



## **Sandwell Local Plan 2024-2041 - Examination**

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Wednesday 1 October 2025 starting at 9.30am

### **Hearing Sessions Agenda**

Week 3 Day 2 Morning Session

Please Note:

- All participants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the hearing statements (and any relevant evidence) produced by the Council and other parties in respect of the matters to be discussed at this session. These are available on the examination website.
- The relevant Matters, Issues and Questions (SA/ED59) for this session are attached to this agenda for ease of reference. The discussion will typically follow the MIQs in order, focused on points upon which the Inspector requires further information or clarification. Some questions will require little discussion, and others may require significant discussion. The Inspector is also likely to have additional associated questions relating to the plan's soundness and/or legal compliance.
- Morning hearing sessions will typically finish no later than 1pm and will include a mid-morning break. Afternoon hearing sessions will finish by 5pm, with a mid-afternoon break.

### **1. Inspector's Opening and Introductions**

#### **Matter 5: Climate Change Policies**

### **2. Issue 5 – Whether the plan's policies for climate change are sound (Questions 5.1 to 5.7)**

Areas for discussion:

- Policy SCC1
  - Policy name/focus
  - Flexibility and deliverability/viability
  - National policy



- Policy content/length
- Policy SCC2
  - Flexibility and deliverability/viability
  - Post-occupancy monitoring
- Policy SCC3
  - Overheating assessments
- Policy SCC4
  - National policy
  - Assessment guidance
  - Flexibility
- Policy SCC5
  - Site-specific flood risk assessments
- Policy SCC6
  - Flexibility
- Any main modifications necessary

### **3. Close**



## **MATTERS, ISSUES AND QUESTIONS (MIQs)**

### **MATTER 5: Climate Change (Policies SCC1 – SCC6)**

#### **Issue 5 – Whether the plan is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy with regard to its policies on climate change.**

- Q5.1** Will policy SCC1 provide a justified and effective framework for reducing operational carbon in new build residential development? Including:
- a) Are the policy's expectations for development clearly set out?
  - b) Should the requirements of criterion 3d) apply only to major developments?
  - c) Are the requirements justified and appropriately costed in relation to general development viability and any effect on housing supply and affordability?
  - d) Are the requirements flexible enough?
  - e) Are the requirements consistent with national policy towards achieving net zero and the expectations of the Government's Written Statement "Planning - Local Energy Efficiency Standards Update" made on 13 December 2023?
- Q5.2** Is policy SCC2 justified, effective and consistent with national policy in its approach to reducing operational carbon in new build non-residential development?
- Q5.3** Is policy SCC3 justified, effective and consistent with national policy in its approach to climate-adapted design and construction? Including:
- a) Is the approach to overheating assessment in 4a. and 4b. justified?
- Q5.4** Is policy SCC4 justified, effective and consistent with national policy in its approach to embodied carbon?
- Q5.5** Are the requirements of policy SCC5 justified and effective regarding meeting the challenge of flood risk? Including:
- a) Are the requirements consistent with national policy?
  - b) Is the approach to flood risk assessment proportionate?
- Q5.6** Is policy SCC6 justified, effective and consistent with national policy in its approach to sustainable drainage? Is it sufficiently flexible?
- Q5.7** In terms of this issue, are any main modifications necessary for soundness?