



Lewes District Local Plan Part 2:
Site Allocations and Development Management Policies
Examination

Lewes District Council

Response to Inspector's Questions

Matter 4

March 2019

Matter 4 - Is there a need for the Plan to deal with the housing shortfall in neighbouring authorities?

Inspector's Question

- 4.1 **No mention is made in the Plan of the need to make housing provision to meet the needs of surrounding local planning authorities or other parts of the South East. Can it therefore be assumed that there are no expectations and/or evidence from these sources to justify the provision of new housing within Lewes to meet outside needs during the plan period?**

LDC Response

- 1.1 The Council considers that the unmet housing need of the surrounding local planning authorities is outside the scope of the Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2), which is clearly identified within paragraph 1.3 and 1.4 of the LPP2. Nonetheless, since adopting the Local Plan Part 1 (LPP1) in May 2016 and the consequent setting of housing requirement figures for the district, no requests have been made of the Council to make housing provision for the needs of the surrounding planning authorities or other parts of the South East.
- 1.2 The only request made under the Duty to Cooperate during this period is from Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) on 2nd August 2018 (CD/069) requesting the Council assess the extent to which the unmet Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirement for BHCC could be met within the area for which Lewes District Council is the local planning authority (i.e. Lewes district outside the South Downs National Park). This letter (CD/069) indicated that there is an unmet need for six permanent pitches within the BHCC planning area that cannot be met by the BHCC City Plan Part 2.
- 1.3 The Council's response to this request was emailed to BHCC on 6th August 2018 (CD/070) and this outlined that the Council was at that time following a line of enquiry that might result in the allocation of a site in the LPP2 for five pitches, but that even with that allocation there would still be an unmet need within Lewes district of three pitches to serve the South Downs National Park (SDNP) area of the district. The Council's response therefore concluded that it could not at this time assist with meeting the shortfall from BHCC for Gypsy and Traveller provision.

- 1.4 The unmet need within the SDNP area of the district has subsequently reduced to one pitch through the grant of planning permission for two additional pitches, as documented in the Duty to Cooperate Statement (CD/007) paragraphs 3.7 and 3.8.

Proposed Modifications

- 1.5 None

Inspector's Question

- 4.2 In any event, should it be addressed by a review of Part 1 of the development plan?**

LDC Response

- 2.1 Yes, the review of the strategic LPP1 is the appropriate point at which the plan-making process should consider the unmet housing needs of the surrounding neighbouring authorities. The Council is a Member of the West Sussex and Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Board, which has agreed to prepare a Local Strategic Statement 3 (LSS3) covering the period 2030-2050 taking account of the housing needs across this sub regional area. The evidence base to inform this statement has been scoped and timetabled to inform Local Plans and Local Plan reviews from 2020.
- 2.2 The Board last met on 18th February 2019 and Members agreed that preparing a Statement of Common Ground setting out the work of the Board on the LSS3 would be very positive. The Board also agreed to set up a 'micro site' for the Board Area so key information could be made available to highlight the work of the Board and its key objectives and help raise public awareness of the issues facing the area.

Proposed Modifications

- 2.3 None