

Inspector's request to the Council for an update of the 5-year housing land supply situation

Looking towards the Procedural Meeting, could the Council please update the 5-year housing land supply for the period 2015/16 to 2019/20 based on the option (option 2) being recommended to the Full Council by the Local Plan Sub-Committee (641pa). This is without prejudice to my decision on whether or not option 2 provides the appropriate way forward rather than option 3.

The target for the above purpose should be based on $(641 \times 5 + \text{any backlog } 2011-15) \times 20\%$.

The land supply should be based on the trajectory for the sites taken into account in the Housing Implementation Strategy of January 2015 or any update of it which has since been completed.

In addition, the Council may, if it chooses, prepare a second version of the land supply taking account of the site options speculated upon in the report to the Sub-Committee. However, I must stress that I do not regard those options as anything more than speculation at this stage. Under option 2 the soundness of these or indeed any other options cannot be pre-judged and would remain to be determined on the evidence and sustainability appraisal available after any period of suspension. Nonetheless, the report clearly sees option 2 as providing more freedom from planning by appeal as an important reason for preferring it over option 3. Consequently, completing such an exercise may assist the Council in reaching a judgement upon whether or not this assumed benefit would be a real one, bearing in mind also that a sound plan capable of adoption would have to provide a demonstrable supply of deliverable sites in its first 5 years.

It would be helpful to receive the above information by the end of Monday 15 June in advance of the Full Council meeting on 17 June.

Roy Foster
9 June 2015