# South Worcestershire Councils

## Strategic Policies for the Purposes of Neighbourhood Planning

**Introduction**

Paragraphs 183 – 185 of the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) says:

Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need. Parishes and neighbourhood forums can use neighbourhood planning to:

- set planning policies through neighbourhood plans to determine decisions on planning applications; and

- grant planning permission through Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders for specific development which complies with the order.


Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to ensure that they get the right types of development for their community. The ambition of the neighbourhood should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area. Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. To facilitate this, local planning authorities should set out clearly their strategic policies for the area and ensure that an up-to-date Local Plan is in place as quickly as possible. Neighbourhood plans should reflect these policies and neighbourhoods should plan positively to support them. Neighbourhood plans and orders should not promote less development than set out in the Local Plan or undermine its strategic policies.


Outside these strategic elements, neighbourhood plans will be able to shape and direct sustainable development in their area. Once a neighbourhood plan has demonstrated its general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and is brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies in the Local Plan for that neighbourhood, where they are in conflict. Local planning authorities should avoid duplicating planning processes for non-strategic policies where a neighbourhood plan is in preparation.


**What is meant by Strategic Policies?**

Paragraph 156 of the Framework says that local planning authorities should set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:

- the homes and jobs needed in the area;

- the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;

- the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);

- the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and

- climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.

DCLG Planning Practice Guidance (paragraph 075) says the basic condition addresses strategic policies no matter where they appear in the development plan. It does not presume that every policy in a Local Plan is strategic or that the only policies that are strategic are labelled as such.

**How is a Strategic Policy determined?**

DCLG Planning Practice Guidance (paragraph 076) says that strategic policies will be different in each local planning authority area and will depend on the following considerations:

(i)   whether the policy sets out an overarching direction or objective

(ii)  whether the policy seeks to shape the broad characteristics of development

(iii) the scale at which the policy is intended to operate

(iv)  whether the policy sets a framework for decisions on how competing priorities should be balanced

(v)   whether the policy sets a standard or other requirement that is essential to achieving the wider vision and aspirations in the Local Plan

(vi)  in the case of site allocations, whether bringing the site forward is central to achieving the vision and aspirations of the Local Plan

(vii) whether the Local Plan identifies the policy as being strategic

**Framework for Consideration of Strategic Policies in SWDP**

Policies in the adopted South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) have been assessed against the seven considerations set out in paragraph 076 of Planning Practice Guidance to determine which policies are considered to be strategic.

The SWDP policies, together with an assessment of whether they are strategic, and the reasons for that judgement, are set out in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 – Strategic Policies in the South Worcestershire Development Plan**

| | Overarching Direction or Objective (i) | Shape Broad Characteristics of Development (ii) | Scale at which Policy is intended to operate (iii) | Policy sets a framework for decisions on how competing priorities should be balanced (iv) | Policy sets a standard or other requirement that is essential to achieving the wider vision and aspirations in the Local Plan (v) | Site allocations, whether bringing the site forward is central to achieving the vision and aspirations of the Local Plan (vi) | Whether the Local Plan identifies the policy as being strategic (vii) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Strategic Policies** | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 1: Overarching Sustainable Development Principles | Y | | Y | Y | | | Y |
| SWDP 2: Development Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy | Y | Y | Y | Y | | | Y |
| SWDP 3: Employment, Housing and Retail Provision Requirement and Delivery | Y | | Y | Y | Y | | Y |
| SWDP 4: Moving Around South Worcestershire | Y | | Y | Y | | | Y |
| SWDP 5: Green Infrastructure | | Y | Y | | Y | | Y |
| SWDP 6: Historic Environment | Y | | Y | | Y | | Y |
| SWDP 7: Infrastructure | | | Y | | | | Y |
| **Generic Policies** | | | | | | | |
| **Economic Growth** | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 8: Providing the Right Land and Buildings for Jobs | Y | | Y | | | | |
| SWDP 9: Creating and Sustaining Vibrant Centres | Y | | | | | | |
| SWDP 10: Protection and Promotion of Centres and Local Shops | Y | | | | | | |
| SWDP 11: Vale of Evesham Heavy Goods Vehicles Control Zone | | | | | | | |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SWDP 12: Employment in Rural Areas | Y | | | | | | |
| **Housing** | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 13: Effective Use of Land | Y | Y | Y | | | Y | |
| SWDP 14: Market Housing Mix | Y | | | Y | | | |
| SWDP 15: Meeting Affordable Housing Needs | Y | Y | Y | | | Y | |
| SWDP 16: Rural Exception Sites | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 17: Travellers and Travelling Showpeople | Y | | Y | | | | |
| SWDP 18: Replacement Dwellings in the Open Countryside | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 19: Dwellings for Rural Workers | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 20: Housing to Meet the Needs of Older People | | | | | | | |
| **Environmental Enhancement and Protection** | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 21: Design | Y | Y | Y | | | | |
| SWDP 22: Biodiversity and Geodiversity | Y | | | | | | |
| SWDP 23: The Cotswolds and Malvern Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty | Y | | | | | | |
| SWDP 24: Management of the Historic Environment | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 25: Landscape Character | | | | | | | |
| **Resource Management** | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 26: Telecommunications and Broadband | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 27: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy | Y | | Y | | | Y | |
| SWDP 28: Management of Flood Risk | | | | Y | Y | | |
| SWDP 29: Sustainable Drainage Systems | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 30: Water Resources Efficiency and Treatment | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 31: Pollution and Land Instability | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 32: Minerals | | | | | | | |

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| SWDP 33: Waste | | | | | | |
| **Tourism and Leisure** | | | | | | |
| SWDP 34: Tourist Development | | | | | | |
| SWDP 35: Visitor Accommodation | | | | | | |
| SWDP 36: Static and Touring Caravans, Chalets and Camping Sites | | | | | | |
| SWDP 37: Built Community Facilities | | | | | | |
| SWDP 38: Green Space | | | | | | |
| SWDP 39: Provision for Green Space and Outdoor Community Uses in New Development | | | | | | |
| SWDP 40: Waterfronts | | | | | | |
| SWDP 41: Marinas and Moorings | | | | | | |
| SWDP 42: Residential Moorings | | | | | | |
| **Allocation Policies** | | | | | | |
| **Worcester City** | | | | | | |
| SWDP 43: Worcester City Allocations | | | | | Y | |
| SWDP 44: Worcester City Centre | | | | | Y | |
| SWDP 45: Directions for Growth Outside the City Boundary | | | | | Y | |
| **Wychavon** | | | | | | |
| SWDP 46: Pershore Allocations | | | | | Y | |
| SWDP 47: Pershore Urban Extension | | | | | Y | |
| SWDP 48: Droitwich Spa Allocations | | | | | Y | |
| SWDP 49: Droitwich Spa Urban Extension | | | | | Y | |
| SWDP 50: Evesham Allocations | | | | | Y | |
| SWDP 51: Evesham Urban Extensions | | | | | Y | |
| **Malvern Hills** | | | | | | |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SWDP 52: Malvern Allocations | | | | | | Y | |
| SWDP 53: Malvern Technology Centre (QinetiQ) | | | | | | Y | |
| SWDP 54: Blackmore Park | | | | | | Y | |
| SWDP 55: Three Counties Showground | | | | | | Y | |
| SWDP 56: Development at North-East Malvern | | | | | | Y | |
| SWDP 57: Tenbury Wells Allocations | | | | | | Y | |
| SWDP 58: Upton-upon-Severn Allocations | | | | | | Y | |
| **Village Hierarchy Allocations** | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 59: New Housing for Villages | | | | | | Y | |
| **Implementation and Monitoring** | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 62: Implementation | | | | | | | |
| SWDP 63: Monitoring Framework | | | | | | | |

**Policies in the SWDP considered as Strategic for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning**

Based on the assessment in Table 1 above, the following policies of the South Worcestershire Development Plan are considered to be Strategic for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning:

SWDP1 Overarching Sustainable Development Principles
SWDP2 Development Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy
SWDP3 Employment, Housing and Retail Provision Requirement and Delivery
SWDP4 Moving Around South Worcestershire
SWDP5 Green Infrastructure
SWDP6 Historic Environment
SWDP7 Infrastructure
SWDP8 Providing the Right Land and Buildings for Jobs
SWDP9 Creating and Sustaining Vibrant Centres
SWDP10 Protection and Promotion of Centres and Local Shops
SWDP12 Employment in Rural Areas
SWDP13 Effective Use of Land
SWDP14 Market Housing Mix
SWDP15 Meeting Affordable Housing Needs
SWDP17 Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
SWDP21 Design

SWDP22 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

SWDP23 The Cotswolds and Malvern Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

SWDP27 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

SWDP28 Management of Flood Risk

SWDP43 Worcester City Allocations

SWDP44 Worcester City Centre

SWDP45 Directions for Growth Outside the City Boundary

SWDP46 Pershore Allocations

SWDP47 Pershore Urban Extension

SWDP48 Droitwich Spa Allocations

SWDP49 Droitwich Spa Urban Extensions

SWDP50 Evesham Allocations

SWDP51 Evesham Urban Extensions

SWDP52 Malvern Allocations

SWDP53 Malvern Technology Centre (QinetiQ)

SWDP54 Blackmore Park

SWDP55 Three Counties Showground

SWDP56 Development at North-East Malvern

SWDP57 Tenbury Wells Allocations

SWDP58 Upton-upon-Severn Allocations

SWDP59 New Housing for Villages