



Please ask for: Rob Foers
Direct dial/ext: 01455 255898
Email: planningpolicy@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk
Your ref:
Our ref: 0200/0206/Blaby
Date: 26/09/19

**Consultation: Blaby District New Local Plan (Issues & Options)
Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012**

Development Strategy Team,

Thank you for consulting Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council on the Blaby District New Local Plan Issues and Options document. It is noted that the plan is at an early stage of development and we look forward to continuing positive and productive dialogue across our shared boundary and the wider Housing Market Area (HMA) to help progress our plans. As some of the questions in the document have limited relevance to the Borough we have made a number of general comments and observations on key themes, and these are set out below.

Housing and Employment Growth

The consultation document sets out a number of options related to housing growth. The Borough Council supports an approach based on using the standard methodology as the basis for calculating local housing need, as this approach would be in accordance with national policy and guidance. The document notes that Leicester City Council has declared an unmet housing need, albeit the scale of this unmet need has yet to be fully quantified by the City Council. To respond to this the authorities across the Leicester and Leicestershire HMA are preparing a Statement of Common Ground, and this will provide an agreement on how unmet need across the HMA will be accommodated within the HMA. The Borough Council are fully supportive of this joint approach to addressing cross boundary housing matters.

With regard to the housing growth options set out in table 1 it is expected that Local authorities within the HMA may need to address unmet need arising from Leicester City in the period before 2031 as well as in the period post 2031. As the consultation document notes, the Statement of Common Ground will seek to clarify the level and apportionment of unmet need across the HMA.

The Borough Council supports cross boundary co-operation on employment matters, particularly for wider than local employment provision such as B8 warehouse and logistics, which is particularly pertinent for both Blaby District and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough given our positions with the golden triangle.

The paper notes that proposals for a National Rail Freight Interchange (NRFI) to the east of Hinckley (but within Blaby District) are due to be submitted to the Secretary of State in the near future. The Borough Council has previously made clear its strong opposition to the proposal due to the potential environmental impact on Burbage Common and on the Borough's already congested

road network¹. Notwithstanding the decision making process the Borough Council would welcome the opportunity to discuss the potential cross boundary implications of the NRFI.

Spatial Strategy

Table 3 provides a range of options for the locational strategy for accommodating growth in Blaby District. It is noted that the Strategic Growth Plan sets out an infrastructure led approach to new growth and seeks to direct growth to major strategic locations. Of relevance for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council will be that any growth strategy fully takes into consideration the impact on the infrastructure within the Borough. In particular option D in table 3 refers to the proposed A46 expressway. I draw your attention to the Borough Councils concerns over the potential A46/M69 connection due to the potentially devastating impact this could have on the locality (as reported at Council 27th November 2018 - item 297 Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan²).

Green Wedges

There are two green wedge designations in HBBC and both continue into Blaby District (the Hinckley/Barwell/Earl Shilton/Burbage Green Wedge and the Rothley Brook Green Wedge). The cross boundary strategic nature of green wedges is of relevance and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council are currently undertaking a review of the green wedges within its area. Since green wedge policies were introduced in the Leicestershire Structure Plan in 1987 they have remained an important policy tool guiding development across the HMA. We would not wish to see any weakening of this strategic green wedge policy. HBBC would support a review of the green wedges within Blaby to ensure the evidence base is up to date and relevant, and would wish to discuss any cross boundary issues that would impact on Hinckley and Bosworth Borough.

We look forward to continue working with Blaby in the development of our respective local plans and on wider cross boundary planning issues.

Yours faithfully,



Rob Foers
Principal Planning Officer, Policy

Development Services
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

¹ Modern Gov website

² Modern Gov website