
Examination of West Berkshire Local Plan 2022-2039

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IN11: Supplementary Question to the Council relating to housing requirement, housing supply and plan period

The submitted Plan covers the period 2022 to 2039. Policy SP12 sets out the local housing need for that period calculated using the standard method based on 2022 data (513 dwellings per year). The housing supply identified in the submitted Plan is also based on 2022 data (1 April).

The Council's response to PQ19 (EXAM2.1 November 2023) proposes a modification to extend the plan period to 2041 to be consistent with national policy.

The Council's response to Q7.1 (WS/7.1 March 2024) proposes a modification to policy SP12 to delete reference to a target but rather set a single minimum housing requirement of 515 dwellings per year based on local housing need calculated using the most up to date information available at the time the Plan was submitted for examination (ie as at March 2023).

The Council's response to PQ25 (EXAM2.1 November 2023) proposes modifications to the Plan to clarify the housing land supply based on information relating to 1 April 2022 (HOU2a and HOU6). My matters, issues and questions (IN6 November 2023) referred to those proposed modifications and that housing land supply information.

However, the Council published a Housing Land Supply report containing information relating to 1 April 2023 in February 2024 (EXAM12).

The Council's matter 6 statement (WS/6.1 March 2024) refers to the housing land supply information as at 1 April 2023 (EXAM12) but also subsequent information relating to planning applications since that date and based on site visits carried out in February 2024.

Whilst I have not yet decided how the Plan needs to be modified with regard to the plan period, housing requirement and housing supply, the Council is requested to respond to the following question in order to ensure that consistent and clear information is available to inform the hearing sessions relating to matters 6 and 7.

The response should use the latest available comprehensive housing land supply information relating to 1 April 2023 (EXAM12), and **not** partial information that has subsequently become available.

SQ7.1. Could the Council prepare main modifications to the Plan, superseding those proposed to date, to include a minimum housing requirement of 515 net additional dwellings per year and housing land supply information relating to 1 April 2023 for a plan period of 2023 to 2041.

The modifications should relate to policy SP12, reasoned justification and housing trajectory.

The Council is requested to respond by **midday on Friday 26 April 2024**.

William Fieldhouse

15 April 2024
