

Warwick District Local Plan 2011-2029

Update relating to Policy DS19: Review of the Local Plan

In order to ensure that policies remain relevant and effective, regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) requires that local planning authorities must review local plans at least once every 5 years from their adoption date. Paragraph 33 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), February 2019, reiterates this requirement.

As the Warwick District Local Plan was adopted in September 2017 this means that the regulations and national planning policy do not require a review to be completed on the Plan until September 2022. However, Policy DS19 'Review of the Local Plan' does state that *"...In any event the Council will undertake a comprehensive review of national policy, the regional context, updates to the evidence base and monitoring data before 31st March 2021 to assess whether a full or partial review of the Plan is required"*.

Since the adoption of the Local Plan in 2017, a new version of the NPPF has been published providing updated national planning guidance. There are a number of new plan-making requirements within the NPPF not contained within the previous 2012 version and also a number of revised plan-making requirements. Other changes to planning use classes and permitted development have also occurred since adoption of the Plan.

In addition to changes to policy at the national level, a new key consideration at the local level since adoption of the Local Plan is Warwick District Council's declaration of a climate emergency in June 2019 and subsequent development of a Climate Emergency Action Programme. The Plan will enable the Council to be carbon-neutral by 2025 and help the district to also be carbon-neutral by 2030.

As part of our regular development monitoring function, the Council reviews and revises the housing trajectory on an annual basis and publishes an annual Authority Monitoring Report. This has shown that we continue to have a housing land supply in excess of 5 years (currently 5.63 years for the period 2019/20), and a score of 122% in our Housing Delivery Test.

In light of the changes above, and notwithstanding our currently healthy position in terms of housing land supply as demonstrated by our monitoring, we consider it appropriate to undertake a comprehensive review of the Plan. This will include a full review of relevant parts of our evidence base.

On 1st October 2020 the Council's Executive approved a number of recommendations that support the Council in preparing a joint Local Plan for South Warwickshire in conjunction with Stratford-on-Avon District Council. Similar approval was secured at Stratford District Council. Work has subsequently commenced and proceeded at pace on the preparation of the South Warwickshire Local Plan and following some initial stakeholder engagement, it is anticipated that an initial formal Scoping and Call for Sites consultation will take place in Spring 2021.

Therefore, we propose to review the current plan through the preparation of the South Warwickshire Local Plan which will ultimately result in a single plan covering the whole of the South Warwickshire area.

Warwick District Council, Planning Policy

31.03.2021