



Mr Christopher Mountain
Department for Communities and Local Government
Neighbourhood Planning
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

8 February 2017

Your Ref:

Please ask for:
Karl Roberts
Strategy Department
Direct Dial: 01903 737760

Our Ref:

Dear Mr Mountain

Neighbourhood Development Planning in Arun District Council

Arun District Council (ADC) is producing a Local Plan which is at Examination stage but has been suspended by the Inspector to allow further detailed work to address an increased objectively assessed need.

The District Council is about to publish modifications to the Local Plan and this will include a requirement for approximately 1,250 dwellings to be delivered at a non-strategic level. The Council's preference is very much that Neighbourhood Planning Groups identify this level of development to be brought forward and it is hoped that these groups will seek to formally modify existing Neighbourhood Plans (as we have 15 of them within the District).

As you can imagine, the thought of going through the whole plan production process again in such a short space of time, has many practical and financial implications for these groups.

We are requesting from you is an answer to those questions below:

1. We would be grateful for clarification on whether housing numbers can be changed as a 'modification' to an already made Plan. This would likely also need an amendment to the Built Up Area Boundaries. **Is a proposal to increase the housing numbers in a made NDP a modification 'not significant or substantial as to change the fundamental nature of the plan'?**
2. **Should a full review including consultation, examination and referendum be required, what is the grant funding allocated to the Parish and is the burden funding the same as before for the LPA because the process is the same?** Please confirm the figure for these.

We note that in the last Q&A in the letter to chief planning officers for new burdens info [Q10] How much can we claim where a neighbourhood plan is reviewed?

[A] A neighbourhood plan that is reviewed needs to follow the same process of examination and referendum. In such circumstances LPAs can claim £10,000 following the setting of a referendum date.

If the process is the same then the cost will be the same so why is the burden cost half? Please clarify?

3. Whilst we appreciate that Paragraphs 20 and 21 of the Government response to the recent neighbourhood planning consultation for the Neighbourhood Planning Bill sets out the Govt. position on page 8. We think that guidance is needed in the PPG so that parishes are clear that this is what the LPA is being guided by. **Will there be guidance in the PPG as to what constitutes a major or minor change and how?**
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/577326/gov_draft_summary_of_consultation_responses_NP_provisions.pdf
4. The White paper in para. 1.43 proposes to amend planning policy so that neighbourhood planning groups can obtain a housing requirement figure from their local planning authority, to help avoid delays in getting a neighbourhood plan in place. **Can you clarify what this means and what the amendment entails?**

The government continues to assert their support for neighbourhood planning yet despite ADC having the most made NDPs in country, DCLG has so far been unavailable to attend any ADC meetings with all of its Parishes which they have been invited to over the last few years. We therefore hope that you are able to send us a comprehensive response to these issues so that we can report back to our Parishes with some certainty. We would also again invite you to attend the next meeting that Arun has with all of the Parish's arranged for 5 April 2017 at 11am. This meeting will be to discuss how a figure of 1,250 can be accommodated throughout the District and how Parishes can contribute to this.

Yours sincerely



Karl Roberts
Director of Place

Cc: Cllr Gill Brown, Cllr Ricky Bower, Cllr John Charles, Nick Gibb MP & Nick Herbert MP