



20<sup>th</sup> August 2020

## **LPP1 Policy – CP2**

This representation is to be considered in conjunction with the formal submissions by the Parish Councils of Norton St Philip, Rode and Beckington and supporting documents produced in conjunction with DLA Piper.

As you will see from these submissions, LPP2 has excited widespread and grave concern – and having met with the Parish Councils and other local residents, I am satisfied that it will, as currently interpreted, have a disproportionate and negative effect on Rode, Beckington and Norton St Philip. I strongly believe that applying the over-arching spatial strategy as originally conceived in LPP1 (that is, allocating the bulk of housing to locations where available infrastructure and employment testify to an already existing demand) is the soundest basis on which to proceed. This is particularly critical in respect of the 505 additional dwellings. It is clear that they are designed to meet district-wide housing needs (arising from the general roll-forward of LPP1 for an additional year) – and it is therefore imperative that site choices must be approached on the same basis.

There is no demonstrable need for additional housing in Rode, Beckington or Norton St Philip. It is worth reiterating that up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, Norton St Philip had provided 250% of its allocation under LPP1, Beckington 200% and Rode 120%. While this doesn't necessarily preclude considering these areas for additional housing, this should only be done in a way that is consonant with the broader spatial strategy as outlined in LPP1. Given that there is no local identified need for additional housing, mandating further dwellings in these villages would run counter to the principle that allocations in primary villages should be to meet identified local need rather than meeting generalised district-wide requirements.

I would urge you to engage with the submissions made by the three Parish Councils and to reach a determination that takes account of the case they outline. Having engaged with the three Councils and the villages they represent, I am confident that these submissions reflect the overwhelming balance of local opinion and capture something of the very real strength of feeling excited by this issue.

Yours sincerely,

David Warburton MP

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