

## Summary of Comments/Questions from Rt Hon Maria Miller MP

### Topic 2 – Housing Need

Providing affordable housing is important priority in Basingstoke but any new house building has to be sustainable for the future.

Planning guidance issued by the Government in March, after the Basingstoke draft local plan was finalised, made clear that in some communities a simple population growth figure could not be used to set future house building numbers because it might not be sustainable because of problems such as those identified in Basingstoke: water pollution and chronic road congestion; the guidance also made clear that if in the past there have been more houses built than were needed simply for the communities own assessed need, that this 'over supply' can be taken fully into account when setting house building figures for the future.

Basingstoke's previous house building target was set 30% higher than the figure identified by the Borough Council officials as needed for our own natural population growth. As a result we have been helping meet the housing need of neighbouring authorities for the past ten years.

It has been clarified that the 748 houses a year figure is policy off, what would be the policy on figure taking into account the evidence on water pollution and chronic road congestion?

What analysis has BDBC done to take these new factor into account?

### Topic 3 – Other Housing Issues

Para 2.4 Inspector asks why housing figure is at lower end of Edge Analytics range ([550 – 1080](#)). Believe 748 is highest possible figure BDBC could go for. Because of previous oversupply, household projections based on past trends which are no longer realistic or sustainable, and what scope for 748 being reduced to take account of this?

### Topic 4 – Environment

River Loddon polluted to levels illegal under Water Framework Directive. Council's evidence base – Water Cycle Study – does not cover last 6 years of Plan, so not sufficient.

What are the Council's plans to improve water quality, rather than accept further increased pollution levels within the current band? What would be the policy on figure if reducing river Loddon pollution levels?

### Topic 5 – Transport

Welcome £30m government investment in Basingstoke roads, and improvements to M3 but May 2014 Transport Assessment identifies need for significant upgrading of 13 roundabouts at a cost of more than £26 million; two of the roundabouts have no technical solution.

What plans have been developed by the Council to resolve the problems at Aldermaston and Brighton Hill roundabouts, and how will this new infrastructure be funded and brought on stream prior to occupation of developments as set out in their plan?