

Dear Consultee

We are writing to you today to update you on Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' decision to undertake a new Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan. In December, the Government published its review of the National Planning Policy Framework, designed to meet its target of 1.5 million new homes being built in this parliament. In recent weeks, we've been analysing what this means for us here in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Part One of our Joint Local Plan was adopted in November 2023. It contains annual housing requirements based on the Government's previous housing formula. These figures are 416 new homes each year in Babergh, and 535 in Mid Suffolk. Since then, work has proceeded on Part Two of the Plan, which was set to make housing allocations, and address other matters include open space designations and Gypsy and Traveller provision.

What has changed?

In December, the Government announced new housing requirements for every District and Borough Council in the country. These increased the housing requirement in Babergh to 775 homes a year (up 86%), and in Mid Suffolk up to 734 (up 37%). To ensure the housing requirement can be met, councils must demonstrate there is a 'housing land supply' for the next five years. This is assessed every year, and the figures are published alongside our Annual Monitoring Report. Whilst the current housing land supply is determined against the adopted Joint Local Plan requirements of 416 homes for Babergh and 535 homes for Mid Suffolk respectively, the Councils want to ensure that we give our communities confidence by maintaining a plan-led approach to decision making whilst

acting promptly to respond to the Government's new policy and deliver what is expected of us.

What does this mean for Babergh and Mid Suffolk's Joint Local Plan?

We feel there is no option but to formally review the Joint Local Plan, building on the work that has already taken place, and we are extremely grateful to everyone who have taken the time to make valued contributions over the last few years. This work will be considered during the review, but it is unavoidable that we will have to gather further evidence and carry out additional engagement ahead of the formal review process. A revised timetable, our Local Development Scheme, will be published no later than March on our websites following agreement at meetings of the Councils.

In the meantime, Part One of our Joint Local Plan remains very much in place and will continue to carry statutory weight when planning decisions are made in our Districts, alongside Neighbourhood Plans and national policy. Our websites will continue to be updated with the latest information at www.babergh.gov.uk/jointlocalplan [1] and www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/jointlocalplan [2].

Yours faithfully

_Philip Isbell _

Acting Director of Planning

Planning Services