



Basingstoke
and Deane

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West Berkshire Council
via email

Your ref: Proposed Submission (Reg 19) Plan
Our ref:

1 March 2023

Dear Planning Policy Team,

West Berkshire Council – Local Plan Review 2022-2039 Proposed Submission (Regulation 19)

Thank you for consulting Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) on the Proposed Submission (Reg 19) draft Local Plan.

Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Update

As you will be aware, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) has started work on a Local Plan Update to cover the period to at least 2039. The council undertook an Issues and Options consultation in Autumn 2020 and intends to consult on a draft Plan (Regulation 18) in autumn 2023. This would lead to submission in Winter 2024 and adoption in Autumn 2025. Although policy development is at an early stage, at this time the council does not anticipate there being any unmet needs arising from Basingstoke and Deane borough that would need to be met by West Berkshire Council.

Comments on WBC Plan

It is recognised that WBC is progressing with the plan-making process and includes provision for meeting the borough's housing needs and addressing its response to the Climate Change Emergency. However, BDBC wishes to ensure that West Berkshire Council is meeting its needs in full and that the Plan takes account of any potential impacts upon the borough and its residents.

The draft Plan sets out how the council has sought opportunities to meet the office and industrial needs for the district but acknowledges that there is an identified shortfall in supply. WBC commits to addressing this in the first five year review of the Local Plan.

The draft Plan also sets out the council's strategy for meeting gypsy and traveller needs, including through the replacement of transit pitches with permanent pitches at New Stocks Farm on Paices Hill (Policies DM20 and RSA24). Although Policy DM20 states that 'The Council will meet the identified need... by allocating land for plots and/or pitches' it appears that there would still be an overall shortfall in pitches (as explained in para 11.35). It is acknowledged that the council have committed to producing a DPD in respect of longer term pitch requirements and transit sites/short term stopping places. BDBC wishes to ensure that WBC has a robust strategy to meet its gypsy and traveller needs in full to ensure that those needs would not need to be met in Basingstoke and Deane.

In light of the above, BDBC has concerns about the shortfall in provision in terms of both employment, and gypsy and traveller pitch provisions, and is keen to continue to engage in suitable discussions under the Duty to Cooperate in relation to these issues.

It is noted that policy SP4 of the draft Plan sets out planning policy requirements in respect of the Atomic Weapons Establishments at AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield, including details of the DEPZ, OCZ and 12km consultation zone. It is recognised that this policy is in response to the requirements of the Office for Nuclear Regulation. The council has ongoing concerns about how restrictions relating to the AWE are applied to the borough and, most notably, the limitations they place on future sustainable growth at Tadley. The council would like to continue to work proactively with Emergency Planners at West Berkshire to ensure a suitable approach is taken to future growth and change and that all options, including suitable housing allocations, are fully considered.

Should you wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact the Planning Policy team on 01256 844844.

Yours faithfully

Planning Policy Team

CC Service Manager - Emergency Planning