

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Planning Policy](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Test Valley Local Plan – Regulation 18 Stage 2 consultation: EBC response  
28 March 2024 10:44:42

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Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for consulting Eastleigh Borough Council on the Test Valley draft Local Plan (Regulation 18 Stage 2).

This Council continues to recognise the importance of collaborative working through the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH). This is reflected through the recent publication of the PfSH Spatial Position Statement (December 2023) which deals with cross-boundary strategic planning issues such as unmet housing and employment needs.

Continued dialogue between both Councils along with engagement with its neighbouring authorities across South Hampshire is therefore strongly welcomed.

It is observed that the latest proposed housing figure reflects the Government's standard method at 550 dwellings per annum. We have noted that the Spatial Position Statement has identified East of Romsey and South-west of Chandler's Ford as two broad areas of search in Test Valley Borough, and that the intention of these broad areas of search is to help to deliver identified and potentially unmet housing needs within the wider housing market area. We note that the Council is proposing a 10% buffer above the identified local housing need (LHN) of 550 dwellings per annum to ensure that its housing supply position is robust and that a buffer above 10% will apply to Southern Test Valley. We support the provision of a buffer for the purpose of accounting for unknown delays in delivery and would also like to see it recognised that this buffer could help meet unmet housing needs. With the wider unmet need extending across the wider housing market area, all Councils in the area will need to consider the extent to which they may be able to meet these needs, recognising also national and other important local designations/issues (e.g. environmental, transport, etc). We therefore welcome the ongoing dialogue on these matters as we progress our plans.

We note that the draft Local Plan is proposing to allocate the South-west of Chandler's Ford area of search (Policy 6 (SA6): Land at Velmore Farm) for 1,070 dwellings along with 1.5 ha of employment land and a 1.5 form entry (FE) primary school. We raise an objection in principle to the proposed allocation at this juncture on the basis that further evidence will need to be undertaken to demonstrate that the necessary supporting infrastructure and mitigation can be put in place for the purpose of avoiding any adverse impacts upon the local area. For example, more detailed transport modelling with regards to impacts upon the local road network (including roads in the Borough) and national road network (M3 and M27).

We also note that the Council has published a study to demonstrate that employment needs are less than those identified in the PfSH study, and that the proposed supply of employment floorspace to be provided for will continue to be reviewed as the Local Plan is further progressed.

We continue to support the proposed approach to climate change, reducing carbon emissions and measures to improve energy efficiency which is subject to review in light of the Governments proposals to increase the requirements of Building Regulations through the Future Homes Standard and Future Buildings Standard.

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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Eastleigh Borough Council