

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 13 MAY 2025

ITEM 10 – MOTIONS

AMENDED MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR M BALL

The Labour Government has committed to build 300,000 homes each year and stipulated that every planning authority must have an up-to-date Local Plan, ~~whilst simultaneously dictating that NWLDC's housing target should increase by 70%.~~ This Council stands ready to do its bit to comply, and to continue its excellent housebuilding record, but the Government's ~~continued safeguarding of land refusal to give up the land safeguarded~~ for the now defunct eastern leg of HS2 ~~is adding pressure on~~ ~~has become a major risk to~~ our emerging Local Plan. Some 700 homes with planning permission in Measham and Kegworth remain in limbo, forcing this Council to take the unwanted step of allocating a reserve site for yet more housebuilding in Ashby. It has also resulted in the longed for restoration of the Ashby Canal through Measham remaining stalled.

The success of our emerging Local Plan rests heavily on the establishment of a new large settlement at Isley Woodhouse, which can only proceed with major upgrades to the highway network in the north of the district, but these potential upgrades may well require the use of land currently safeguarded by HS2. This Council urgently needs a straight answer to a straight question – “why is the eastern leg land still being safeguarded when the western leg land has been released and when, if ever, will it be released?”.

We, therefore, request that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State on behalf of full Council to request an explanation of why the land has not yet been released, that the land be released, and also writes to the MPs for North West Leicestershire and Bosworth requesting that they make representations to Government highlighting the blight HS2 continues to cause this district. '