

## **East Hampshire District Council's Response to Gosport Borough Local Plan (Regulation 19) Consultation 2026**

East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2042. We recognise the development constraints that continue to shape the Borough's capacity to meet its identified housing needs. We acknowledge the evidence you have shared with us through Duty to Cooperate discussions and the ongoing work to update the flood risk evidence base for key regeneration sites.

We understand the challenge that has been presented to Gosport Borough Council by the publication of the NPPF in December 2024, and the increase in housing number. As you have set out, Gosport's annual housing need has increased from 339 to 434 dwellings per year, requiring you to plan for 7,378 homes over the plan period. The plan aims to provide 2,500 new homes by 2042, resulting in a shortfall of 4,878 homes. That said, even if the housing number had not increased, the proposed allocations still wouldn't meet need (the plan aims for 2,500 new homes by 2042, far short of  $339 \times 17 \text{ years} = 5763$ ).

As such, the Government's increase in housing number hasn't resulted in more houses being planned in Gosport, rather just a massively increased unmet need that now must be considered elsewhere. EHDC has persistently raised with Government the nonsensical increase in housing numbers in constrained areas, and the unjust pressure that places on other areas, many of which are rural. In East Hampshire, we are having to respond to a 95% increase in housing number, to 1,124 for the district (disaggregated to 828 for East Hampshire outside of the SDNP).

Although we do not have a Statement of Common Ground, we have corresponded regarding unmet needs, as documented on our [website](#).

EHDC will give due consideration to the unmet housing needs of Gosport, Havant and Portsmouth Councils in preparation of the East Hampshire Local Plan. However, we maintain that any such unmet needs arising from authorities located south of the district could only potentially be addressed within our southern parishes and would not likely be capable of being accommodated within the northern or north-eastern parishes.

It remains unknown whether EHDC will be able to meet its own disaggregated housing needs and therefore through due assessment will need to consider to what extent we can meet unmet needs from elsewhere in our Local Plan. It must be emphasised that should a surplus of housing capacity be identified as part of a suitable development strategy, it is envisaged that unmet needs from the SDNP in East Hampshire would be prioritised.

The next step for the East Hampshire Local Plan 2025-2043 is a Regulation 19 consultation scheduled for late summer. The publication of that consultation and



supporting Statements of Common Ground will formalise our position on unmet need (i.e. to what extent, if any, we can assist). We note the LGR decision (25/03/2026), and continue to consider implications as we progress our Local Plan.

EHDC does not object to Gosport's proposed plan. Our wider concern continues to focus on unrealistic housing numbers imposed by the Government, and the impact of that on rural authorities.

However, as you continue to progress your plan, we encourage Gosport Borough Council to remain flexible when identifying future sources of supply and maintain pragmatic discussions with all local planning authorities under the Duty-to-Cooperate, both adjacent to Gosport and beyond.

Please note that this response has been endorsed by Cllr Angela Glass, the portfolio Holder for Regulation and Enforcement and Adam Harvey, Chief Planning Officer.