed in Spring 2024. Not likely to be required for Sandwell. The AECOM Parking Study is published on the Sandwell and Dudley websites.  <b>EDNA update and Strategic Sites Study</b> – EDNA completed. WMSESS Report is delayed to the end of November.  <b>Waste</b> – Dudley and Sandwell updates completed. Awaiting Wolverhampton. Additional information is required for Walsall to enable the work to be completed.  <b>Housing</b> – N/A  <b>G&amp;T study</b> - Info supplied to consultants. Steering Group meets regularly to update on progress.  <b>Centres Study</b> – Final draft submitted to the LAs. Deadline for final comments – 16/11/23  <b>Environment – LNRS work</b> LNRS approved by all LAs except Sandwell (to go in December 2023). WMCA NNRS – Agree to attend individually at this stage.	
5.	<b>HMA and DtC</b>  <b>SoCGs</b>	



	<p><b>HMA Statement of Common Ground and Work Programme</b> - agree to pause until the NPPF is published.</p> <p><b>South Staffordshire SoCGs</b> – no further progress</p> <p><b>Neighbouring Local Plan consultations</b></p> <p><b>Lichfield</b> - meeting in January to understand current position</p> <p><b>Telford &amp; Wrekin</b> – Plan and evidence currently being reviewed to inform individual LA responses. Agreed that the overall approach from the LAs is to request that T&amp;W fully justify the basis for the housing 'offer'.</p> <p><b>South Staffs letter</b> – agreement that the letter is premature until at least the final NPPF is published, and that any major change in strategy may require another R18 consultation. CWC will be responding following January 2024 Cabinet meeting, as will Dudley. Walsall and Sandwell to consider timing of the response.</p>	
6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>N/A</p>	

## **Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2023**

### **Present:**

Ian Culley (Chair), Michele Ross – Wolverhampton		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Philippa Smith, Andy Miller – Sandwell		Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – 16/11/23</b> N/A.	
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – R18 closing date 22 December. Sandwell - R18 closing date 18 December. Walsall – awaiting clarification of the new system. Call for Sites to commence in January. Wolverhampton – R18 programmed for February Cabinet subject to NPPF. 6 week consultation March - April. May need to produce a supplementary Plan for the City Centre under the new system.	
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  <b>Transport</b> – Consultants have produced a report with recommendations on the need for and scope of further modelling. Recommendation to use Prism 6 as it is more up to date but likely to be more expensive. Need timescales and costs for each option, with inception meeting in January.  Stage 2 Parking Study approved but not published. CWC to publish in February alongside R18 consultation.  <b>EDNA update and Strategic Sites Study</b> – EDNA completed. Publication of the WMSESS Report is imminent.  <b>Waste</b> – Walsall and Wolverhampton reports are not yet completed. Officers to chase.  <b>Housing</b> – N/A  <b>G&amp;T study</b> – nothing to update  <b>Centres Study</b> – Addendum finished and published  <b>Environment – LNRS work</b> All BCLAs have approved the LNRS and is being used for BNG work.	WMBC/CWC
5.	<b>HMA and DtC</b>  <b>SoCGs</b>	

	<p><b>HMA Statement of Common Ground and Work Programme</b> - to be discussed at the next PL subject to the issuing of the NPPF.</p> <p><b>South Staffordshire SoCGs</b> – no further progress</p> <p><b>Neighbouring Local Plan consultations</b></p> <p><b>Lichfield</b> - meeting in January to understand current position</p> <p><b>Telford &amp; Wrekin</b> – Walsall, Dudley, Sandwell and CWC submitting a response welcoming the principle of a contribution but clarity needed on the basis for it.</p> <p><b>South Staffs letter</b> – CWC and Walsall to respond in January. Sandwell have responded to say the request is premature and any significant changes to the R19 Plan may be challenging procedurally and reminding SS of the BC shortfall. Dudley to respond on similar basis.</p>	
6.	<p><b>AOB</b> N/A</p>	

## **Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

### **Present:**

Ian Culley – Wolverhampton (Chair)		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Andy Miller, Philippa Smith - Sandwell		Liz Forster, Neville Ball - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
Michele Ross - Wolverhampton		
Dave Holloway - Walsall		
		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>Formalising Black Country Planning Leads Meetings</b> Agreed that BCPL meetings be formalised as DtC meetings, with relevant DtC issues minuted as a formal record.	PS to take notes of meeting and produce minute
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – Reg18 complete, working towards Reg19 later this year Sandwell - Reg18 complete, working towards Reg19 later this year Walsall – Call for Sites until later in 2024 Wolverhampton – Reg18 Issues and Preferred Options out for consultation until April 2024	
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  SFRA – JBA request for info – will be similar for all BCLAs  Infrastructure – need to address issues around sites adjacent to council boundaries in BC.  Iceni work on review of Local Housing Need for Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton Local Plans – MR drafted a brief prior to demise of the BCP. Need to check relevance and confirm costings.  Transport – will receive a ‘do minimum’ scenario in May with the rest of the data received during June/July.  BCLAs will need to review their Uncertainty Logs ASAP so as not to impact the programme.	Dudley to check info sent for BCSFRA.  Discuss at next BCPL meeting  MR to action and report back  All to review Log ASAP
4.	<b>BNG</b> Discussion around the potential for BC BNG process if we’re off-setting sites outside of borough boundaries. NE is currently the only responsible body for BNG, BCLAs could be each other’s responsible body.	Briefing note to next BCPL meeting
5.	<b>HMA and DtC Strategic Growth Study</b> – potential for 10 LAs to participate in the work. Will need to rely on data from those who don’t want to participate.  Remit – review of existing study, advise on need, high level look at areas over and above the existing growth locations.	IC

	<p>Agreed to request advice from PAS.</p> <p><b>Cannock Local Plan</b> Closing date for reps – 18th March Includes 500 dwellings for BC – will be asking for more clarity over the wording and justification for this contribution.</p> <p><b>South Staffs</b> Currently reviewing the Local Plan in the light of the current NPPF.</p>	<p>Walsall to respond to Cannock Local Plan consultation.</p>
6.	<p><b>AOB</b> National Trust – have plans for a regional park, mainly in Bromsgrove <a href="https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/worcestershire-herefordshire/clent-hills/8-hills">https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/worcestershire-herefordshire/clent-hills/8-hills</a></p>	<p>VP to monitor/respond</p>

**Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 9th April 2024**

**Present:**

Ian Culley (Chair), Michele Ross – Wolverhampton		Liz Vesty - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Andy Miller, Philippa Smith - Sandwell		Liz Forster, Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
Vicki Popplewell - Dudley		
		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<p><b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – 22/02/24</b>  Agreed that BCPL will be the forum for signing off DtC minutes.  There is an understanding that the minutes may be published.</p> <p>All four councils agreed to Ian Culley chairing the meetings.</p>	<p>Dudley to confirm acceptance of notes</p> <p>All to provide track changes by end of week</p>
2.	<p><b>Black Country Local Plans</b>  Dudley – Reg18 complete, working towards Reg19 later this year  Sandwell - Reg18 complete, working towards Reg19 later this year  Walsall – Call for Sites until later in 2024, awaiting new Regs before producing a new timetable.  Wolverhampton – Reg18 Issues and Preferred Options out for consultation until April 2024</p>	
3.	<p><b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b></p> <p>Infrastructure – need to address issues around sites adjacent to council boundaries in BC.</p> <p>Iceni work – MR drafted a brief prior to demise of the BCP. Need to check relevance and confirm costings.</p> <p>Waste and Minerals – Walsall and CWC still awaiting their final reports.</p> <p>DtC – concerned with local and strategic cross boundary waste movements.  Dudley has requested meetings with relevant LAs.  Separate meeting to be arranged to discuss how the BCAs are individually approaching minerals and waste issues and to agree a consistent approach.</p> <p>Employment – SSES has identified sites in adjacent boroughs that could contribute to BC needs.</p>	<p>MR to action and report back</p> <p>WSP have been contacted</p> <p>Waste and Minerals Leads to discuss</p> <p>Employment Leads to discuss</p>
4.	<b>BNG</b>	

	<p>Agreed that BNG Governance should be a regular item on the agenda. Walsall are leading on this for the BC. Further discussion at next BC meeting.</p>	Discussion at next meeting
5.	<p><b>HMA and DtC</b>  <b>HMA Growth Study</b> – LAs in the HMA now need to confirm whether they are prepared to contribute to the Study. Letters need to go out.</p> <p><b>South Staffs</b>  Reg19 Plan approved. The GB sites have been deleted which reduces the housing contribution to the BC and increases the employment land contribution.  BC responses are likely to express disappointment at the changes but recognise that they are in accordance with the revised NPPF.  S.Staffs has also sent round SoCGs for housing and employment.  None of the BCAs will be signing them in the current form.</p>	IC and Sandwell
6.	<p><b>AOB</b>  Raby Estates, Beslow, Shropshire – developers are looking for support from BCLAs.  Dudley and Sandwell have responded.</p>	

## **Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

### **Present:**

Ian Culley (Chair), Michele Ross – Wolverhampton		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Philippa Smith – Sandwell		Liz Forster - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
Andy Miller - Sandwell		
Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall		
		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – 09/04/24</b> Employment – SSES has identified potential broad locations in adjacent boroughs for more detailed assessment though Local Plan preparation that could contribute to BC needs.  BNG Governance – see item 4.  HMA Growth Study – IC has emailed all HMA LAs to confirm participation and contributions	
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – Reg19 – September Cabinet and October Council Sandwell - Reg19 – September Cabinet and October Council Walsall – Call for Sites until later in 2024, awaiting new Regs before producing a new timetable. Wolverhampton – Reg18 closed in April, Reg19 – November Cabinet and December Council	
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  <b>Transport</b> – Transport Study – consultants are awaiting info from various sources.  <b>Employment</b> – WMSESS – Draft Final Report has been received. Looking to publish in September.  <b>EDNA update</b> – commissioned by CWC.  <b>Centres</b> – CWC working on brief and quote.  <b>Waste and Minerals</b> – Walsall and CWC have not yet received their reports. Sandwell to chase.  <b>Housing</b> – Homes and Jobs Alignment Study – the proposal for the work has been received from consultant.  <b>HRA</b> – Awaiting the results of the Regional Air Quality Modelling work.  <b>HMA Growth Study</b> – HMA LAs have been asked to participate and contribute – awaiting responses.	
4.	<b>BNG</b> Agreed that BNG Governance should be a regular item on the agenda. Walsall are leading on this for the BC.	Discussion at next meeting



	<p>Further discussion at next BC meeting.</p> <p>Strategic Significance Guidance for BNG – EcoRecord has requested the info be held on their website. CWC and Sandwell need to agree.</p>	MR and PMc
5.	<p><b>HMA and DtC</b>  <b>HMA Growth Study</b> – email sent to all HMA authorities asking for confirmation that they will take part in the Study – asking for response by 14th June.</p> <p><b>South Staffs Local Plan</b>  South Staffs consultation – all BC responses submitted.</p> <p><b>SoCGs</b>  Discussed an approach to DtC for the BC.  The main aim is to have a housing SoCG covering the wider HMA area.  This was agreed as a way forward for DtC in BC and will seek approval for the approach across the wider HMA area.</p> <p><b>DtC Letter</b> – discussed the draft letter to be sent out from Sandwell as part of the DtC process. BCLAs have agreed in principle but have time to send specific comments to Sandwell.</p> <p><b>BC Apportionment</b> – agreed to use the most up-to-date migration figures for BC apportionment. Andy Donnelly is reviewing the previous paper prepared by IC using the most up to date data.</p>	IC
6.	<p><b>AOB</b>  Strategic Significance Guidance for BNG – EcoRecord has requested the info be held on their website</p>	

# Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 9th July 2024

## Present:

Ian Culley (Chair), Michele Ross – Wolverhampton		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Philippa Smith – Sandwell		Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
Andy Miller - Sandwell		
Liz Forster - Walsall		
		Actions
1.	<b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – 06/06/24</b> Agreed that BNG Governance should be a regular item on the agenda. Walsall are leading on this for the BC. Further discussion at next BC meeting.	Discussion still needs to take place
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – Reg19 – September Cabinet and October Council Sandwell - Reg19 – September Cabinet and October Council Walsall – Call for Sites until later in 2024, awaiting new Regs before producing a new timetable. Wolverhampton – Reg18 closed in April, Reg19 – November Cabinet and December Council	No change
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  <b>Transport</b> – Transport Study – timetable will be delayed due to waiting for information. There will be a three-week delay on the original SWECO work.  <b>Employment</b> – WMSESS – Final Report will be discussed at Next HMA meeting. Discussion ongoing to confirm publication date and arrangements but provisionally September 2024.  <b>EDNA update</b> – Findings will be fed into the Jobs and Alignment Study.  <b>Centres</b> – currently awaiting approvals from Sandwell to commence the work.  <b>Waste and Minerals</b> – Walsall and CWC have not yet received their reports. Sandwell to chase.  <b>Housing</b> – Homes and Jobs Alignment Study – awaiting approvals from Sandwell to commence the work.  <b>HRA</b> – Cannock Extension Canal is potentially the only area likely to be impacted by air quality issues. However, there are some concerns over the methodology, particularly the housing numbers, which may have been under-estimated.	
5.	<b>HMA and DtC</b> <b>HMA Growth Study</b> – sufficient local authorities have been engaged to enable the work to begin. The next stage is to confirm the	IC

	<p>arrangements for commissioning the work, considering any changes to the NPPF. Work to be commissioned by WMCA.</p> <p><b>Birmingham Plan</b> – agreed to prepare a BC response to the Reg18 consultation.</p> <p><b>Solihull</b> – a BC response is required. Propose to revisit the previous draft response and recirculate.</p> <p><b>SoCGs</b></p> <p><b>South Staffs</b> – agreed to undertake individual bi-lateral SoCGs with SStaffs.:</p> <p><b>FEMA</b> – Neville to produce comments on the draft South Staffs FEMA SoCG for employment land and circulate. This to form the basis of the Black Country FEMA SoCG which IC will draft and circulate.</p> <p><b>WM Interchange</b> – Email has been sent to all relevant LAs. The information from this SoCG will inform the Black Country FEMA SoCG.</p> <p><b>Sandwell DtC Letter – BC Responses</b>  CWC – briefing Cabinet Member on 2<sup>nd</sup> August and then will send a formal response.  Walsall – response sent.  Dudley – to brief Leader and Cabinet.</p> <p><b>BC Apportionment</b>  VP to update the HMA SoCG once information on migration figures is received from Andy D.</p>	<p>VP</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>NB / IC</p> <p>IC</p> <p>IC</p> <p>VP</p> <p>VP</p>
6.	<b>AOB</b>	

**Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 5th September 2024**

**Present:**

Ian Culley (Chair) – Wolverhampton		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Andy Miller, Philippa Smith – Sandwell		Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
Patricia McCullagh - Sandwell		
Michele Ross - Wolverhampton		
		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – 09/07/24</b> None	None
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – Reg19 – 25 September Cabinet and consult in October – November Sandwell - Reg19 – 11 September Cabinet and consult in Sept – October Walsall – tbd – may decide to progress a Plan under current guidance given the extension to submit until December 2025. Wolverhampton — November Cabinet and consult in December-January	
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  <b>Transport</b> – Transport Study – timetable has been delayed but SWECO will complete prior to Sandwell consultation commencing. AM advised that there were no showstoppers flagged up by the modelling particularly when proposed mitigation/transport improvements and proposals were factored in.  <b>Employment</b> – WMSESS – Final Report to be published on 9th September by Nuneaton & Bedworth as part of the EiP submission. Report will be presented to WMCA Board in November.  <b>EDNA update</b> – Work currently being reviewed to address concerns over the robustness of the forecasting data.  <b>Centres</b> – work commenced and nearing completion. The updated report is not expected to have any major changes from previous Centre's work.  <b>Waste and Minerals</b> – CWC has now received their reports. Walsall to follow up with WSP.  <b>Housing</b> – Homes and Jobs Alignment Study – awaiting clarification on the economic modelling and agreed employment land data approach.  <b>HRA</b> – Ongoing	
5.	<b>HMA and DtC</b>	

	<p><b>HMA Growth Study</b> – sufficient local authorities have been engaged to enable the work to begin. The next stage is to confirm the arrangements for commissioning the work, considering any changes to the NPPF. Work to be commissioned by WMCA.</p> <p><b>Birmingham Plan</b> – agreed to prepare a BC response to the Reg18 consultation.</p> <p><b>Solihull</b> – a BC response is required. Propose to revisit the previous draft response and recirculate.</p> <p><b>SoCGs</b></p> <p><b>Shropshire Updated SoCG</b> - to be signed off by each LA to reflect the identification of sites in the Shropshire Plan to meet the BC housing needs.</p> <p><b>Agreed HMA wider SoCG</b> to agree apportionment on the contributions and those LAs receiving the contributions. This will need to be based on migration data which Andy Donnelly is currently pulling together.</p> <p><b>South Staffs</b> – agreed to undertake individual bi-lateral SoCGs with SStaffs.</p> <p><b>FEMA</b> – BC FEMA SoCG to be produced for agreement.</p> <p><b>WM Interchange</b> – Email has been sent to all relevant LAs. The information from this SoCG will inform the Black Country FEMA SoCG.</p> <p><b>Bilateral SoCG</b> between individual LAs were required on cross boundary matters.</p> <p><b>Sandwell DtC Letter – Responses</b> Still awaiting three responses.</p> <p><b>BC Apportionment</b> VP to update the HMA SoCG once information on migration figures is received from Andy D.</p>	<p>IC</p> <p>VP</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>VP</p> <p>IC</p> <p>IC</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>VP</p>
6.	<b>AOB</b>	

## **Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

### **Present:**

Ian Culley (Chair), Michele Ross – Wolverhampton		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Philippa Smith – Sandwell		Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
Andy Miller - Sandwell		
		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – 05/09/24</b> None	None
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – Reg19 – Reg19 consultation begins on 18th October. Sandwell - Reg19 – Reg19 consultation began on 23rd September until 11th November (extended by one week). Walsall – tbd Wolverhampton — November Cabinet and consult in December-January	
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  <b>Transport</b> – Transport Study – completed. Dudley has some concerns with how the Active Travel Measures have been written into the Plan, i.e. their impacts on the movement of traffic. There are also some issues around Burnt Tree that needed to be addressed.  <b>Employment</b> – WMSESS – Final Report has been published. Only queries so far have related to Nuneaton and Bedworth.  <b>EDNA update</b> – the final demand figures have been agreed. We are now only waiting for the demand vs supply paper. This will enable the Jobs and Homes Study to be completed. There are also issues around offices to be addressed which will have some cross over with the Centres Study.  <b>Centres</b> – work commenced and nearing completion.  <b>Waste and Minerals</b> – Walsall still to follow up with WSP  <b>Housing</b> – Homes and Jobs Alignment Study – can progress once the demand vs supply paper has been received (EDNA).  <b>AQ HRA</b> – Work on two of the sites is ongoing. All parties have agreed to produce a SoCG containing a mitigation plan. NE need to be happy with the mitigation measures to enable them to sign the SoCG.	
5.	<b>HMA and DtC</b>	IC IC

	<p><b>HMA Growth Study</b> – Brief is currently being prepared in line with the current NPPF. The next stage is to confirm the arrangements for commissioning the work with the WMCA.</p> <p><b>SoCGs</b></p> <p><b>Shropshire Updated SoCG</b> - signed and completed</p> <p><b>Wider HMA SoCG</b> - agree apportionment of any contributions and those LAs receiving the contributions, including the apportionment between the BCAs. This will include the contribution from Telford to the BC. VP to provide draft early in November.</p> <p><b>South Staffs</b> – CWC and Sandwell have signed, DMBC &amp; WMBC will sign after Cabinet approval.</p> <p><b>BC FEMA SoCG</b> – 4 BCAs, SStaffs, Birmingham, Bromsgrove, Wyre Forest, Shropshire This can now be produced using the EDNA figures WMI apportionment table will be included.</p> <p><b>Bilateral SoCG</b> between individual LAs were required on cross boundary matters.</p>	<p>VP</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>IC</p> <p>ALL</p>
6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>BNG – BNG meetings to be held every 6 weeks. Invitation to a discussion session with Warwickshire Council – LAs to identify attendees.</p>	

## **Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Present:**

Ian Culley (Chair), Michele Ross – Wolverhampton		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Philippa Smith, Andy Miller – Sandwell		Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – 12/11/24</b> BNG - No action as yet. IC to discuss with AD	None
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – Reg19 consultation ends on 29th November. Sandwell - Reg19 consultation ended on 11th November Walsall – tbd Wolverhampton — November Cabinet with Reg19 consultation in December- January. Hope to submit by end of January 2025.	
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  <b>Transport</b> – Transport Study – completed. SWECO have produced a response to technical queries raised by National Highways on the modelling. This response can be used by all BCAs and will be published.  <b>Employment</b> – WMSESS – Final Report has been published.  <b>EDNA update</b> – final document has been received and circulated to employment leads  <b>Centres</b> – work completed  <b>Waste and Minerals</b> – Walsall still to follow up with WSP. CWC – checking queries.  <b>Housing</b> – Homes and Jobs Alignment Study – still to be completed.  <b>AQ HRA</b> – Meeting this week to discuss further findings. Hoping to agree a way forward for local plans this week.	
5.	<b>HMA and DtC</b>  <b>HMA Growth Study</b> – Brief is currently being prepared in line with the current NPPF. The next stage is to confirm the arrangements for commissioning the work with the WMCA.  <b>SoCGs</b>	IC



	<p><b>Shropshire Updated SoCG</b> - still uncertainty about Shropshire contribution to BC housing shortfall due to pause in EiP. Still awaiting a letter from the Inspectors as to the issues to be addressed.</p> <p><b>Wider HMA SoCG</b> - VP has circulated a first draft for comment. It contains the approach to apportionment and confirmation of the shortfalls. There are also lots of gaps. Need comments before it can progress any further.</p> <p>To be discussed at the next HMA meeting.</p> <p><b>BC FEMA SoCG</b> – 4 BCAs, SStaffs, Birmingham, Bromsgrove, Wyre Forest, Shropshire Still to do.</p> <p><b>Bilateral SoCG</b> between individual LAs were required on cross boundary matters.</p>	<p>VP</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>IC</p> <p>ALL</p>
6.	<p><b>AOB</b> None</p>	

## **Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

### **Present:**

Ian Culley (Chair), Michele Ross – Wolverhampton		Vicki Popplewell - Dudley
Patricia McCullagh, Philippa Smith, Andy Miller – Sandwell		Neville Ball, Dave Holloway - Walsall
<b>Apologies:</b>		
		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<b>Black Country DtC meeting notes – 12/11/24</b> No issues	
2.	<b>Black Country Local Plans</b> Dudley – Reg19 consultation closed on 29th November. Looking to submit during the transition period. Sandwell - Reg19 consultation closed on 11th November. Submitted 11/12/24. Walsall – timetable approved at Cabinet – Reg18 in Autumn 2025, Submission in December 2026. Wolverhampton — Reg19 closes on 9th January. Hope to submit by end of January 2025.	
3.	<b>Evidence and Cross Boundary Issues</b>  <b>Transport</b> – Transport Study – completed. SWECO have produced a response to technical queries raised by National Highways on the modelling. This response can be used by all BCAs and will be published.  <b>EDNA update</b> – completed  <b>Waste and Minerals</b> – Walsall still to follow up with WSP.  <b>Housing</b> – Homes and Jobs Alignment Study – work will not be progressing unless it is required at an EiP.  <b>AQ HRA</b> – Draft SoCG has been prepared	
5.	<b>HMA and DtC</b>  <b>HMA Growth Study</b> – Brief is currently being prepared in line with the current NPPF. The next stage is to confirm the arrangements for commissioning the work with the WMCA.  <b>SoCGs</b>  <b>Shropshire Updated SoCG</b> - no update on EiP. However, the BCAs have commented on the draft SoCG. <b>Wider HMA SoCG</b> - almost completed – awaiting response from North Warwickshire and Telford. To be discussed at future HMA meetings.	IC         VP

	<p><b>BC FEMA SoCG</b> – still in progress</p> <p><b>Bilateral SoCG</b> between individual LAs could be required on cross boundary matters.</p> <p><b>Lichfield Local Plan</b> – Dudley and Walsall responded</p> <p>Call for evidence from WM Mayor – no responses</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>
6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>None</p>	

## Black Country Planning Leads - Duty to Co-operate Meeting - 30th January 2025

**Present:**

[illegible]

	Call for evidence from WM Mayor – no responses	ALL
6.	<b>AOB</b> None	