B&NES Placemaking Plan Examination: Hearing Statement Matter 12: Site Allocations

By Barton Willmore
On behalf of Taylor Wimpey

Representor no. 234 - Land at Chilcompton Road, Midsomer Norton

August 2016



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Issue 1— whether the strategy for site selection is the most appropriate when considered against the reasonable alternatives, having regard to the evidence to support the selection of allocated sites?

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Examination Statement has been prepared by Barton Willmore on behalf of Taylor Wimpey in respect of land at Chilcompton Road, Midsomer Norton. A site plan is included in Appendix 1.

2.0 SITE ALLOCATIONS

- 2.1 Due to the absence of five year housing land supply in B&NES and the historic under supply of housing, the Placemaking Plan must make additional housing allocations if the 13,000 housing requirement set out in Policy DW1 of the Core Strategy is to be met.
- 2.2 Midsomer Norton is a location of significant economic growth and investment. Significant investment in the area, including through the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone, must be supported by adequate housing.

3.0 CHILCOMPTON ROAD

- 3.1 Given that B&NES has a housing land supply shortfall and historic under provision of housing, it should be looking to allocate sustainable sites such as land at Chilcompton Road, Midsomer Norton, which has the capacity to deliver 100-120 homes. The site benefits from being in Flood Zone 1 (low probability of flooding), is well contained on both sides of Chilcompton Road and is well related to the existing urban area to the north, it would form a logical extension to the town. Development of the site would be of a sufficient size to make a meaningful contribution to the future housing needs of Midsomer Norton, and the authority as a whole.
- 3.2 On the basis of the above, now is the appropriate time for B&NES to seek to allocate sites such as Chilcompton Road, in order to address their housing shortfall and deliver the objectives of the core strategy and the joint spatial plan.
- 3.3 We consider that the Placemaking Plan provides an opportunity for the Council to respond positively and proactively to delivering housing requirement in the authority. Further consideration should be given to sites such as land at Chilcompton Road which would represent a logical extension to the town of Midsomer Norton.

APPENDIX 1 SITE LOCATION PLAN