

Status: FINAL

Slough and RBWM

DUTY TO CO-OPERATE MEETING

Monday 18 December 2017, St Martin's Place, Slough

Note of Outcomes

Attendees:

Slough BC	Cllr Carter Paul Stimpson, Planning Policy Manager
RBWM	Cllr Coppinger Helen Murch, Planning Policy Manager

OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS:

1	<p>RBWM affordable housing policy – Potential amendment options</p> <p>Slough had made representations on the Regulation 19 publication of the RBWM Borough Local Plan (BLP). One of the representations raised a Duty to Co-operate objection to the lack of commitment to social and affordable rent in the BLP and particularly to Policy HO3. In response to this concern, RBWM had considered a number of ways of revising the policy to include commitments to various levels and type of affordable tenure split. Six potential tenure split amendment options for Policy H03 were circulated to Slough in early December 2017 for comment.</p> <p>At the meeting Slough indicated that they would be happy with Option 6 (Maintaining existing affordable level at 30% with 80% rent/20 shared ownership and the rented tenure split with 45% social rent and 35% affordable rent to reflect local need). However, their preferred option would be No. 3 which sort a higher affordable contribution (40%) from green field sites with all other sites remaining at 30%. Tenure split would be as in Option 6 outlined above. Cllr Coppinger indicated that RBWM could commit to Option 6 but Option 3 would be something the Council would look to move towards.</p> <p>Cllr Carter welcomed RBWM's change in approach to affordable housing and indicated that if this was proposed by RBWM to the Planning Inspector as a suggested modification to the Plan Slough would look to remove its Duty to Co-operate objection.</p> <p><i>Actions:</i></p>
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	<p>Cllr Coppinger to formally write to Slough to set out RBWM's proposed amendments to Policy HO3 to address Slough's Duty to Co-operate objections.</p>
2	<p>Homelessness</p> <p>Both parties recognised the increasing concerns regarding homelessness in the area. RBWM noted there had been a significant increase in rough sleeping in the Windsor area and wondered whether there had been a change in Slough's approach to homelessness which might explain it. Slough were not aware of initiating any particular change but would investigate further.</p> <p><i>Actions:</i> Cllr Carter agreed to investigate whether there had been any change of policy at Slough relating to rough sleepers.</p>
3	<p>Transport</p> <p>There are important cross boundary bus services but the maintenance of these is under financial pressure and some services were having to be cut. Both parties acknowledged the cutting of services by one party had an impact on the other authority. Both are using creative solutions to address the problem but it was recognised this is being done on a silo basis and that there was more need for a combined approach to sustainable transport planning.</p> <p><i>Actions:</i> The 2 authorities would look to work more closely regarding bus, cycle and footpath planning.</p>
4	<p>Air quality</p> <p>It was recognised by both authorities that air quality is an increasingly important matter for councils to consider.</p> <p><i>Actions:</i> Agreed that both parties would collaborate on air quality matters.</p> <p><i>Actions:</i> RBWM to share outcome of air quality work currently being done in response to Natural England's concerns expressed through their representation on the Regulation 19 BLP publication.</p>