

West Midlands Joint Green Belt Review

Six West Midlands local authorities including Coventry City Council and Warwick District Council have commissioned a review of Green Belt in their areas, to consider their effectiveness in relation to the five purposes of Green Belt as stated in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, para 80).

The report of Stage 1 of the review, comprising the Green Belt in Coventry, Warwick District, Nuneaton and Bedworth has recently been published. For purposes of the review the Green Belt has been divided into 5 'Broad Areas' and 134 Green Belt 'parcels'. The parcels have been scored for their effectiveness. The Green Belt relevant to the proposed major employment site (policy DS16 of Warwick District Council's draft Local Plan) is in Broad Area 3 and includes parcels C9 and C10.

The review concludes that all five broad areas make 'a considerable contribution to Green Belt purposes'. Parcels C9 and C10 are among the highest scoring parcels, awarded 14/20 and 16/20 respectively. Parcel C10 is commended for providing 'good intervisibility with the historic core of Coventry'. The Review also concludes that 'there are also areas of non-Green Belt land within the Stage 1 study area which may or may not be appropriate for development', which indicates that there are possible alternatives to using Green Belt land for employment sites.

Baginton, Bubbenhall and Stoneleigh and Ashow parish councils have sent a letter to all Warwick District Councillors, pointing out that if policies DS16 (employment land) and an element of DS19 (Green Belt) are retained in the Local Plan as now drafted, when that portion of the Plan is eventually subjected to an Examination it is likely to be deemed 'unsound'. WDC are urged to remove DS16 from the Local Plan and its proposed site from the list in DS19.

Cllr Joanne Shattock

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