

## Planning Policy

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**From:** Helen Patton  
**Sent:** 13 September 2018 14:15  
**To:** Planning Policy  
**Subject:** Issues and Options Consultation  
**Attachments:** Issues and Options Consultation 13 09 2018.docx

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find attached a copy of the response to the above consultation on behalf of the Authority. A signed paper copy will follow shortly in the post.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss the matter.

Regards

Helen Patton Policy Officer

Tel :



New Forest National Park Authority

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Planning Policy Team  
Test Valley Borough Council  
Beech Hurst  
Weyhill Road  
Andover  
SP10 3AJ

13 September 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Issues and Consultation for the next Local Plan**

Thank you for consulting the Authority on the initial issues and options consultation document as part of the Council's Local Plan Review. It is recognised that the Council's next Local Plan will be prepared within the context of the recently revised NPPF and the timetable enables the Council to prepare a revised Local Plan that accords with this updated national planning policy.

#### **Duty to Co-operate**

The National Park Authority and Test Valley Borough Council have a positive working relationship, as illustrated by the Borough Council's representation on the New Forest Leadership Group, the co-operation that already takes place on cross-boundary planning matters such as habitat mitigation, and the signing of a joint Statement of Common Ground (May 2018) relating to the Authority's Submission draft Local Plan. The Authority looks to build on this existing cross-boundary working, framed by the Statement of Common Ground that will be required under the revised national planning policy.

#### **Chapter 5 Why do we need to plan for growth and how much?**

Test Valley Borough Council will be aware from recent discussions on the Authority's own Local Plan review that the National Park is likely to have a modest unmet housing need when assessed against the best available evidence of need arising within the National Park. In late 2017 we contacted neighbouring planning authorities in the respective Housing Market Areas that cover the National Park outlining the scale of this unmet need (circa 23 dwellings per annum over the Plan period to 2036) and seeking assistance in meeting it. The Authority, however, is not aware of any opportunities to date to accommodate the unmet need arising from the National Park elsewhere. This

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issue will be considered as part of the Authority's forthcoming Local Plan examination hearing sessions, scheduled for November 2018.

It is likely that given the range of national and international landscape and habitat designations within the National Park, fully meeting the housing needs identified within the Park now and into the future will remain extremely challenging. The Authority is therefore requesting that surrounding local authorities, including Test Valley Borough Council, fully explore whether there is capacity within their Plan area to address this modest unmet housing need arising from the National Park to 2036 and would welcome continuing dialogue on this matter.

#### **Chapter 7 – Enjoying Test Valley para 7.2 page 25**

The Council will be aware from the Authority's previous representations of the legal 'duty of regard' placed on relevant bodies, including neighbouring planning authorities, to the two National Park purposes. This duty of regard is contained within Section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995 and recognises that the delivery of the two statutory Park purposes rests with a wide range of bodies, not just the respective National Park Authorities. The development plans being prepared by local planning authorities immediately adjacent to National Parks provide an opportunity to set out how the duty of regard will be delivered.

The Authority is pleased to note that reference is made to the fact that parts of the Borough lie within nationally protected landscapes because they either fall within the New Forest National Park or North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We are also pleased to note the recognition within the consultation document that the Authority is responsible for planning matters for that part of Test Valley that falls within the National Park boundary.

In preparing the revised Local Plan for the Borough, we would encourage the Council to include specific planning policy coverage of this legal 'duty of regard' to ensure that development in Test Valley considers potential impacts on the adjacent New Forest National Park.

#### **Biodiversity Para 7.27 page 28**

The Authority welcomes the continued commitment of the Council to work with other partners and local authorities, including the National Park Authority, to develop and implement a strategic approach to protecting international and European sites from development, including recreational disturbance from the increase in population. The joint work due to be undertaken in 2018/19 by the Borough Council, National Park Authority and other partners to develop a strategic, cross-boundary approach to mitigating the impacts of development on the New Forest's Natura 2000 sites will be an important input into the Council's Local Plan review.

In conclusion, the Authority welcomes this initial consultation as part of the Borough Council's Local Plan review. The issues identified reflect the main

planning issues to be addressed within the context of the recently updated NPPF (2018). The comments made in this letter aim to ensure the Council's new Local Plan fully considers the cross-boundary matters identified relating to meeting the National Park's unmet housing need, habitat protection and the duty of regard towards the National Park.

Yours faithfully

*H R Patton*

Policy Officer

Tel: 01273 290000

Email: [h.patton@dnb.gov.uk](mailto:h.patton@dnb.gov.uk)

