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Sanjay Dhuna
Head of Planning and Building Control Services
Slough Borough Council
St Martins Place
51 Bath Road
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17 July 2017

Dear Sanjay,

Duty to Co-operate – meeting unmet housing need

I refer to your email of 20 February 2017 enquiring whether the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) would be in a position to accommodate any un-met objectively assessed housing need (OAHN) arising in Slough. Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to you.

RBWM recognises that Slough is subject to a number of constraints which limit its ability to meet its full objectively assessed housing need, as set out in the Berkshire SHMA 2016. This Council recognises and welcomes Slough's intention to adopt a best endeavours and no stone unturned approach to meeting housing need in the Borough.

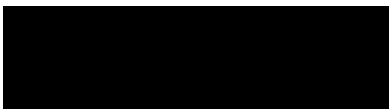
RBWM is committed to meeting its own growth needs. The Regulation 19 Submission Borough Local Plan states that it would provide for at least 14,240 new dwellings (712 dpa) over the 2013 to 2033 plan period. This represents the Borough's full OAHN as set out in the Berkshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2016.

As I am sure you are aware, RBWM is severely constrained in terms of land availability, green belt designations, international nature conservation designations (including the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area), nationally significant heritage assets, and flooding. The housing target set out in the Regulation 19 Borough Local Plan is ambitious and challenging in light of these constraints and RBWM had to adopt a 'no stone unturned' approach to enable it to meet its identified housing need in full. This involved the Council significantly increasing densities in a number of sustainable locations, using brownfield and public sector land and releasing Green Belt.

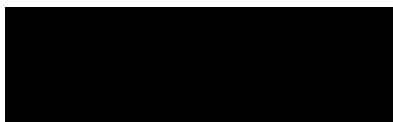
As a consequence of the challenges in meeting its own target, RBWM is very unlikely to be in a position to meet any demonstrated unmet housing need arising in Slough. That

said, RBWM recognises that Slough is at an earlier stage in the plan making process and this Council would welcome the opportunity to continue the dialogue in respect of cross boundary strategic matters.

Yours sincerely



Jenifer Jackson
Head of Planning Services



Cllr Derek Wilson
Lead Member - Planning