



Chief Executive
Amanda Foley

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Date: 17 January 2023

To: Housing & Inclusion Committee Members
All on the Housing & Inclusion Committee distribution list

Dear Councillor

HOUSING & INCLUSION COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2023

Please find enclosed additional papers relating to the following items for the above-mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda.

Pages

Public Questions 2

Written or e-mailed questions can be submitted to Democratic Services (democratic.services@stalbans.gov.uk) in accordance with the attached protocol by no later than noon on Monday 23 January 2023.

Yours faithfully

Joshua Gray

Democratic Services Officer

ITEM 6 – PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Question from Mr Brian Parker to Councillor Taylor, Chair of the Housing and Inclusion Committee

Q.	Questioner	Question	Response by	Response
1	Mr Brian Parker	<p>Because the NPPF defines affordable housing as: <i>“housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers) ...”</i>, do Members of the Housing and Inclusion Committee believe the Council should or should not measure the affordable housing need of “essential local workers”?</p> <p>If not, why not?</p> <p>And if Members believe the affordable housing need of key workers such as NHS staff, teachers, police, firefighters, military personnel and social and childcare workers should be measured, what actions will this Committee take to make that happen?</p>	Councillor Taylor, Chair of Housing & Inclusion	<p>Questions around the Local Plan and affordable housing need (including the specific issue raised here) have been considered already in 2022 by the Council’s Local Plan Advisory Group as the relevant body for this issue. That Group has confirmed that work on the new draft Local Plan will fulfil the requirements for affordable housing as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) at paragraph 62: Within this context, the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community should be assessed and reflected in planning policies (including, but not limited to, those who require affordable housing, families with children, older people, students, people with disabilities, service families, travellers, people who rent their homes and people wishing to commission or build their own homes).</p> <p>This Committee has now published the Housing Strategy, which was developed with a focus on things the Council has control or significant influence on, and not to duplicate other policies and strategies. Most affordable housing is delivered through the planning process and as such that is the most appropriate body to monitor housing need under the NPPF. This Committee is focused on and committed to delivering social rent housing on land within the ownership of the Housing Revenue Account and ensuring the Allocations Policy is meeting the needs of those who require social housing.</p>