

Section 4 Duty to Cooperate (DtC) 2024

Introduction

- 1.1 Strategic policy-making authorities are required to cooperate with each other, and other bodies, when preparing, or supporting the preparation of policies which address strategic matters. This includes those policies contained in local plans (including minerals and waste plans) and spatial development strategies. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024 confirms that local planning authorities and county councils (in two-tier areas) continue to be under a duty to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries.
- 1.2 The Core Strategy was adopted in October 2015. The Council is now in the process of preparing a new local plan to cover the period up to 2041 and the following table illustrates how the Council has and intends to engage with various organisations, including the prescribed bodies. This will include consideration of the revised NPPF and new housing figures resulting from revisions to the Standard Method. This process is ongoing, and the Council as a Local Planning Authority will continue to engage constructively with strategic policy-making authorities and relevant bodies as the plan progresses towards submission.
- 1.3 A [Minerals and Waste Local Plan \(MWLP\)](#) has been prepared to guide mineral extraction and the management of waste in Herefordshire up to 2041 and beyond. The MWLP was adopted in March 2024 and replaces the saved minerals and waste policies of the Unitary Development Plan. A judicial review of the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and High Court Hearings were held in December 2024. Updates on this will be posted on the Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) webpages.
- 1.4 The Table below shows the DtC activity that has taken place up to 31 December 2024

| Name of organisation: | Issue / Local Plan | Details | Outcome / Proposed Action |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Forest of Dean District Council | No strategic cross boundary issues identified at this stage. | Regular meetings held. No strategic cross boundary issues identified. | Ongoing discussion and regular meetings. A statement of Common Ground for the Herefordshire Local Plan Review will be prepared for submission. |
| South Worcestershire Councils | Statement of Common Ground between Herefordshire and South Worcestershire Councils signed September 2023. This was submitted to the Secretary of State in relation to the examination of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review. | Regular meetings held. No strategic cross boundary issues identified. | Ongoing discussion and regular meetings. A statement of Common Ground for the Herefordshire Local Plan Review will be prepared for submission. |
| Shropshire Council | | Regular meetings held. No strategic cross boundary issues identified. | Ongoing discussion and regular meetings. A statement of Common Ground for the Herefordshire Local Plan Review will be prepared for submission. |
| Gloucestershire County Council | | Meeting February 2024 to discuss progress of local plan and any cross-boundary issues. | None identified. Future meetings to be arranged as required. |
| Historic England | Local Plan and Design Code progress and Heritage Impact Assessments. | Meeting in October 2022 to discuss progress on the local plan and to outline approach to heritage impact assessments. Further meeting in July 2024 to discuss response on Regulation 18 consultation and way forward. | No DtC issues identified. Further meetings to be arranged as and when appropriate with a view to agreeing a statement of common ground for submissions of the plan. |
| National Highways | Discussions with National Highways on emerging place shaping proposals and strategic allocations. | Meetings and correspondence in 2023 and 2024. National Highways provided advice on strategic allocations. | No significant issues identified. HC working up proposals and considering highway impacts. Further meetings to be arranged as and when appropriate with a |

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| | | | view to agreeing a statement of common ground for submissions of the plan. |
| National Gas | Strategic Site allocations and impact on gas pipelines. | Meeting October 2024 Discussing working in the vicinity of National Gas Transmission high pressure gas pipelines and associated installations, HSE Buffer Zones, and the Local Authorities statutory duty to consider applications for development in the vicinity of high pressure (above 7 bar) pipelines and to advise the developer on whether the development should be allowed on safety grounds using rules provided by HSE | Exchange of mapping information. |
| National Grid | Safeguarding of National Grid Infrastructure and Assets | Meeting August 2023 to discuss potential impacts on the national grid infrastructure. Concluded that proposed strategic allocations and strategy could be accommodated. A need was highlighted for a boost in capacity on the extra high voltage network. Ledbury and Ross require upgrades to infrastructure. | No further action required at this stage. Agreement to continue to have regular meetings at least twice a year and consult at key stages of the Local Plan's production, as well as continuing to provide annual updates on growth plans for the Distribution Future Energy Scenarios. |
| One Public Estate including representatives from Wye Valley Trust, Taurus Health Care, Police and Fire services. Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health Care and NHS Trust, | Provision of health care, other infrastructure and facilities to meet housing growth identified in the local plan. | Ongoing and regular discussions through 2022 and 2023. Presentation of March 2024 Regulation 18 consultation draft. | Further discussions to take place with on the provision of infrastructure with individual providers to inform the emerging Infrastructure Development Plan. |

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| Herefordshire Council Property Services | | | |
| Welsh Water | Planning liaison issues | LPA forum to discuss key areas pertaining to Welsh Water's role as a statutory consultee in the planning process February 2023. | Further engagements and discussions to take place as the local plan is developed. |
| Welsh Water | Provision of information for evidence base- Water Cycle Study and HELAA. | Liaison with consultants (JBA) for the sharing of hydraulic data feeding into the Water Cycle Study. Email contact (in 2021, 23, and 24) for updated status of supply/waste infrastructure capacity by settlement, to feed into the HELAA. | Follow up on findings of revised WCS if required. Continue to liaise as site allocations get taken forward for allocation where necessary, to ensure feasibility and common ground. |
| Severn Trent Water | Provision of information for evidence base- Water Cycle Study and HELAA. | Liaison with consultants (JBA) for the sharing of hydraulic data feeding into the Water Cycle Study. Email contact (in 2021 and 2023) for updated status of supply/waste infrastructure capacity by settlement, to feed into the HELAA. | Follow up on findings of revised WCS if required. Continue to liaise as site allocations get taken forward for allocation where necessary, to ensure feasibility and common ground. |
| Wye Valley and Malvern Hills National Landscape | Discussions about the Local Plan progress and direction including focus on the Natural Environment evidence progress and Design coding. | AONB partnership participation in natural environment evidence base exercise September 2022. Attendance at Malvern Hills National Landscape Management Plan workshop. May 24 | Ongoing discussion and meetings as appropriate |

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| Environment Agency | Regulation 18 Consultation Evidence base including Water Cycle Study and SFRA | Meeting on local plan held in July 2024 to discuss representations on the Local Plan and requirement for evidence. | Further meetings and engagement to be held as required. Further input into the Water Cycle Study. |
| Homes England | Affordable housing provision | Council working with Homes England regarding affordable housing provision in relation to the Local Plan. | Ongoing discussions. |
| Natural England | Various local plan issues including recreational pressures affecting the Malvern Hills SSSI. | Council liaising with Natural England to arrange discussions on issues. | Future meetings to discuss issues including with other local authorities regarding recreational pressures. |
| Minerals and Waste Local Plan | | | |
| West Midlands Resource Technical Advisory Group | Consultation at key stages of the emerging Local Plan | Regular meetings of the WM RTAB on a twice-yearly basis. Meetings were held in June and December of 2024. | No WM RTAB response to Herefordshire draft Local Plan consultation. The RTAB were key consultees during the production of the adopted MWLP. |
| West Midlands Aggregate Working Party | Consultation at key stages of emerging Local Plan | Regular meetings of the WM AWP on a twice-yearly basis. Meetings were held in May and December of 2024. | No WM AWP response to Herefordshire draft Local Plan consultation. The WM AWP were key consultees during the production of the adopted MWLP. Implications on minerals demand and supply of rises in housing requirements to be discussed at future meetings. |
| Gloucestershire County Council and Worcestershire County Council | Discussion of cross-boundary minerals and waste issues and local plan progress | Meetings held in May and November 2024. | No issues arising from Herefordshire Local Plan consultation. Discussion of implications of (proposed) NPPF increase in housing requirements on minerals and waste related matters. Continue to meet twice yearly and to consult on local plan preparation of each authority. |

