

(b) The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Nick Carter:

Response to Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan

This Council notes that:

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation includes a proposed allocation of approximately 350 dwellings at Land at West End Farm, Mortimer West End.

- This site would function in practice as an extension of Stratfield Mortimer, a settlement within West Berkshire, and would rely substantially on West Berkshire infrastructure and services, including healthcare, education, transport, utilities and environmental assets.
- West Berkshire Council, ward members, parish councils and residents have submitted detailed representations raising concerns regarding cross-boundary infrastructure capacity, deliverability, environmental constraints, and consistency with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's stated spatial strategy.
- The proposed level of development at Mortimer West End would represent a significant population increase relative to the size and infrastructure capacity of Stratfield Mortimer.
- There is currently no clear, funded and agreed mechanism demonstrating how cross-boundary infrastructure impacts would be mitigated or how West Berkshire services would be protected from additional pressure.
- Questions have been raised regarding the consistent application of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's own site selection methodology, settlement hierarchy principles and strategic constraints — including the treatment of AWE emergency-planning constraints and cross-boundary infrastructure reliance — when compared with other candidate sites within the borough.

The Council appreciates the positive engagement that has taken place with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to date.

Notwithstanding that, this Council believes that:

- Development immediately adjacent to the West Berkshire boundary must be infrastructure-led and supported by robust, proportionate and transparent evidence.
- West Berkshire residents should not experience degradation of healthcare access, school capacity, transport safety, wastewater performance or environmental quality as a consequence of an adjacent Council's Local Plan.
- Cross-boundary sites must be subject to the same transparent and consistent application of settlement hierarchy principles, infrastructure tests and environmental constraints as sites located within Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's own defined service centres.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Formally write to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council requesting:
 - Clear evidence of how cross-boundary infrastructure impacts will be assessed, funded and delivered prior to allocation at Regulation 19.
 - Publication of any site-specific transport, healthcare, wastewater and environmental capacity assessments relevant to West Berkshire residents.
 - Clarification of how the Council's site selection methodology and spatial strategy criteria have been applied consistently across all candidate sites, including the treatment of AWE emergency-planning constraints, settlement hierarchy principles and cross-boundary infrastructure reliance.
2. Seek formal engagement with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and relevant infrastructure providers to ensure that West Berkshire's interests are fully represented in ongoing plan preparation.
3. Request that no future allocation adjoining West Berkshire by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council should proceed unless and until proportionate, deliverable and secured mitigation is evidenced for impacts falling within West Berkshire.
4. Continue to support residents and parish councils in ensuring that cross-boundary impacts are properly considered through the Local Plan process.