

1. Background

- 1.1. This hearing statement has been prepared by on behalf of Taylor Wimpey UK Limited and BDW Trading Limited (“TW and BDW”).
- 1.2. TW and BDW control the majority of the land which is covered by Policy EN33 Rushden East Sustainable Urban Extension (“the SUE”), in the East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2 (“the Local Plan”).
- 1.3. BDW and TW have been involved in the planning for development at the SUE for some 8 years.

2. Spatial Strategy

Vision and outcomes

Question 1. Is the reference to the presumption in favour of sustainable development at paragraph 3.8 of the Plan consistent with the Framework? Is repetition of the Framework justified?

- 2.1. We consider it is relevant for the Local Plan to make reference to the presumption in favour of sustainable development within the Framework but the wording used is not consistent. For example the Framework does not use the description ‘a golden thread’.
- 2.2. We consider that the Council should propose changes to the text as a proposed modification.
- 2.3. We consider the Local Plan does not repeat the Framework in this regard.

Question 2. Is the duplication of JCS Policy 1 in the Plan necessary or justified? Additionally, is the text in paragraph 3.10 of the Plan policy rather than explanatory text?

- 2.4. Duplication of JCS Policy 1 is not necessary or justified because Policy 1 continues to be part of the development plan for North Northamptonshire.
- 2.5. We consider that the Council should propose to omit Policy 1 from the Local Plan as a proposed modification.
- 2.6. We consider the text at paragraph 3.10 is not necessary or justified because it seeks to repeat an aspect of the Framework. It does not provide any new policy and it is not required as explanatory text on the basis of omission of Policy 1.
- 2.7. We consider that the Council should propose to omit paragraph 3.10 from the Local Plan as a proposed modification.