



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Stuart Bray  
Leader  
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council  
Hinckley Hub  
Rugby Road  
Hinckley  
LE10 0FR

Hinckley

Our Ref: LE1914

1 March 2021

Dear Cllr Bray

**Re: Local Plan Production Delays**

I recently wrote to the Chief Executive of the Council to ask whether the Council consider that a five year housing land supply is currently in place and if the current Local Plan is up to date. Matthew Bowers Director Environment and Planning kindly responded, please find a copy of his letter attached.

From Mr Bowers' letter I understand that the Council is currently being challenged at appeal regarding its position that a 5.15 year housing land supply is in place and the policies within the current Local Plan *"are still able to be used in decision making although they carry less weight."*

In order to protect the Borough from speculative development and to ensure the new homes that local people need are built in the right places, a new Local Plan needs to be put in place as soon as possible.

I wrote to you in July 2020 to enquire about the status of the Local Plan review noting at that time the Council's website said that a draft Local Plan was due to be published in April 2020 with the examination in public estimated to take place in April 2021.

I do not appear to have received a response to that letter, however I did note that the Council's website has been updated to give a date of April 2021 for publication of the draft Local Plan, to be submitted for examination in September 2021, with adoption estimated for October 2022. Please could you provide an explanation as to why the timescale was extended?

Please also find attached a copy of a letter which I understand the Minister for Housing, the Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP sent to you last month, and I was copied in.

I was very glad to learn that the Minister has offered the assistance of his officials to the Council to progress the Local Plan as quickly as possible.

I would be grateful for your comments about the following:

- ♦ An update on the progress of the Local Plan with regard to the published timescale for development.
- ♦ Whether there is scope to bring the publication of the plan forward in light of the Government's offer of assistance? This would be of great benefit to local people as it would protect the Borough from speculative development.

As per the Minister's letter, I would be happy to help facilitate any meeting with MHCLG to help you

to achieve an updated local plan.

I would be grateful to be kept abreast of the Borough's progress.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'L' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Luke Evans  
**Member of Parliament for Bosworth**