

Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Consultation

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the content and issues that have been identified within the Mid Examination Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Consultation with regard to its potential impact on Rushmoor. Agreement is sought to make comments as set out in this report, taking account of any new evidence that may be published prior to the consultation closing on the 22nd June 2015.

2. Background

- 2.1 Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) submitted its Local Plan for examination on the 9th October 2014. The Council is now consulting on a number of proposed changes to the Submission Local Plan which have been made in response to initial concerns raised by the Planning Inspector following an Exploratory Meeting on the 11th December 2014.
- 2.2 Following the meeting, the Inspector wrote to BDBC setting out additional work that was required to progress the Local Plan. In particular, this related to the proposed housing target of 748 dwellings per annum (dpa). The Inspector raised concerns that the assumptions underpinning that target were not appropriate and evidence suggested that a higher target could be achievable.
- 2.3 During consultation on the pre-submission version of the Local Plan in June 2014, Rushmoor Borough Council submitted a response on behalf of the Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath Housing Market Area (HMA). Our response raised soundness issues in relation to housing delivery, in particular that the proposed 748 dwellings per annum would constrain supply and put at risk the ability of BDBC to meet the needs of internal migration patterns over the Plan period. This would in turn potentially give rise to a need to provide additional housing in our own HMA. In order to address soundness concerns, our response suggested that the housing target should be amended to reflect an accurate figure of housing need.

3. Content of the Mid-Examination Local Plan

- 3.1 The Mid-Examination Local Plan addresses the concerns raised by the Planning Inspector at the Exploratory Meeting in December 2014. In summary, the main modifications proposed are as follows:
- That the annual housing requirement be increased from 748 to 850dpa;

- The allocation of an additional housing site for 750 dwellings at Hounsome Fields;
- The inclusion of a job target range of 450 – 700 in policy EP1 (Economic growth and investment).

3.2 A 'Duty to Cooperate' Officer meeting took place on 19th March 2015 to discuss both the Rushmoor Local Plan and the Basingstoke Local Plan. During that meeting, the issue of housing delivery in BDBC was discussed. Officers of RBC outlined that, subject to discussions with Councillors, we would be likely to withdraw our objection the the BDBC Local Plan in light of the increase in housing target being proposed. This new housing target has since been endorsed by the Full Council and forms part of the current consultation.

4. Summary

4.1 The evidence base and subsequent proposed amendments to the Mid-Examination Local Plan consultation address previous concerns raised by the Hart, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath HMA in respect of housing delivery over the plan period.

5. Recommendation

5.1 It is recommended that Rushmoor Borough Council withdraw its previous objection to the BDBC Local Plan in light of the proposed modifications set out within the Mid-Examination Local Plan consultation

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