

## Question 1

**Does the plan deliver sustainable development to the extent that it meets the housing needs of the present and future generations and does it meet the Governments objective that the planning system should be securing a significant boost to housing?**

- 1.1 The Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF) together with the Horsham District Core Strategy have formed the starting point for the preparation of the Storrington, Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan (SSWNP) for land outside and inside the national park respectively. Together these documents provide the framework to guide the parishes in delivering sustainable development (i.e. meeting economic, social and environmental objectives).
- 1.2 During the preparation of the HDPF it was recognised that would not be possible to allocate growth to meet the exact needs of each settlement on a proportionate basis for a number of reasons, including environmental and infrastructure constraints. This led to the approach set out in HDPF policy 15 which ensures that all housing needs was met across the district as a whole, including through strategic housing allocations.
- 1.3 In terms of meeting housing requirements in neighbourhood plans, there is no single prescribed methodology to ascertain a neighbourhood plan housing number. The Housing Alignment Study has therefore employed available data including the current SHMA to identify a housing number. It is clear from this work that 894 dwellings would be needed in both parishes across the plan period (para 4.9). Such an approach is considered proportionate to the Neighbourhood Plan preparation process<sup>1</sup>
- 1.4 Although the Neighbourhood Plan does not meet this level of housing, Horsham District Council is of the view that the Qualifying Body has undertaken best endeavours to accommodate the identified housing need in the area. This takes account of the comments made by the previous Examiner and has resulted in the revision of both the site assessment and sustainability appraisal process. This updated assessment process has demonstrated that Storrington, Sullington and Washington are parishes with significant constraints – with flood risk and landscape impacts (including those on the South Downs National Park) two particularly significant issues. This has therefore significantly limited the availability of suitable sites for development as these sites would conflict with the environmental objectives of sustainable development in particular.
- 1.5 In the interim period, housing needs in the parish have continued to be met, partly through the wider strategic provisions in the HDPF, but also through sites previously identified in by the Qualifying Body. The implementation of Land at Robell Way has overtaken the emerging SSWNP but will still contribute to meeting the needs of the population in this part of the district.
- 1.6 It is recognised that housing numbers may change in the future following the publication of the standard assessment methodology. However this will come forward through the Local Plan Review process and the Qualifying Body has acknowledged that the plan may have to undergo a review in light of these changes. This is recorded in the submission draft plan at paragraph 3.13.

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<sup>1</sup> [Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 2a-006-20140306](#) (guidance applicable in a period of transition)