

Sandwell MBC Local Development Scheme



Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

September 2021

1. Introduction

1.1 This Local Development Scheme (LDS) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and sets out: -

- the Local Development Documents (LDDs), which are to be defined as Development Plan Documents (DPDs);
- the subject matter and geographical area to which each DPD is to relate;
- which DPDs are to be prepared jointly with one or more other local planning authority; and
- the timetable for the preparation and revision of the DPDs

1.2 The LDS sets out the timetable for the preparation or revision of any LDDs covering Sandwell for the period 2021-2024 and supersedes all previous versions of the Sandwell LDS.

2. Sandwell Development Plan Documents

2.1 The Local Development Documents, which are to be defined as Development Plan Documents, covering the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council local authority area through this LDS are: -

- Black Country Core Strategy – adopted 2011 (now Black Country Plan)
- Sandwell Site Allocations & Delivery Development Plan Document - adopted 2012
- West Bromwich Area Action Plan – adopted 2012
- Smethwick Area Action Plan – adopted 2008
- Tipton Area Action Plan – adopted 2008
- Statement of Community Involvement - adopted 2016

2.2 The Black Country Core Strategy is a strategic plan prepared jointly by the four Black Country authorities to cover the Black Country area (Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton) for the period 2006-2026. The Core Strategy addresses strategic priorities for the Black Country, covers all subject areas at a strategic level and indicates broad locations for development on a key diagram. When it was adopted in 2011, the Core Strategy replaced various policies and allocations in the Sandwell Unitary Development Plan (2014).

2.3 The Area Action Plans were prepared to set out local policies, allocations and designations for key regeneration areas identified in the Black Country Core Strategy. These Area Action Plans replaced various policies and allocations in the Sandwell Unitary Development Plan when they were adopted.

3. Timetable for Preparation and Revision of Sandwell Development Plan Documents

3.1 The NPPF requires all local planning authorities to complete a review of DPDs that have been adopted for five or more years and to decide either:

- that their policies do not need revising and publish their reasons for this decision; and / or
- that one or more policies do need revising and update their LDS to set out the timetable for this revision.

3.2 This LDS fulfils the requirements of the NPPF in this regard, as set out below:

DPD	Years since adoption	Need for revision 2021-24?	Current position and way forward
Black Country Core Strategy / Black Country Plan (BCP)	10	Yes	Review currently underway and revision timetable included in this LDS.
Sandwell Site Allocations and Delivery DPD (Sandwell Development Plan)	9	Yes	Review currently underway and revision timetable included in this LDS.
West Bromwich Area Action Plan	9	Yes	Review of AAP will form part of Development Plan and will help deliver the BCP. Not yet underway, although an interim planning statement and masterplan is in the process of being prepared, to help bridge the policy gap prior to adoption of the revised AAP
Smethwick Area Action Plan	13	Yes	Review of AAP will form part of Development Plan and will help deliver the BCP. Not yet underway.
Tipton Area Action Plan	13	Yes	Review of AAP will form part of Development Plan and will help deliver the BCP. Not yet underway.

3.3 Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council is currently working with Dudley, Wolverhampton and Walsall Councils to review the Black Country Core Strategy. The subject matter scope of the new Plan will be wider than the existing Core Strategy, including new site allocations and a review of existing

allocations, where appropriate. The new Plan will include all the strategic policies for the Black Country, as defined in the 2021 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Black Country Core Strategy will in future be known as the “Black Country Plan” to reflect the guidance set out in the NPPF.

The timetable for the review is set out below:

Black Country Plan (formerly Black Country Core Strategy) Preparation Timetable

PLAN PREPARATION STAGE	TIMESCALE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues and Options consultation 	July – September 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish revised timetable • Publish further evidence • Open ‘call for sites’ consultation for 6-8 weeks 	June-July 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish delivery evidence 	December 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet consideration of Draft Plan 	July 2021
Draft Plan Public Consultation (eight weeks)	August - October 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet consideration of publication version of BCP 	July 2022
Publication Public Consultation	August-September 2022
Submission of Plan	March 2023
Examination	April 2023 - March 2024
Adoption	April 2024

3.4 It is the intention to run the Sandwell Development Plan review approximately twelve months behind that of the Black Country Plan. To avoid consultation duplication on any stage of the Sandwell Development Plan coinciding with those of the Black Country Plan, the proposed timetable is set out below:

Sandwell Development Plan (formerly Sandwell Site Allocations Document)

Issues & Options Consultation	January 2022
Draft Plan consultation	October 2022
Plan Publication	October 2023

Submission to Secretary of State	March 2024
Examination in Public	Summer 2024
Adoption	March 2025