

30th November 2020



The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State
Ministry of Housing,
Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

**CLLR. ANDREW WILLIAMS
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Hertfordshire, HP1 1DN
Telephone: 01442 228204
Email: andrew.williams@dacorum.gov.uk

Dear Secretary of State

At our Full Council meeting on the 18th November we considered and unanimously agreed the motion attached which expressed the councils concern about the effect of the current housing number on our borough. Dacorum like many areas has significant constraints on development with the vast majority of the borough classified as AONB or Green Belt.

Whilst welcoming your recent statement to Parliament offering to review the allocation of housing numbers which I hope will result in a more even distribution with less emphasis on the Home Counties and broader South East. In particular, I would also request that you look again to place increased weight on these 'constraints' set out in the White Paper as reasons for reducing housing numbers in areas like Dacorum. At the moment the housing target generated by both current and proposed standard housing methodologies ignore these constraints and produces a figure well in excess of the Office of National Statistics projection of housing need based on the 2018 figures, if this is accepted it would result in a reduction in the annual target and therefore would help to reduce the current figure suggested for Dacorum which is currently 922 per annum, a level of growth that can only be achieved with significant development in the Green Belt.

I have also copied this letter to the boroughs two MPs requesting their support in helping to reduce the pressure on Dacorum.

We have just commenced our R18 consultation on our draft local plan based on the latest housing methodology which I am sure will attract a lot of concern around the level of development proposed to deliver 922 homes per annum throughout the plan period and I hope that change to the allocations formula will enable us to respond positively to those concerns.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Andrew Williams
Leader Dacorum Borough Council

Copy to: Sir Mike Penning MP and Gagan Mohindra MP.

Motion as approved by Full Council 18 November 2020

In the 2019 General Election both the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Manifestos promised to deliver 300,000 new homes a year to address the national housing shortage. This council believes that this target is in excess of the ONS projections of housing need and will lead to higher levels of Green Belt development in the Dacorum Local Plan than is necessary to meet our housing need.

The Council therefore requests

The leader of the council to write to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government asking that the figure of 922 per annum be revised in line with the figures from the Office of National Statistics which project a need for between 170-200,000 new homes to be started per annum significantly below the 300,000 proposed in the manifesto

A copy of that letter be sent to the Boroughs two Members of Parliament with a request that they make representations to the Secretary of State in support of the Council's position