

City of Wolverhampton Council

29th March 2021

Dear Mr. Culley,

West Midlands Strategic Rail Freight Interchange Employment Land Paper

Redditch Borough Council (RBC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the above document and to continue to engage constructively with the Black Country Plan in the best interests of positive plan-making.

At this early stage in the plan-making process, this represents an informal officer response.

As you will be aware the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 was adopted in 2017 and makes provision for 55 Hectares of employment land, a portion of which is to be met in neighbouring authorities.

Redditch is required to review its plan by 2022 to ensure it is still fit for purpose. Part of this review will include an assessment of whether the current employment provision is still appropriate. Therefore, it is envisaged that a Housing and Employment Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) will be conducted in the near future to assist in the completion of this element of the review. Until this work is complete specific responses to the questions posed in your letter dated 15 February 2021 are unable to be fully addressed. Therefore we would wish to have it noted that the Council may have further comments to make following the HEDNA's completion later this year.

With regard to the questions posed in your consultation, we can confirm that the current adopted plan does not plan to meet wider than the local need and it does contain a strategy which meets the B8 needs of the Borough. As highlighted above this position will be reconsidered through the plan review process and an up to date HEDNA.

I trust the above comments offer a helpful contribution. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Louise Jones
Principal Planning Officer – Strategic Planning
Redditch Borough Council