

Inspector's Question 3 to the Council

Distribution of Housing in Rural Settlements

(Supplementary to Question 3.2 in Issues and Questions)

It is clear that policies in a local plan should follow the presumption in favour of sustainable development (e.g. NPPF paragraph 15). There are three dimensions to sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

Paragraph D.1.14 of the submission document refers to 'allocating growth to settlements [in rural areas] proportional to the existing populations'. Although paragraph D.1.15 confirms that constraints to development have been identified, it is not clear how the Council has taken into account the three dimensions to sustainable development, referred to above, in the distribution of development across the Borough's rural settlements.

There are references to facilities and services in the Sustainability Appraisal but it would be helpful if the Council could explain, in slightly more depth, how it has taken into account economic, social and environmental issues in the distribution process, including factors such as:

- The availability of existing services and facilities, such as schools, shops, pubs, community facilities and employment opportunities; and
- The potential 'benefits' of growth referred to in paragraph D.1.15.

A response within two weeks would be welcome.

David Hogger

Inspector

11th June 2015