

Wirral Local Plan – Main Modifications Response Form

Part A

1. Personal details

(if an agent is appointed, please complete only the title, name and organisation in the boxes below but complete the full contact details of the agent in section 2 below)

Title	█
First name	██████
Last name	██████
Organisation (where relevant)	Swifts Local Network ██████████
Address	██
Postcode	██████
Telephone number	██████████
Email address	██
Objective ID number (if known)	

2. Agent's details (if applicable)

Title	
First name	
Last name	
Job title (where relevant)	
Organisation (where relevant)	
Who are you representing?	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone number	
Email address	
Objective ID number (if known)	

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3. Data Protection Notice

√	Please tick this box to confirm that you understand that your name and your response will be published, that your full name and details will be passed to the Planning Inspectors, and that you have read and understood the Council's privacy notice.
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Please note that all comments will be held by Wirral Council and made available in accordance with our privacy notice, which can be viewed at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/local-plans-and-planning-policy/forward-planning-privacy-notice> or obtained from one of the addresses below.

Please read all the information related to this consultation on the Council's webpage at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/new-local-plan> or which has been placed in public libraries, and the Wirral Local Plan Modifications Response Form Background Note before you make your representations.

4. Completed Responses

Please submit your completed Response Form/s **to arrive at one of the addresses below no later than 5pm on Friday 8 November 2024.**

- by email to: localplan@wirral.gov.uk, clearly marked as 'Wirral Local Plan – Consultation on Main Modifications'
or
- by post to: Wirral Local Plan - Main Modifications, Wirral Council, PO Box 290, Wallasey CH27 9FQ

Please note that comments received after this deadline will not be accepted.

Please use a separate Response Form for each modification that you wish comment on.

If you require any further information, please contact the Council's Forward Planning Team by e-mail at localplan@wirral.gov.uk or by telephone on 0151 691 8235.

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Part B

1. **To which Modification does your representation relate?** (please insert as appropriate)

Main Modification Reference number: MM [12]

Policies Map Reference number: PM []

Additional Modification Reference number: AM []

2. **If your comment is on a Main Modification, do you consider that the Main Modification is:**

Legally Compliant – Yes (please delete as appropriate)

Sound – No (please delete as appropriate)

3. **Please explain why you consider a Main Modification does not assist in achieving legal compliance or soundness or provide any other comments on it in the box below. Please be as precise as possible.**

Regarding paragraph 3.127. It is disappointing that the council is withdrawing its commitment to 20% Biodiversity Net Gain on council land as a negative amendment regarding biodiversity; the statement regarding “...bird, bat or insect boxes, or bee bricks...” is welcome as a positive measure but refers to bird boxes, a short term measure which are not supported by national policy guidance,

rather than swift bricks – a permanent universal nest brick for small bird species which are supported by National Planning Policy Guidance 2019 Natural Environment paragraph 023 and also compliant with best-practice guidance BS 42021:2022. Swift bricks are considered a universal nest brick suitable for a wide range of small bird species including swifts, house sparrows and starlings (e.g. see NHBC Foundation: Biodiversity in New Housing Developments (April 2021) Section 8.1 Nest sites for birds, page 42: “*Provision of integral nest sites for swifts is through hollow chambers fitted into the fabric of a building while in construction [i.e. swift bricks]... Although targeting swifts they will also be used by house sparrows, tits and starlings so are considered a ‘universal brick’*”.

<https://www.nhbc.co.uk/binaries/content/assets/nhbc/foundation/biodiversity-in-new-housing-developments.pdf>).

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4. Please set out in the box below the changes you consider necessary to make the Main Modification legally compliant and sound.

To be consistent with national planning policy and best-practice guidance and provide relevant context, and therefore be sound,

please amend “...*bird, bat or insect boxes, or bee bricks...*” to “...*swift bricks, bat or insect boxes, or bee bricks...*”;

and ideally add: “*Swift bricks are a universal nest brick for small bird species. BS 42021 provides best-practice guidance.*”

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5. Do you have any comments on the Sustainability Appraisal or to the Habitats Regulations Assessment in respect of this particular Main Modification? Please provide them in the box below.

No comments.

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6. Do you have any comments on a Proposed Change to the Policies Map? Please provide them in the box below.

No comments.

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Part C

Do you have any comments on one of the Councils Additional Modifications? Please provide them in the box below.

No comments.

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Thank you for completing this form.

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