

ADDENDUM REPORT

Planning Committee



Item Number: 6.7

Site: Former Tothill Sidings, Desborough Road

Application Number: I6/01422/REM

Applicant: Mr Hisham Shibl

Pages: 99-112

UPDATE ON HOUSING SUPPLY

When determining applications for residential development it is important to give consideration to housing supply.

Paragraph 47 of the NPPF stipulates that “to boost significantly the supply of housing, local planning authorities should...identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide five years’ worth of housing against their housing requirements with an additional buffer of 5% (moved forward from later in the plan period) to ensure choice and competition in the market for land. Where there has been a record of persistent under delivery of housing, local planning authorities should increase the buffer to 20% (moved from later in the plan period) to provide a realistic prospect of achieving the planned supply and to ensure choice and competition in the market for land”

Paragraph 49 of the NPPF states that “housing applications should be considered in the context of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Relevant policies for the supply of housing should not be considered up-to-date if the local planning authority cannot demonstrate a five-year supply of deliverable housing sites.”

For the reasons set out in the Authority’s Annual Monitoring Report, when measured against the housing requirement in the adopted development plan (the Core Strategy), Plymouth cannot demonstrate at present a deliverable 5 year land supply for the period 2017-22

It should be noted, however, that the Local Planning Authority is at a relatively advanced stage in the preparation of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan. The pre-submission version of the JLP has been formally approved by Plymouth City Council, West Devon Borough Council and South Hams District Council for a six-week period for representations, pursuant to Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations. The pre submission draft JLP sets out that a five year supply of deliverable housing sites can be demonstrated for the whole plan area, for the Plymouth Policy Area and for the Thriving Towns and Villages Policy Area, when measured against the new housing requirements set out in the JLP. Guidance on the amount of weight to be applied to the JLP is contained elsewhere in this

report. It should, however, be considered that since the five year land supply elements of the JLP are likely to attract significant representations which will be considered at the Examination into the JLP, only limited weight should be given to the emerging five year land supply position.

The NPPF (footnote 11) also specifies that to be considered deliverable, a site must be:

- Available to develop now
- Suitable for residential development in terms of its location and sustainability; and
- Achievable, with a reasonable prospect that homes will be delivered on the site within five years and in particular that the development of the site is viable.

Paragraph 14 of the NPPF states “At the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision taking...”

For decision-taking this means:

- approving development proposals that accord with the development plan without delay; and
- where the development plan is absent, silent or relevant policies are out-of date, granting permission unless:
 - any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this framework taken as a whole; or
 - specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted”

As Plymouth cannot demonstrate a 5 year supply when set against the housing requirement as set out in the adopted Core Strategy, the city’s housing supply policy should not be considered up-to-date. Paragraph 14 of the NPPF is therefore engaged and substantial weight must be accorded to the need for housing in the planning balance when determining housing applications.

LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

An additional letter of objection has been received from a resident who has previously made representations. The issues raised are:

- The Council should consider purchasing the land and using it for allotments, garages and perhaps small business units for benefit of the local community.
- The height and volume houses should be limited
- The design should be improved

Issues of height, design and density have already been addressed in the officers report, as has the issue of suggested alternative uses.

RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation remains as within the report.