

## COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 4 June 2020

### Question 1

**Councillor Nigel Shaw, Bromyard Bringsty Ward**

**To: cabinet member, infrastructure and transport**

New housing land supply figures were due for publication at the beginning of April, can the cabinet member responsible now provide these, or confirm a date on which they will be published?

### **Response**

The housing supply statement for 2020 will be based on the position as of April 1st but it is not the case that these figures were due for publication in early April. The assessment of the housing land position needs to have regard to the methodology set out in Government guidance and involves a considerable amount of staff resource in order to provide as accurate an annual position as possible. As with previous years, the intention is to complete the assessment by the end of July. This year the Covid-19 pandemic is providing a number of additional challenges to this process but it is still intended at this time to provide the position statement by July 31st. This will enable the returns to Central Government to be made within the required deadlines.

### **Supplementary Question**

I appreciate that the statutory deadline for submitting the figures is the end of July. I was hoping that the cabinet member might by now at least have an idea if the Authority were going to come in over the three year land supply figure.

What contingency plans does the cabinet member have in place to bolster the existing Herefordshire Local Plan if the housing land supply is reported as below 3 years in July to stop a development free for all in the county?

### **Response**

As you say the statutory return date is July. There has been a slight delay in getting out and visiting the sites as a result of Covid. In terms of what masterplan response, we are working on some and I can give you a written update once we have an understanding of where we are at the moment.