

WORCESTERSHIRE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CHARTER

This Charter sets out Worcestershire’s ambitions for a streamlined and effective planning and development culture which supports future prosperity. It is agreed by Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and all Local Planning Authorities. These strategic principles intend to create a consistent business friendly planning framework which contributes towards Worcestershire being “Open for Business”. Future individual and collective actions, initiatives, priorities and the use of resources will be guided by:

1. Establishing a business friendly planning culture which streamlines positive advice and support through the planning system while exploring potential innovative solutions with businesses
2. Working together to achieve high quality design and sustainable development, through development plans and site specific proposals
3. Facilitating and supporting economic growth while protecting and enhancing the intrinsic social, cultural and environmental assets of Worcestershire
4. Providing co-ordinated, consistent, positive advice and support which is responsive to business needs
5. Co-ordinating prompt, meaningful and constructive pre-application advice across all statutory interests to meet business customer needs
6. Determining planning applications in a timely, transparent and efficient manner
7. Working collaboratively between planners, statutory agencies, communities of interests, developers, agents, landowners and applicants to convert development proposals into deliverable outcomes
8. Adopting development plans which incorporate sound economic policies and to guide development opportunities which sustain investment decisions, business growth and job creation
9. Promoting the business friendly planning culture across business sectors, business membership organisations and business networks
10. Managing and reviewing planning service delivery in response to business customer needs as well as the partnership’s ambitions for a business friendly culture
11. Encouraging businesses to approach Worcestershire Local Planning Authorities alongside Worcestershire Regulatory Services for constructive support throughout their lifecycles and achieve self compliance, linking the Regulatory and Business Partnership Charter with this Planning and Development Charter





Worcestershire
Local Enterprise Partnership

The Local Enterprise Partnership

Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and all Local Planning Authorities are working collaboratively to support joint aspirations for planning, development and infrastructure. There is a consensus across Worcestershire that there is a need to work together to ensure a business friendly planning system and culture which supports business growth and economic development while valuing and protecting the social and environmental elements which make the county a favourite place to live, work, play, invest and visit.

Worcestershire's Planning and Development Charter sets out a framework for collective ambitions and will not create change in itself. The Charter is therefore underpinned by tools which will shape and drive change in the future, some of which include:

- Worcestershire LEP's commitment to the Charter in its Business Plan "The Outlook is Bright in Worcestershire" which is being fulfilled through delivery plans with wide ranging partners
- Planning Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which is signed by Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership, all Worcestershire Local Planning Authorities and the Worcestershire Partnership, through its Place Shaping Group. This agreement shapes the commitments and actions of all parties to establish a business friendly planning system whether working individually or collaboratively. Annual Action Plans will prioritize efforts and resources to develop and deliver projects and initiatives which fulfil the MoU.

Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and Worcestershire Regulatory Services have signed a parallel Regulatory and Business Partnership Charter to create a positive regulatory environment which promotes business success while providing public protection. Both Planning and Regulatory Charters work to provide constructive business help with self compliance as they develop and grow and will increasingly co-ordinate and simplify support through a combined approach.

Businesses are asked to play their part in working collaboratively with Worcestershire interests, particularly the Local Planning Authorities and other relevant agencies. Business can make commitments to mutually challenge and constructively shape a business friendly planning system by providing their knowledge, expertise and experience as developers, applicants, land owners and agents. Businesses are encouraged to get involved in planning policy development and establishing infrastructure requirements as well as provide continuous feedback on development management experiences.

www.wlep.co.uk

For business advice or support ring **01905 346180**

Worcestershire Partnership For further information ring **01905 822836**

Bromsgrove District Council
Malvern Hills District Council
Redditch Borough Council
Worcester City Council
Worcestershire County Council
Wychavon District Council
Wyre Forest District Council

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Worcestershire - A central location

