
Examination of the Watford Local Plan

Inspector: William Fieldhouse

Programme Officer: Louise St John Howe

Tel: 07789 486419

Email: louise@poservices.co.uk

Address: PO Box 10965, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 3BF

Examination webpage: [Watford Local Plan | Home](#)

INSPECTOR'S NOTE NO. 5 SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL: FIRST HOMES

Introduction

In order to help inform the discussion at the relevant hearing session, the Council is requested to submit a brief written response to the following supplementary question to the Programme Officer by **midday on Friday 14 January 2022**.

M8. Meeting the needs of different groups in the community

Affordable Homes

The Written Ministerial Statement made on 24 May 2021 set out substantial changes to planning policy relating to affordable homes through the introduction of requirements relating to the provision of First Homes. The transitional arrangements mean that, to avoid delaying the plan-making process, the First Homes requirements do not need to be reflected in the Watford Local Plan¹.

However, the Statement asks Planning Inspectors to consider through the examination whether a requirement for an early update of the plan might be appropriate to reflect the Government's desire to introduce First Home requirements at the earliest opportunity. As the Watford Local Plan will be adopted under the transitional arrangements, the First Home requirements will not need to be applied when considering planning applications in the Borough until such time as the requirements are introduced through a subsequent update to the Plan.

¹ The Watford Local Plan had been published for consultation under regulation 19 before 28 June 2021 and submitted for examination before 28 December 2021.

SQ8.1 Does the Council consider that an early update to the Plan to reflect national planning policy relating to First Homes as set out in the Written Ministerial Statement made on 24 May 2021 would be appropriate in order to introduce the requirements in the Borough at the earliest opportunity? If so, is it necessary to modify the Plan to reflect the Council's intention for such an early update?

William Fieldhouse

INSPECTOR

22 December 2021