

Inspectors P Lewis and E Worthington  
The Planning Inspectorate  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Inspectors Lewis and Worthington,

**RE: Examination of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review- Duty to Cooperate**

The South Worcestershire Councils note your letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025, regarding the Duty to Cooperate in respect of the Written Ministerial Statement dated 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Given that to date through the Examination in Public of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review it has been identified that the South Worcestershire Councils have complied with and demonstrated that the Duty to Cooperate has been met, and that at this stage it is not expected that any further matters regarding the Duty to Cooperate are likely to be raised/discussed through the EiP, the South Worcestershire Councils do not consider that there will likely be any negative impact on the Plan and its progress towards being found sound and adopted. However, this is subject to the details of the new regulations once published and if there are any transitional arrangements to be considered.

As mentioned in your letter, one of the main matters discussed under the Duty to Cooperate has been the site at Mitton, and the sharing of supply to help meet the needs of Tewkesbury Borough Council. From the South Worcestershire Councils reading of the letter issued to the Planning Inspectorate and the NPPF, there is nothing to stop the Councils continuing to provide for some unmet need in a neighbouring authority area, and therefore, its inclusion within the SWDPR should not raise any issues regarding soundness or legal compliance.

Yours sincerely,

  
**Ian Macleod**

Director of Planning and Infrastructure  
Malvern Hills and Wychavon District  
Councils

  
**Duncan Rudge**

Head of Planning and Economic  
Development  
Worcester City Council

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