

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ISSUES FOR FUTURE SCRUTINY

Agenda item 5 invites the public to suggest issues that the Committee could scrutinise in the future. [**Please note:** It is not intended that there will be discussion on the issues at the meeting, as consideration will be given to whether the issues should form part of the Committee's work programme when compared with other competing priorities.]

The following suggestions have been received from Mrs E Morawiecka

Suggestion 1: The 5 year Housing Land Supply - it seems that despite Herefordshire Council agreeing the Core Strategy in July 2013, that there is still no up to date 5 year housing land supply, and no calculations are currently available as to how officers are attempting to calculate this. This is providing a financial risk and reputational risk to Herefordshire Council, who is currently facing a number of appeals where the lack of 5 year land supply is often cited as a reason for the appeal.

Comment *Andrew Ashcroft, Assistant Director Economic, Environment & Cultural Services:*

Para 47 of the NPPF requires local authorities to identify specific deliverable sites to provide five years' worth of supply against their housing requirement, plus a margin of 5% from later in the plan period to ensure choice and competition. If there is evidence that an authority has persistently under delivered this buffer rises to 20%.

A failure to meet this test means that policies on housing supply cannot be considered up to date. This adds weight to the tests for decision-makers in para 14 of the NPPF, including its presumption in favour of sustainable development.

This situation in the County is inevitably linked to progress on the LDF. At this stage the situation on the 5 year housing land supply is a source of debate between the Council and the development industry and will be tested at a planning inquiry later this month. The most recent figure (as published in the Annual Monitoring Report 2012) was that there was the potential to deliver 4.6 years of the 5 year supply requirements to be met.

Suggestion 2: The Local Transport Plan. The current plan has under 18 months to run and has been disconnected from the Core Strategy. For proper planning and best use of transport funding, surely the Council needs to have some plan for its transport strategy and how it is to be funded, to deliver the Council's, Governmental and European objectives such as reducing carbon emissions; promoting health and wellbeing; etc.