

Proposed by Cllr Chris Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Narinder Sian

The new government has carried out an important consultation on the national Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF). This council has responded to it. There is one fundamental issue that will affect our beautiful country, and particularly this District, in coming years. The new housing target numbers are set by an arbitrary method and, if we are forced to carry this out, much of our very important and high-quality Green Belt will be built on and be lost forever. The Green Belt has been a very effective policy to protect the very essence of the English countryside. We must not lose that.

We therefore resolve that:

- The Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- To say that Local Planning Authorities must be able to set their own housing targets based on the new NPPF and meeting local housing need that would be fully justified by evidence.
- To ask the minister to instruct planning inspectors to take all local circumstances into account and accept that Local Authorities know the needs of their areas best.