

Summary of Comments made on the Joint Cabinet Agenda - Thursday 28 May 2026

5. South Warwickshire Local Plan – Publication (Regulation 19 Plan)

In respect of the Addendum circulated on the day of the meeting

The Committee recommended to Joint Cabinet that:

- (1) Officers should provide, by Friday, a comparison of existing standards vs the proposed plan in respect of Net zero DPD and Bio Diversity Net Gain and Affordable housing, and where Councillors do and do not have a choice.
- (2) clarity is provided on when the Regulation 19 consultation should take place and if it is delayed, when is the latest date on which it needs to start to achieve an on-time submission.
- (3) recommendation 5.1.2, of the addendum, be revised to reference that the Viability Assessment will be considered by the South Warwickshire Local Plan Advisory Group;
- (4) the viability assessment should also be shared with all Councillors, and any significant changes as result of the ongoing work, should come back to Council for consideration.
- (5) recommendation 5.1.1.d, of the addendum, be amended to remove the reference to Net Zero Carbon target, as these should not be qualified.

The Committee also

- (1) expressed disappointment on the Biodiversity Net Gain reduction to 10% but noted this was a national decision; and
- (2) noted that viability is an assessment at a point at time and viability will be reassessed as we go forward through the plan.

Strategic allocations and strategy for those

The recommends to Joint Cabinet that:

- (1) an additional recommendation be added to the report that the Councils recognise the housing numbers are set nationally by government and the Council is required to deliver a sound plan for those numbers.
- (2) a further review of the non-strategic sites is conducted to determine which sites may pose more risk to soundness by including them, rather than excluding them.

The Committee commented that:

- (1) the Joint Cabinet should explore the relative density levels within the local plan to look at the potential to increase density were appropriate rather than setting a blanket standard.
- (2) the way that the plan has been created may lead to concerns that residents voices have not been heard, and more work needs to be done to assure residents on the actions taken as a result of previous consultations.

- (3) all Councillors should be reminded to take time to review before their respective Council meetings the following documents:
Link to the Topic Paper [SWLP Growth Strategy Topic Paper Publication Version.pdf](#)
Link to the HELAA [South Warwickshire Local Plan](#)
Link to the DtC Compliance Document [Appendix 7 - Effective cooperation Statement of Compliance.pdf](#)
Link to Green Belt Review [southwarwickshire.org.uk/doc/214648/name/GB Exceptional Circumstances Topic Paper.pdf](http://southwarwickshire.org.uk/doc/214648/name/GB%20Exceptional%20Circumstances%20Topic%20Paper.pdf)

Process followed and now onwards

The Committee:

- (1) had a significant amount of documents to read before taking a decision but there were a number of pre-meeting questions not yet responded to. The Committee were of the view that these questions need to be responded to by officers before Council next Monday.
- (2) noted that there are some miss matches within documents that are not enough for the plan to be unsound but will need to be corrected before submission.
- (3) would like to see a timeline and next steps for the delivery of the Local Plan and supporting documents to submission stage.

Transport

The Committee:

- (1) were concerned with the quality and detail of the strategic transport analysis based on this being Reg 19 consultation stage, and for this reason the Committee requested for them to see the STA in updated draft form as soon as it is available
- (2) has concerns that by putting forward schemes, some of which may be unnecessary road schemes, makes them too certain and the committee would like more flexibility how these come forward over the life of plan in recognising IDP is a living document
- (3) would advise the Joint Cabinet to see the timeline, requested previously, including the continued work on the STA and when that should be completed by.

Other Strategic infrastructure

The Committee commented that the Plan should clarify its position on infrastructure for non strategic sites.

Key Policies

The Committee commented that within the glossary there needs to include a definition of Grey Belt, as set out within the NPPF

General comments

The Committee noted the 150 pre-meeting questions, an addendum and an addendum to the addendum from officers.

The Committee thanked all officers and the members of the South Warwickshire Local Plan Advisory Group for their work to date on Local Plan and the Development Manager, Head of PAE and Head of Local Plan for their attendance and responding to over 6 hours of questions from the Committee.

The Committee would like to highlight the challenges in attempting to scrutinise such a large number of papers and such a significant project. These were challenges that were foreseen by members from the outset and we are disappointed that we have not been able to access papers earlier to enable an effective scrutiny process.