

Home Builders Federation

Matter 1

Matter 1: Procedural/legal requirements

Issue: Whether all Statutory and Regulatory requirements have been met?

Duty to Cooperate

Q.1. Is there clear evidence that the Council has engaged constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies in accordance with section 33A of the 2004 Act in respect of strategic matters with cross-boundary impacts considered through the preparation of the Plan?

The HBF do not dispute that the Council has engaged with neighbouring authorities and prescribed bodies in accordance with section 33A of the 2004 Act. Our main concern is that the outcomes of this co-operation do not appear to have informed plan making and the decision not to meet housing needs in full. The shortfall in housing needs across West Sussex is significant with both Horsham's submitted plan falling short of meeting needs by 2,250 homes and Worthing's local plan being adopted with a shortfall in excess of 10,000 homes. Alongside this Havant which borders Chichester to the west has stated that they expect their shortfall to be in the region of 4,000 homes – a figure which will be much higher should the new standard method be adopted. These are significant shortfalls that will impact on affordability across the sub region and the HBF consider these to have been given insufficient consideration in the decision by the Council not to meet own housing needs in full and the benefits of doing so.

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