

Policy and Programmes

HEAD OF SERVICE: HARRY BARRINGTON-
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Listening Learning Leading

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Dear Mr Ashcroft

Woodcote Neighbourhood Development Plan Review – Clarification Statement

In response to your clarification note, Woodcote Parish Council commented on the District Council's representations made in response to the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 16 consultation.

In their response to comment 14, Woodcote Parish Council set out:

'The Parish Council was faced with the need to strike an appropriate balance between these two strategic policies and considered the following to determine the allocation:

- ...
- iii. *the lack of any threat to the delivery of the number of new homes in the Local Plan given the contingency, as advised by Mr Mark Stone, Chief Executive of the District Council, of some 4-5,000 homes;*
- ...

We believe it would be helpful to clarify the context of comments attributed to the Council's Chief Executive.

At the request of a local District Councillor, the Chief Executive held a meeting with the Councillor and representatives from Woodcote Parish Council on 4 November 2021. The meeting took place some 6 months after the closing of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 14 Consultation, where the Parish Council consulted on a full draft of the modification proposal containing their preferred approach and position regarding housing numbers.

At the meeting, the Chief Executive confirmed that the delivery of housing numbers below the requirement set out in the Local Plan should be supported by appropriate evidence. He also assured the Parish Council that the Local Plan housing supply could accommodate this flexibility. This is entirely consistent with paragraph 4.28 of the Local Plan which sets out that detailed evidence will need to be provided to support each Neighbourhood Plan and its assessment of capacity, whether this is to support a higher or lower number than that provided in the Local Plan.

The Council understands that the scope of neighbourhood plans is up to the neighbourhood planning body. We are committed to helping the Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan Review succeed and we believe our representations in response to the Regulation 16 consultation will help achieve this.

Yours Sincerely,

Robyn Tobutt

Robyn Tobutt
Senior Planning Policy Officer (Neighbourhood)