

Summary of LDF evidence base recently or shortly to be completed

Rural Housing Study

The borough council commissioned David Couttie Associates to carry out a rural housing study to assess the current and likely future housing demand and need in the rural areas to help inform the Local Development Framework (LDF) and housing strategy. The main conclusions from the study are:

- need to ensure a mix of house types and sizes to meet all needs in rural areas
- current rural housing stock has a high proportion of three and four bedroom homes and there is a need to focus new market housing on two bedroom homes
- need to address the increasing numbers of people in the older age groups.

Affordable Housing Viability Study

The borough council commissioned Adams Integra to carry out an Affordable Housing Viability study. The main conclusions are:

- support for on-site affordable housing provision of up to 40%, without grant, for sites between 10 and 14 homes, although sometimes flexibility will be required
- support for an off-site tariff contribution, in lieu of on-site provision, for sites up to nine units on lower-density sites and seven units for higher density sites
- continuing requirement for negotiation on individual sites with respect to affordable housing provision.



Evidence Update

North Hampshire Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Development Study

A renewable energy and low carbon development study has been carried out on behalf of the three north Hampshire local authorities, including Basingstoke and Deane. The study assesses the potential of different renewable energy sources across north Hampshire and provides evidence for the development of sustainable construction and renewable energy policies. The study recommends that a 20% renewable energy target is achievable across Basingstoke and Deane due to the scale of potential in the borough.

Strategic Biodiversity Assessment

This assessment has been carried out by the borough council Neighbourhood Development Unit based on information provided by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre. It considers potential strategic development areas in terms of impacts of biodiversity and the opportunities for enhancement to biodiversity. The assessment is based on national and regional policy requirements having regard to designated sites, ancient woodland and habitats identified as priorities for conservation within the UK and Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plans. The assessment also considers the implications of developing each area in terms of the landscape connectivity of habitats.

SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment)

The council consulted on an initial draft SHLAA in October 2008 which was updated and then reviewed by the council's Planning and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Following the committee's review, the draft SHLAA will be updated and revised once more. It is proposed to hold a further public consultation on the draft SHLAA during May and June 2010 which will include public exhibitions. More details on the SHLAA consultation will be available in due course.



For more information visit
www.basingstoke.gov.uk/planning/ldf/evidencebase/

