

AP3.19 – WDC to explain how the affordable homes provided in the Vale of Aylesbury to meet the need identified in Wycombe District can be accessed by the residents of Wycombe District.

1. The memorandum of understanding between Aylesbury Vale District Council, Wycombe District Council, Chiltern District Council, South Bucks District Council, and Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (July 2017) sets out the following in relation to Affordable Housing:

The Councils agreed that the affordable housing need within the HMA would first fall to be met within each corresponding plan area, subject to land availability. The VALP in delivering the unmet housing needs from other parts of the Bucks HMA will be securing a proportion of affordable housing in line with affordable housing policies in the VALP. It is further agreed that the level of affordable housing expected to be secured as part of the overall unmet housing need should contribute to meeting the relevant affordable housing needs of Wycombe and Chiltern and South Bucks, and that Aylesbury Vale District Council, working with Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks district councils, will enter into joint working arrangements that will aim to allow residents to have access to an appropriate element of affordable housing to be provided within housing developments in Aylesbury Vale District.

1. The Councils are currently in discussion about how the agreement in the MoU will work in practice, in light of the fact that both AVDC and WDC plans are still subject to the examination and that the CDC/SBDC joint plan has not yet reached the regulation 19 Publication stage, there has been limited progress on establishing the mechanism for this.
2. There is already in existence a system across the County whereby the Councils already share an allocations system and database for affordable housing across the four districts. This currently enables, in limited circumstances, properties to be advertised cross-district (e.g. a vacancy in AVDC can be advertised and let to an applicant from CDC, SBDC and WDC) and allows applicants to bid for tenancies that they are interested in.
3. On this basis there is already a mechanism in place which enables, in limited circumstances, access to affordable housing in neighbouring districts. In spite of this it can be assumed that initially the majority of WDC/CDC/SBDC needs will be met on sites that come forward within those districts.
4. The Councils met in March 2018 and June 2018 to discuss this and there is a meeting programmed for October 3 2018, where potential options will be discussed in more detail by both housing and planning officers.
5. The issues the Councils will be discussing include :
 - (a) Potential options for delivering the amount of affordable housing that should be provided.
 - (b) Mechanisms to monitor the level of provision per district.
 - (c) Appropriate locations for residents of WDC/CDC/SBDC in AVDC.
 - (d) Governance structures for dealing with nominations to ensure appropriate numbers are being taken up/provided.
 - (e) The need for additional administration.