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Enquiries to: David Hayward
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My reference:
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Date: December 2025

Dear

Housing and Employment Need in Havant Borough

We are writing to Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council as one of the local planning authorities in the Hampshire and the Solent devolution area, as these will be covered by the same Spatial Development Strategy

The purpose of this letter is to formally update you on the progress of the Council's Local Plan – the Building a Better Future Plan, including the latest position on our housing and employment development needs. As you may be aware, the Council consulted on a full draft Regulation 18 Local Plan earlier this year and is currently working towards a Pre-Submission Regulation 19 Local Plan 2026 and submission by the end of 2026. Further information can be found at: https://www.havant.gov.uk/planning-services/planning-policy/local-plan/building-better-future-plan

As with most urban local planning authorities in the South East, one of the biggest challenges for the new Local Plan will be to meet Havant's own development needs. Indeed many authorities including Havant Borough have seen a substantial increase to its housing need under the 2025 standard method which increased the Borough's housing need figure from 516 to 892 dwellings, equivalent to 17,840 homes over the plan period.

Housing Need and Supply

The Council's starting point is that no stone will be left unturned to meet its own need. However, Havant will be an authority which will be unable to meet the scale of its development needs. Havant Borough has a demonstrably constrained supply of land, and the least constrained areas have already been identified for development[1]. The Draft Local Plan identifies a developable housing supply of 7,218 dwellings during the plan period, averaging 361 dwellings per annum. This results in a very large unmet housing need of 10,622 dwellings from Havant Borough (or 531 homes per year).

[1] HS01 Havant Borough Constraints Study. Available at https://www.havant.gov.uk/planning-services/planning-policy/local-plan/local-plan-evidence-studies-and-strategies

Whilst submitted Winchester Local Plan, which is at Examination, includes an 'unmet needs allowance of which 70% be apportioned to Havant Borough. This is currently expected to be 346 dwellings[2] which would reduce unmet need to 10,276 dwellings.

To date, the Council's approach has been to focus approach has been to focus duty to cooperate discussions with the Borough's immediate neighbouring authorities[3], and with other authorities within the same Housing Market Area (HMA)[4]. However, in light of the scale of unmet need that remains, Havant Borough considers that it is necessary to approach non-neighbouring authorities beyond its HMA.

Under the Duty to Cooperate, the Borough Council is formally requesting Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council to assist in meeting the unmet housing need of at least 10,276 dwellings arising from Havant Borough. As set out above, the Council is in discussions with its neighbouring authorities and other local authorities within the same housing market area.

We are of course mindful that you may have received similar requests from your own neighbouring authorities, and non-neighbouring authorities within the same Housing Market Area as you. We are conscious that your priority will be to meet your own housing needs first, and to accommodate unmet needs from your own neighbouring authorities first.

Joint working

We look forward to constructive and active discussions to effectively address unmet housing and employment needs arising from Havant Borough in due course.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Strategic Planning Manager

[2] MM49 https://www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk/assets/inline/2683/Schedule-of-Proposed-Main-Modifications.pdf

[3] Chichester District Council, East Hampshire District Council, Portsmouth City Council, South Downs National Park Authority, Winchester City Council

[4] Fareham Borough Council and Gosport Borough Council