

## **Growth, Infrastructure & Housing Select Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> 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