

Matter 17 – Issue 1

Question 3.

In terms of how the Plan will be monitored:

- a) Do the proposed indicators provide adequate coverage across each of the policies of the Plan?**
- b) Is each indicator clear, relevant and measurable in the absence of any contextual indicators, targets and triggers within the monitoring framework?**
- c) Are there any barriers to securing the relevant monitoring arrangements?**
- d) Are any modifications needed to the monitoring framework to ensure that the Plan is effective?**

The Inspectors have not specifically asked about a Local Plan Review policy but, should the Inspectors find the plan sound without any amendment to the proposed housing requirement, it is important that a review policy is included. The National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF') 2024 is clear that plans submitted for examination against the 2023 NPPF that are proposing to meet less than 80% of their local housing need, will be required to undertake an early review under the new plan system. However, there are no timescales for this.

Although we acknowledge that the 2023 NPPF and standard method is the correct version to examine the plan against, it is still important to acknowledge that the emerging plan is only seeking to deliver 40% of the 2024 requirement (651 dwellings per annum). This is a significant difference. SSDC should therefore be required to produce a new Local Plan that accords with the revised standard method at the earliest opportunity.

Barratt West Midlands request that an early plan review policy is added to the Local Plan which sets out clear timescales of when the early review should be in place. It is important for housing delivery in the District that timescales are included and there are mechanisms in place to ensure the review is undertaken and a new Local Plan adopted as soon as possible.