



P R E S S R E L E A S E

From the Cabinet Office

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County Council Set to Object to Harborough Housing Plan

The County Council's Cabinet is being recommended to object to draft planning guidance published by Harborough District Council that would lead to the release of land for 440 houses at Kibworth.

The draft guidance monitors house building in Harborough on an annual basis. Latest monitoring has revealed a potential shortfall of 33 houses over the next 3 years in the Central Leicestershire area in Harborough compared with the County target. The draft guidance concludes that this shortfall triggers the release of 440 houses on a site at Kibworth.

The County Council is concerned that this action would be premature, as in strategic terms the shortfall is insignificant and the information used to calculate it is based on forecasts that may change over time. It would also prejudice longer term plans set out in the Leicestershire Structure Plan to direct most housing in the central Leicestershire part of Harborough towards the existing urban area around Leicester Oadby and Wigston.

County Council Leader David Parsons said: "The District Council is being panicked into releasing a substantial site on the basis of a very small forecast shortfall. County Council officers have assured District officers that there is no pressure from the County Council to take this action, and that if the Kibworth site were to be released, it would compromise longer term plans for more sustainable development of housing in the County. The County Council remains committed to reducing the amount of greenfield land used for development in the County.

"This shows how vital it is for the County Council to retain a strategic planning role when the planning system is overhauled by the Government."

Note for Editors

The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan, prepared by the County Council, requires about 2,700 houses to be built in the central Leicestershire part of Harborough District between 1996 and 2016.

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