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Emailed to David Hayward
[redacted]
Havant Borough Council

3 February 2026

Dear David

**Duty to Co-operate Formal Request: Housing**

Thank you for your letter of January regarding Duty to Co-operate matters. This set out a formal request for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to assist in meeting the unmet housing need of at least 10,276 dwellings arising from Havant Borough. It is noted that Basingstoke and Deane Borough (BDB) and Havant Borough are not neighbouring authorities, and they do not fall within the same housing market area (HMA). However, the request has been sent given BDB's location within the wider Hampshire and Solent devolution area. The scale of the request is also noted.

It is unclear from your letter what proportion of the outlined need you are specifically requesting the borough to accommodate, especially given that you have also requested assistance from your neighbouring authorities and also those within your HMA. Havant borough is some distance from the borough. The suitability of your approach to accommodating the need within Havant Borough will be fully considered through your Local Plan process and therefore the council will not be commenting on this aspect further at this stage.

BDB council is in the early stages of updating the adopted Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2011-2029). A second Regulation 18 consultation has recently taken place, focusing on a revised spatial strategy. Our priority must always be to meet our own housing needs first and the draft plan sets out a draft strategy for accommodating the needs of the current NPPF in full, including the significant uplift in housing requirement to 1,152 home per annum. It includes a stepped approach due to concerns about the ability of local infrastructure to cope with the proposed high levels of growth and also due to the nature of the spatial strategy which, due to the high numbers involved, includes a number of large scale strategic sites/new settlements which will take some time to deliver new homes on the ground. The council continues to have significant concerns about whether such a high level of growth can be sustainably accommodated in the borough. This concern was reflected by stakeholders and residents through the aforementioned consultation where a very high number of objections were received.

Chief Executive Russell O'Keefe
Deputy Chief Executive Rebecca Emmett

Director of Resident Services Fiona Darby
Director of Regeneration Sarah Longthorpe
Director of Customers, Digital and Improvement Katy Sallis

It is also worth highlighting that the current high housing number in the borough, coupled with a shortage of deliverable sites, has led to the council being unable to demonstrate a full five-year housing land supply for a number of years. Whilst the council is taking proactive steps to address this, the position remains around three years. This again demonstrates the difficulty of meeting our own housing number, which was significantly increased by the 2024 NPPF, and therefore the inability to accommodate further additional homes from neighbouring areas.

I can therefore confirm that unfortunately the council does not have any scope to accommodate any unmet housing need from Havant borough. This is considering the current high housing number within this borough and the availability of suitable sites and infrastructure to deliver new homes.

As always, we welcome the ongoing dialogue between councils and are happy to assist in the production of relevant statements of common ground if that would be helpful.

Kind regards

Joanne Brombley
Planning Policy Manager
[redacted]