

**Planning Regeneration & Economy**

Executive Head: Claire Upton-Brown

Sent by email to: [REDACTED]

My Ref:  
Your Ref:

Date: 01 April 2022

Dear Planning Policy Team

**NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL DRAFT LOCAL PLAN REGULATION 18 STAGE 1 CONSULTATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Test Valley Borough Council Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 Stage 1 Consultation.

Please find below an officer response on behalf of New Forest District Council.

The key issue for New Forest District Council regarding the Test Valley Local Plan review relates to addressing objectively assessed (housing) need (OAN).

The Test Valley Strategic Housing Market Assessment appended to the Local Plan consultation document sets out the local housing need assessment. The local housing need assessment concludes that there is a housing need of 541 dwellings per annum for the Borough giving a housing requirement of 10,820 dwellings for the Plan period 2020-2040. For housing need and supply purposes, Test Valley is split into two housing areas, Southern Test Valley and Northern Test Valley. The housing requirement figure for the Plan period is therefore split into a requirement of 4,653 dwellings (233 dwellings per annum) for Southern Test Valley, and a requirement of 6,167 dwellings (308 dwellings per annum) for Northern Test Valley.

The Test Valley Local Plan consultation document sets out that Test Valley Borough Council is seeking to meet its local housing need figure in full. The Test Valley Local Plan consultation document states at a paragraph 3.3 that *“at present there is no evidence of any unmet housing need in neighbouring local authority areas; this will need to be kept under review. For the purposes of the Sustainability Appraisal, we don’t consider there are any reasonable alternatives to assess.”* Test Valley Borough Council will be fully aware of the joint strategic work being undertaken within the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) regarding preparing a Statement of Common Ground which will agree the overall development need and distribution of need across the PfSH area. Test Valley Borough Council will need to ensure that the housing target for their Local Plan review is wholly consistent with the final agreed outcomes of the PfSH Statement of Common Ground regarding housing need and the distribution of housing development across the PfSH area.

The PfSH work on the Statement of Common Ground is meeting the Duty to Co-operate requirements and PfSH authorities expect to be able to reach agreement. However, if agreement on the Statement of Common Ground were unable to be reached, under the current Standard

Method there will be a potential unmet housing need arising from New Forest District Council as set out in page 78, table 4 of the October 2021 Report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee<sup>1</sup>. Accordingly, Test Valley Borough Council, in preparing its Local Plan review, will need to consider unmet housing needs arising beyond their administrative boundary (in New Forest District) in addition to housing needs arising from within their Plan Area.

Yours faithfully

Claire Upton-Brown

**Claire Upton-Brown**

Executive Head for Planning, Regeneration and  
Economy

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.push.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Item-11-Statement-of-Common-Ground-Revisions-and-Update.pdf>