

Stephen Pointer
Policy Manager
Harborough District Council
Council Offices
Adam & Eve Street
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
LE16 7AG

21 December 2010

Dear Stephen

HARBOROUGH CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION

Thank you for consulting East Midlands Councils (EMC) on the Harborough Core Strategy. EMC's response is based solely on the East Midlands Regional Plan (March 2009), and does not address any of the other tests of 'soundness' set out in PPS12. As you will be aware the High Court recently confirmed that the Regional Plan will remain part of the statutory development plan until it is abolished by primary legislation.

In assessing the conformity of the Harborough Core Strategy against the Regional Plan, it is noted that:

- The overall level of housing provision proposed is consistent with Policy 13a of the Regional Plan;
- The proposed policies on affordable housing and provision for gypsies and travellers are consistent with the approaches set out in Policies 14 and 15 of the Regional Plan respectively;
- The proposed approach to employment land provision is consistent with Policy 20 of the Regional Plan;
- The approaches to environmental and green infrastructure, climate change, flood risk and transport all appear to be generally consistent with the relevant policies of the Regional Plan;

In terms of housing distribution, the priority given to Market Harborough would seem to be consistent with the spatial approach set out in the 3 Cities Sub-Regional Strategy, which comprises Section 4 of the Regional Plan.

Although the level of housing provision associated with the Leicester urban fringe proposed is slightly lower than anticipated in Policy Three Cities SRS 3 of the Regional Plan (768 compared to 800), it is understood that that this results from the outcome local evidence and community consultation carried out since the Regional Plan was finalised.

In conclusion, the Core Strategy taken as whole would appear to be in 'general conformity' with the Regional Plan.

If you require any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Pritchard

Director of Strategy