



Warwickshire County Council

Councillor Mrs Seccombe

PO Box 9, Shire Hall

Warwick, CV34 4RR

Councillor Susan Juned
Leader, Stratford District Council
By Email

20th June 2023

Dear Susan

South Warwickshire Local Plan: Issue and Options

Further to our submission of the draft response on 17th March, I write to add some narrative to our thinking as well as a commitment to working with you as the Local Plan Progresses.

Our draft response was submitted in early March to meet your deadlines with the proviso that we would continue to discuss the proposals and that we may come back to you with more detail. After further consideration of the documentation and would now like to share some more detailed narrative with you.

The County Council is keen to work with you to help inform and shape future growth across the area.

Recognising the need for sustainable growth we tend to favour Option 2 for focussing growth in areas with existing rail and sustainable transport links. The County Council is keen to work with you to consider further capacity at existing rail stations and the opportunities both housing and employment growth within their immediate vicinity could bring. Discussions with Network Rail at an early stage could help identify the likely costs involved and focus thinking in those areas where growth is beneficial.

We do have concerns about considering growth in areas where there are disused rail lines and unless there were assurances from Network Rail that lines would reopen with good service links, we do not feel this offers sustainable growth.

We would hope to be able to promote the use of public transport but recognise that unless there are frequent services throughout the day, including weekends, we are in danger of developments relying on private vehicles if they aren't built where good public transport already exists.

There are areas of South Warwickshire where we believe there is capacity for growth within the highways network and we would welcome an opportunity to discuss these with

you further. Examples include Studley, Alcester and Bidford on Avon. We believe the area offers an opportunity for growth along the A46 corridor between Redditch and Evesham. The area has a firm basis to add to and enhance existing economies which could enable growth to come forward more quickly than delivering completely new settlements. We are aware of the Green Belt issues and concerns about flood risk in the area but would welcome an opportunity to further explore with you the possibilities the area could bring.

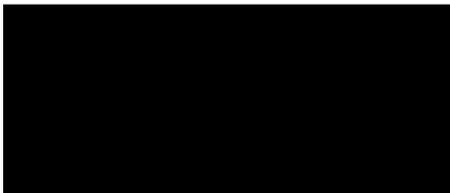
We are keen to consider how new housing can be linked to the existing and proposed employment offer.

In summary, the County Council is keen to continue to work with you as the Local Plan progresses and ensure that growth is sustainable through the provision of robust public transport and good active travel links. Expansion of existing settlements with these connections as well as some existing economic basis to reduce travel activity should be considered. In addition, we would wish to explore the opportunities to ensure the progression of the Local Plan is linked to our Joint commission work in relation to the work of the Integrated care system.

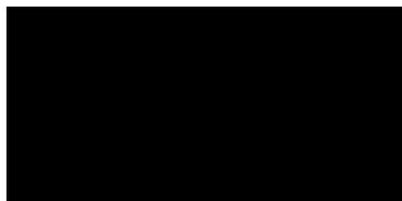
The County Council does not support the option for dispersal and wants to see growth delivered at the scale that generates significant developer contributions to enable the delivery of key infrastructure.

We look forward to working with you as the plan progresses.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Izzi Seccombe
Leader, Warwickshire County Council



Cllr Jan Matecki
Portfolio Holder: Transport & Planning

*Working for
Warwickshire*