

Statement of Community Consultation

Summary of responses to the draft Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) formal consultation 2026

The South Worcestershire Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to cover the local planning authorities of Malvern Hills District; Worcester City; and Wychavon District Councils referred to as the South Worcestershire Councils (SWC). This is an update to the version of the SPD adopted by the SWC against the 2016 SWDP over the course of 2025, following the adoption of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) on 26 March 2026. The update to the SPD supports the implementation of policy SWDPR 41 Air Quality of the SWDPR.

This Statement of Community Consultation summarises the findings of engagement work undertaken during the preparation of the Air Quality SPD. A formal four-week period of consultation took place from 30 March to 30 April 2026. The consultation was an open consultation and therefore anybody with an interest was able to respond. In response the councils received comments from five statutory consultee organisations and three individual respondents.

The SWC have had regard to all relevant and duly made representations in the preparation of the final SPD presented for adoption to each Council.

Respondents	SWC response	Recommendation
Historic England	Historic England welcomes the guidance set out in the draft SPD and acknowledges the inclusion of the historic environment within the document.	Noted
National Highways	The SPD has been reviewed and National Highways wished to make no further comments.	Noted

Pershore Town Council	Concern that the SPD lacks ambition and does not set robust or challenging standards. The SPD could be more rigorous and provide a clearly defined framework. A more targeted and localised approach in relation to localised air quality monitoring would be beneficial. Support for a further commitment that air quality is explicitly referenced in all major planning applications.	Noted. SPD cannot set out further requirements over and above either SWDPR 41 or nationally prescribed standards. Rather the SPD provides interpretation on how to apply SWDPR 41 and provide a source of best practice and other technical guidance. Air quality monitoring is undertaken by Worcestershire Regularly Services on behalf of SWC and goes beyond the remit of the SPD. It is considered, within the context of land use planning, that SWDPR 41 puts in place a strong policy framework for considering air quality and is applicable to major development proposals.
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Whittington Parish Council	The Parish Council have reviewed the SPD and are generally supportive of the measures proposed. The requirements in the SPD need to be effectively delivered and clarification is sought on compliance and enforcement measures if they are not adhered to.	Noted. SWDPR41 sets out the requirements that planning applications must meet to be initially validated, and then as material considerations when determining the planning application through the Development Management process. On implementation of the planning permission any breach in respect to SWDPR 41 would be dealt with via enforcement action.
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Herefordshire Council	The aims and objectives are comprehensive and appropriate. Consider how the SPD can reflect the evolving nature of air quality evidence, monitoring data and standards over the SWDPR plan period. Consideration given to how cross boundary air quality issues can be addressed. Overall, the SPD is robust, well-structured and proportionate and supports the implementation of the SWDPR policy. Given new plan making process it may be helpful to clarify how the principles/evidence in SPD will be carried forward or reflected in the new Local Plan to ensure continuing effectiveness.	The supportive comments are noted. SWDPR 41 has benefited from a series of Main Modifications arising from the examination, largely informed by Worcestershire Regulatory Services. In terms of determining planning applications any changes will be reflected in responses from relevant consultees over the plan period. Cross boundary issues can be identified and considered through cooperation between neighbouring local authorities. Relevant and appropriate content from the SPD will need to be either incorporated directly in the new Local Plan policies or annexe.
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Bloor Homes	The draft SPD provides important contextual information to assist in understanding air quality considerations. It is considered that a proportional approach should be applied when requiring an air quality assessment. Again, a proportionate approach should be applied to the type and extent of mitigation measures based on professional judgement and it is suggested the SPD is amended to reflect this.	Noted. No change as SPD cannot introduce further requirements or change the intent of the policy wording in SWDPR 41 or Reasoned Justification.
Homes England/Summix	The SPD is comprehensive, well-structured, and largely consolidating existing tools and national and local guidance, e.g. the Planning Officers Checklist, and technical guidance prepared by Worcestershire Regulatory Services, rather than introducing new policy requirements. For Wychavon Town, air quality matters are already being addressed through the EIA process, SWDPR Policy 41 and site-specific evidence accompanying the forthcoming planning applications.	Noted
David Barton/UK & Ireland Planning Consultation(s)	Standard response. No specific reference to the Air Quality SPD.	Noted