

# Tasley Parish Council Representation on Matter 2 Shropshire Local Plan Review – Duty to Cooperate

Representor name: TASLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Representor number: A0661

## **Specific Matters and Issues Addressed**

It has emerged that the Association of Black Country Authorities (ABCA): Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton, have decided to cease work immediately on the Joint Black Country Local Plan and instead each develop their own Local Plan to a timescale to be agreed by each authority (GC19).

Q1. What implications, if any, does this decision have for the examination in relation to the duty to cooperate in the preparation of the draft Shropshire Local Plan (SLP) and the submitted statements of common ground (SoCG) with ABCA?

Q2. Are the SoCG with neighbouring authorities and stakeholders still relevant and up to date?

## **Tasley Parish Council Original Representations - Excerpts**

### CONSULTATION REPRESENTATION ON THE R19 DRAFT SLP

This is a representation from Tasley Parish Council (TPC) on behalf of its parishioners in response to the Regulation 19 (R19) consultation being carried out by Shropshire Council (SC) on its '*December 2020 Regulation 19: Pre-Submission Draft of the Shropshire Local Plan*' document bundle. The consultation was launched on 14 December 2020 and, at present, is scheduled to close on 26 February 2021.

12.5 SC has not provided evidence to justify its policy of uplifting the number of dwellings required by central government by a further 19%. Neither has SC justified its decision to take on the Association of Black Country Authorities '(ABCA) anticipated unmet, and as yet unratified, housing quota. Planned SAMDEV housing already includes 500 dwellings in Tasley Parish, whilst the viable option to convert existing business properties to residential should also be considered by SC as this would be more sustainable particularly given the effects of the pandemic on businesses.

38. The 'Gunning Principles '(see para 6) make clear:

38.1 “*The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees [the community] to provide an informed response*” (see para 6.2).

38.2 “*Decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took responses into account*” and crucially, that they had given ‘*conscientious consideration*’ to the consultation responses before a decision was made (see para 6.4).

## **Tasley Parish Council Representation to Hearing - Excerpts**

The Parish Council pointed out in our original representation (26th February 2021) that SC had not justified its decision to take on the Association of Black Country Authorities’ (ABCA) anticipated unmet, and unratified, housing quota. We feel that this is particularly relevant to our parish because of our location on the southern edge of Shropshire and proximity to the ABCA. Whilst we are aware that the extra quota is added to overall housing total for Shropshire, it is highly likely that the 1,050 homes proposed for Tasley Garden Village are intended take a high proportion of families relocating from the Black Country.

Now it is clear that Joint Black Country Local Plan has been abandoned SC are even less justified in including their anticipated unmet target in their own housing figures. This cannot possibly be justified by their Duty to Cooperate.

It must also be noted that SC did not take our representations into account and they have not provided any evidence that they have given ‘*conscientious consideration*’ to the consultation responses before a decision was made (see para 6.4).

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