

LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2024

QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION

QUESTION FROM MS G BAKER

'I understand that NWLDC has exceeded their allocated quota of 357 new properties per year by building an average of 789 properties per year between 2020/21 and 2022/23. This additional building will have contributed to the Council now being allocated a new mandatory quota of 621 properties. After speaking to members of the Planning Committee, I am now aware that NWLDC agreed to take on a proportion of Leicester City Council's housing number responsibilities. I was particularly devastated to find that the draft plan includes a proposal to build 500 properties to the west of Whitwick, which will completely destroy that village community, be detrimental to the wildlife and the environment, destroy productive farmland and to place even more pressure on the road network and local resources.

Do the Council intend to continue to build a greater number than their fair share of housing into the future?'

RESPONSE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE

Whilst the standard method does result in annual requirement for 357 dwellings, to this has to be added any unmet need from elsewhere within Leicester and Leicestershire. Leicester City has demonstrated to the satisfaction of all of the Leicestershire authorities that it is not able to accommodate all its needs within its boundaries. Therefore, under the Duty to Cooperate that the Council is required to satisfy, all of the other Leicestershire authorities have to help meet this unmet need. In addition, any housing requirement has to take account of any other local factors. In this instance, there is an imbalance between the number of future jobs and homes in the district. Therefore, the final housing requirement has been established as 686 dwellings each year. It is this factor which accounts for most of the increase in North West Leicestershire.

More details about this can be found at paragraphs 4.7 to 4.12 of the Proposed Policies document published in February and which can be viewed on the Council's website. Reg 18 (Policies) for consultation_final.pdf (nwleics.gov.uk)

Whilst this number was exceeded in the first couple of years, it is likely that in some future years it will not be met. In effect there will be peaks and troughs which over time even each other out.

It is not the Council's intention to see more housing built than is required, but it does have to ensure that it meets whatever the identified need is.