

Qn. No.	Response (original)
Q8.7	<p>The three tiers were implicitly endorsed by the Centres Study, which recommended boundary changes and confirmed the status of Tier One and Tier Two centres.</p> <p>No examination of the <i>number</i> of tiers took place; the centres study did look at the components of the first and second tiers of Sandwell and recommended alterations or confirmed boundaries and places in the hierarchy of centres.</p> <p>Additional centres were proposed i.e. at Quinton (Holly Bush) and Bearwood (Abbey Road). Boundary amendments were identified to others, including Cradley Heath and Bearwood, and a local centre was deleted (at the junction of the A4123 and Hagley Road).</p> <p>This shows the hierarchy is fluid and capable of change as set out in paragraph 90 of the NPPF (December 2023).</p>

Qn. No.	Response (amended)
Q8.7	<p>The three tiers were explicitly endorsed by the Centres Study 2020 (p204), (p181, para 12.5)(13.21, p 191) which confirmed the status of Tier One, Tier Two and Tier Three centres</p> <p>It noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the predominance of Strategic Centres for comparison goods (table 4.5 p 67), the different role of Town Centres for convenience goods, with each centre ‘anchored’ by a major food store (Section 7.136, p 103, bullet point two), the predominantly service and convenience function of District and Local Centres (8.11, p 106). <p>The centres study also looked at the components of the first and second tiers of Sandwell and recommended alterations or confirmed boundaries and positions in the hierarchy of centres.</p> <p>In line with the Study (para 12.5, p 181) additional centres were proposed i.e. at Quinton (Holly Bush) and Bearwood (Abbey Road). Boundary amendments were identified to others, including Cradley Heath and Bearwood, and a local centre was deleted (at the junction of the A4123 and Hagley Road).</p> <p>This shows the hierarchy is fluid and capable of change as set out in paragraph 90 of the NPPF (December 2023).</p>