

Classification: OFFICIAL

Proposed Unmet Housing Need Duty to Cooperate Memorandum of Understanding between Aylesbury Vale District Council and Wycombe District Council (“the Councils”)

Introduction and Context

The Councils are undertaking preparation of their respective Local Plans. As part of their plan preparation they have cooperated on the production of a range of essential evidence including a joint study of housing need – The Buckinghamshire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA). The Councils recognise that Wycombe is an area constrained by Green Belt and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty designations. They also recognise that the National Planning Policy Framework states that *“Joint working should enable local planning authorities to work together to meet development requirements which cannot be met wholly within their own areas – for instance because of a lack of physical capacity”* and that a *“plan should be based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so”*.

The draft Wycombe Local Plan made provision for 10,000 dwellings against an assessed need of 15,000 dwellings for the period 2013 to 2033 with an indication that the remaining 5,000 dwellings would probably be met in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. With the assistance of a consultant’s report Aylesbury Vale District Council responded to the draft Wycombe Local Plan on the basis that further capacity was believed to exist in the Wycombe District Council area and that further capacity work should be undertaken. Following further capacity work, and a reduction in the housing requirements in the HEDNA, Wycombe District Council responded that their unmet housing need should be reduced to 1,700 dwellings. The response was evaluated by the consultant’s referred to above and they confirmed that, on the basis of current information, the suggested figure was justified.

Area of Agreement

Aylesbury Vale District Council and Wycombe District Council agree that, on the basis of currently available evidence and information, a figure of 1,700 dwellings represents a justified figure for unmet housing need arising from the Wycombe District Council area for the period 2013 to 2033. It is also agreed that should further evidence arise relating to unmet housing need subsequent to this agreement further cooperative work will be undertaken to determine whether an alternative figure for unmet housing need can be agreed between the two councils.

The figure of 1,700 forms part of Wycombe District Council’s objectively assessed need calculation which Aylesbury Vale District Council has agreed to accommodate in addition to Aylesbury Vale District Councils own objectively assessed need. The figure will need to be assessed and tested through the examination process.

This is not a legally binding document but a document through which authorities have agreed an approach to work together on shared planning principles to assist in the preparation of their respective Local Plans.

Signed by the following Council representatives

Signature *E. M. Paternoster*

Signature *[Handwritten Signature]*

Name C. M. PATERNOSTER

Name D A JOHNCOCK

For Aylesbury Vale District Council

For Wycombe District Council

Agreement Dated ^{8th} _^ **– December 2016**