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## Examination of West Berkshire Local Plan 2022-2039

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### IN4: SUPPLEMENTARY PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

The Council's response to my Preliminary Questions was published on 1 October 2023<sup>1</sup>. The Council is requested to respond to the following Supplementary Questions by midday on Friday 13 October 2023.

#### Duty to cooperate

The Council's response to PQ3 describes potential soundness issues raised by various consultees about some of the strategic matters that had been addressed through the duty to cooperate. These are relevant to PQ4. However, PQ3 seeks to establish whether any relevant local planning authorities or prescribed bodies (ie those listed in regulation 4 of the 2012 Regulations) claim that the Council has failed to comply with the duty imposed by section 33A of the 2004 Act ie that it did not engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis on strategic matters during the preparation of the Plan up until the point it was submitted for examination.

SPQ3. Have any local planning authorities or other prescribed bodies made representations under regulation 20, or subsequently in discussions about the duty to cooperate statement of common ground, that claim that the Council did not engage constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis on strategic matters during the preparation of the Plan and have therefore failed to comply with the duty imposed by section 33A of the 2004 Act?

#### Local housing need

National planning policy guidance expects local housing need to be calculated at the start of the plan-making process and then be kept under review and revised where appropriate as the figure may change due to the inputs being variable. However, local housing need calculated using the standard method may be relied upon for a period of 2 years from the time that a plan is submitted for examination<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> EXAM2.

<sup>2</sup> PPG ID:2a-008-20190220.

SPQ24. What was the local housing need figure for West Berkshire calculated using the standard method when the Plan was submitted for examination on 31 March 2023?

### **Ongoing work**

The responses to a number of PQs refer to ongoing work being carried out by the Council in liaison with other parties. In order to inform my decisions about the examination programme, the Council is asked to clarify when each of the following will be available:

SPQ4. Clarification of primary health care provision at North East Thatcham Strategic Site proposed in policy SP17 following liaison with the Integrated Care Board, NHS and GP Surgeries as appropriate.  
SPQ46(b). Further work on the strategic road network (M4 and A34) and statement of common ground with National Highways.  
SPQ46(c). Further work on the A339 in liaison with Hampshire County Council.  
SPQ46(d). Further work on Thatcham level crossing and an agreed position with Network Rail.  
SPQ48. Potential modifications to policies SP1, SP5, SP6, SP7, SP11, DM5, DM6, DM7, DM20, DM24, DM25, DM28, DM29 and DM37 following liaison with the Environment Agency and Thames Water.  
SPQ49. A statement of common ground with Historic England.

*William Fieldhouse*

10 October 2023

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