

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for consulting Eastleigh Borough Council on the Test Valley Borough Council Local Plan 2040 Regulation 18 Stage 1 Public Consultation. It is noted that more detailed development management policies and site allocations which may have potential cross-boundary matters to address will be published for the purposes of the Local Plan 2040, Regulation 18 Stage 2 consultation.

This Council continues to recognise the importance of collaborative working as reflected in our shared commitment through the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH). This has more recently been recognised by both Councils through signing up to the PfSH Statement of Common Ground. This amongst other things, concerns a review of the Spatial Position Statement which will look forward to 2036 and the production of a Joint Strategy to deal with cross-boundary strategic planning matters such as unmet housing needs. The noted commitment of Test Valley Borough Council to engage with its neighbouring authorities across South Hampshire through PfSH is therefore strongly welcomed.

It is observed that the proposed housing figure reflects the Government's standard method at 541 dwellings per annum (as of March 2021). The PFSH Statement of Common Ground (September 2020) has further identified the need to address the issue of unmet housing needs in the sub-region through the production of a Joint Strategy. This Council therefore recommends that Test Valley Borough Council continues to monitor this emerging evidence by taking a positive approach to factoring in unmet sub-regional housing needs up to 2036 in the Local Plan 2040. We would also request that the Sustainability Appraisal tests a higher level of housing above 541 dwellings per annum. Such an approach would strengthen the robustness of the evidence base against the backdrop of unmet housing needs across the sub-region and possible future changes to the Government's standard method.

This Council supports the proposed approach to climate change and reducing carbon emissions which is recognised as a key matter for the Local Plan 2040 and that it will be appropriate to set out a strategic approach. We also recognise that this will help to set the framework for more detailed policies that will be presented at the next stage of the Local Plan 2040, Regulation 18 Stage 2. We look forward to seeing how the Local Plan 2040 will address climate change related matters once these strategic and more detailed policies are published.

This Council also supports the intention to undertake further work on employment needs in light of further refining the calculated employment and sub-regional employment needs that should be provided for in Test Valley Borough.

I trust this is of assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries with regards to our response.

Yours faithfully,

The Eastleigh Local Plan Team

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