

Sandwell Local Plan Examination in Public
West Midlands Combined Authority – Spatial Development Strategy Update
November 2025

The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) board approved the ‘ [Spatial Development Strategy Initiation: WMCA](#)’ to initiate work towards developing a new [Spatial Development Strategy](#) for the WMCA area. This includes establishing governance and working arrangements, a public and stakeholder engagement plan and the adoption of eight guiding principles to inform the development of the SDS at each stage.

Consultation

A community questionnaire has been published on WMCA website seeking views on the challenges facing communities up to 12th December 2025.

Provisional Timetable

(Subject to government regulations)

Stage 1	Summer 2025 – Spring 2026	SDS initiation and scoping including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioning evidence base • Establishing working groups and wider governance Initial public and stakeholder engagement
Stage 2	Spring – Autumn 2026	Issues and Options Consultation (following publication of regulations and guidelines)
Stage 3	Winter 2026 – Spring 2027	Publication of draft SDS and public consultation
Stage 4	Spring 2027 – Winter 2027	Public Examination
Stage 5	Spring 2028 onwards	Adoption, monitoring and review