

NOTE FROM THE INSPECTOR

CLARIFICATION OF THE APPROACH TO BE TAKEN TOWARDS THE CONSIDERATION OF STRATEGIC RESIDENTIAL ALLOCATIONS AT BLANDFORD

The Programme Officer has been asked about the role of those representors who support the Council's strategic housing allocation at Blandford St Mary and object to other options for Blandford that have been considered and rejected by the Council.

One of the locations where the Council is proposing residential development is to the south-east of Blandford St Mary. It is the Council's opinion that the allocation of this strategic site is sound and it will be defending the allocation at the forthcoming hearings.

It is up to other parties, if they so wish, to demonstrate that this strategic site is not sound (e.g. justified and effective). Only if such substantive evidence exists, will other opportunities for growth at Blandford need to be considered (or possibly if it is demonstrated that the Council is not allocating sufficient land for housing across the District as a whole).

If those circumstances arise there would be the opportunity for a further hearing session to be held and if that were to occur interested parties would be advised accordingly. In the meantime it is up to the Council to defend its plan and although 'supporters' are not normally invited to participate at the hearings, the Council can refer to any support it has received as appropriate.

David Hogger

Inspector

2nd February 2015