

From:
To: [Site Allocations Plan](#)
Cc:
Subject: PDE01653_Site allocation consultation
Date: 14 November 2015 11:02:52

LDF Publication Draft Consultation
Forward Planning and Implementation
The Leonardo Building
2 Rossington Street
Leeds
LS2
8HD
14th November 2015

Dear Sirs,

We wish to make some comments on the Site Allocation Plan.

Adherence to the NPPF

The national policy of central government is quite clear on its attitude to Green Belt - It must be permanently protected from development and the need for additional housing is not a "very special circumstance" to justify its use for building development.

Leeds Core Strategy

We have seen no criticism of the Leeds Core Strategy to suggest it was negligently compiled or overtaken by changes in circumstances. We do believe planning permissions should therefore stick to its principles - the preservation of Green Belt, protection of Strategic Green Infrastructure, etc. If it can so casually be set it aside, what was its purpose?

The Housing Target

Leeds City Council has set a target to build 70,000 new houses by 2020 but this decision was based on a forecast from 2008 which is now recognised to be out of date. Should this decision over-rule the Leeds Core Strategy? A new forecast based on the 2011 census suggests only 45,000 new houses are needed here by 2020. It would be folly to destroy our environment to pursue a false target.

Brown-Field sites.

There are many acres of brown-field sites in the centre of Leeds. Re-development of these should be a priority to regenerate the derelict and run-down areas of town before green field sites are developed. The consequent reduction in commuting would have many advantages in terms of reduced road congestion and air pollution, improvement to the quality of life in town, etc.

Sprawling and merging.

Consider the sites HG3-2, HG3-3, HG3-4, HG2-12, HG2-41, HG2-42 and HG2-43. These are all Green Belt sites which should be permanently protected under the NPPF. Development of these sites will merge Horsforth and Rawdon, and this process is irreversible. Once merged they will never be separated. Developments of this sort will lead to the Leeds conurbation extending without a break to Yeadon, Guiseley, Menston, Otley and beyond.

In summary, these plans are not justified by a quantified need for houses in this area. They will not be effective in the proper development of town and the protection of countryside. They are in direct conflict with national policy on Green Belt and a direct contradiction of the Leeds Core Strategy. We think these plans as a whole are illegal in part and would probably be rejected on judicial review.

Yours faithfully,

Douglas Mansion
1 Layton Drive, Rawdon, Leeds, LS19 6QY

Gillian Mansion