

Response to the Revised Local Plan 2022

I became aware of the public consultation concerning the final draft of the South Staffordshire Local Plan via our Local Parish Council. I would have otherwise been unaware of the opportunity to submit my comment as all communication from SSDC regarding this process and information regarding any face to face meetings was digital. Digital communication bypasses a large section of the community. As you are aware, local authorities are legally obliged to use a diverse range of channels of communication, a single method of communication is contrary to SSDC's **Statement of Community Involvement**. Furthermore, residents have found the process of viewing and commenting on the Local Plan on line complex.

Precious Green Belt is being relinquished to accommodate a neighbouring authority's unmet housing need, the figures for which are inaccurate and outdated. Housing demand may only be ascertained by the using reliable and consistent methodology - **NPPF para 31** 'the preparation and review of all policies in a Local,Plan should be underpinned by relevant and up to date evidence'

The NPPF states that only in very Special Circumstances should Greenbelt be developed. To develop valuable Greenbelt in order to accommodate the inaccurate, unmet housing needs of a neighbouring authority because of the Duty to Cooperate, does not amount to Very Special Circumstances. It is not one of the seven exceptions listed at paragraph **149** of the **NPPF**.

SSDC have not detailed how a new development at Langley Road would impact on the local infrastructure or how the increased traffic, demand for health services and school places would be addressed or by whom
....Wolverhampton? I note that Wolverhampton, in their response to the 2021 consultation, requested such evidence but that it has not been forthcoming from SSDC. Paragraph **35 of NPPF** refers.

In the light of the impending changes to Planning Control, announced by Michael Gove on 5 December 2022, it would be logical for SSDC to pause the progression of the revised Local Plan as have other Authorities.

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