



Growth, Infrastructure & Housing Select Committee agenda supplement

Date: Thursday 16 February 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury
HP19 8FF

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Public Questions is an opportunity for people who live, work or study in Buckinghamshire to put a question to a Select Committee. The Committee will hear from members of the public who have submitted questions in advance relating to items on the agenda. The Cabinet Member, relevant key partners and responsible officers will be invited to respond.

Further information on how to register can be found here:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/get-involved-with-council-decisions/select-committees/>

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For further information please contact: Tom Fowler on 01494 732009, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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Growth, Infrastructure & Housing Select Committee – 16th February 2023

Agenda Item 4 – Public Questions

Question 1

Although Buckingham currently has no unmet housing need under VALP, can the Select Committee give an indication how much housing need it forecasts under the emerging County Plan, bearing in mind that the Secretary of State for Levelling Up Housing and Communities stated on 6th December 2022 that he has conceded that the 300,000 pa national housing target is being dropped, and local authorities will be allowed to build fewer homes if they can show that hitting centrally imposed targets would significantly change the character of their area?

Pushing more houses up to North Bucks would have the same despoiling effect on its rural and agricultural nature as it would have on South Bucks Green Belt/Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in terms of significantly changing its character.

- Councillor Mark Cole JP, Buckingham Town Council, Chairman of the Planning Committee

Question 2

Today's report on damp and mould in rented housing states the lack of available housing as one of the contributing factors. A recent Bucks Free Press article states that Buckinghamshire now has 678 fewer social homes than it did 10 years ago and that includes the 16 built last year. Clearly the present system is failing to deliver the warm, dry, cheap to heat social homes that are so desperately needed. What does Buckinghamshire Council intend to do to ensure this decline is reversed so that in the future damp and mould free social homes are available to all those who need them?

- Andrew Douglas

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