

Date: 01/03/23

Our ref: Local plan rep

Email: [Planningpolicy@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Planningpolicy@slough.gov.uk)

Planning Policy

Development and Regulation

West Berkshire District Council

Market Street

Newbury

RG14 5LD

**By email only to [planningpolicy@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@westberks.gov.uk)**

Dear Planning Policy,

Response from Slough Borough Council on the West Berkshire Local Plan Review Proposed Submission Consultation 2023

Thank you for your email on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023 inviting Slough Borough Council to respond to the consultation on the West Berkshire Local Plan Review Proposed Submission consultation 2023.

Our response has focused on:

- Housing need
- Employment need

1 Housing need

- 1.1 We note that the West Berkshire Local Plan Review Proposed Submission consultation proposes to provide for between 8,721 and 9,146 houses within the district (Policy SP12), meeting the identified local housing need of 513 homes per annum (para 6.10). We note that the upper end of the housing range exceeds the local housing need figure and that it is not a maximum figure for development (Policy SP12). We support the proposal for West Berkshire to meet its identified housing requirement in full within the district.
- 1.2 Slough Borough Council is not in the same housing market area as West Berkshire. Slough Borough Council is unable to meet its housing need in full and is cooperating with a neighbouring authority to seek to address the provision of housing to meet Slough's unmet housing need.
- 1.3 Should West Berkshire reduce its housing land provision as the West Berkshire Local Plan progresses, such that it would not be seeking to accommodate its housing need in full within the district. This would potentially increase the unmet needs that will need to be accommodated and could exacerbate development pressures across the sub-region.

## 2 Employment need

- 2.1 We note that the West Berkshire Local Plan Review Proposed Submission consultation proposes that the Plan is unable to make provision to meet the identified office requirements over the plan period to 2039. We note that the Council has positively sought opportunities to meet the office requirement for the District by undertaking numerous Calls for Sites and pursued opportunities through the Duty to Cooperate.
- 2.2 Further we note that West Berkshire is unable to meet its industrial land requirement due to being constrained and lack of suitable sites.

- 2.3 West Berkshire is not proposing to meet its identified employment needs in full at this time. We support the commitment in the Plan for West Berkshire District Council to review the provision of employment land again at the first five year review of the plan.
- 2.4 Slough Borough Council is not in the same employment market area as West Berkshire. Slough is unable to meet its employment needs in full and therefore is unable to assist with West Berkshire's unmet employment needs. Any unmet employment needs from West Berkshire will potentially increase the unmet needs that will need to be accommodated and could exacerbate development pressures across the sub-region.

Yours faithfully,

Kerry Hobbs  
Senior Planning Policy Officer  
Planning Policy  
Housing and Property  
Slough Borough Council