

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL MEDIA RELEASE

COUNCIL DEMONSTRATES OVER 6 YEARS OF HOUSING LAND SUPPLY

For immediate release: Wednesday 11 July 2018

Babergh District Council has published its Annual Monitoring Report, demonstrating a Housing Land Supply of 6.7 years – meeting the government’s requirement of 5 Years.

As of today, Wednesday 11 July, the Council considers it can demonstrate this land supply, meaning that Babergh can prove that there is enough deliverable land to meet the number of homes that need to be built over that period to meet housing need.

The Council has been unable to demonstrate this land supply since April 2017, but now the updated figure has been made possible as a result of a proactive approach to delivery.

The National Planning Policy Framework specifies that, if the Council cannot demonstrate a 5 year Housing Land Supply, local planning policy for the supply of housing should not be considered up to date and thus carry less weight.

With the publication of the updated 5 year land supply position, planning officers will now be reviewing all current application and pre-application enquiries on which this has a bearing. This includes all applications for which formal planning permission has not yet been issued.

Now that Babergh can demonstrate a 5 Year Housing Land Supply, the Council will have greater control to implement the local policies that District Councillors have endorsed, and puts the Council in a stronger position to refuse inappropriate proposals.

Cllr Nick Ridley, Babergh District Council’s Cabinet Member for Planning, said: “The scale of the housing challenge in the UK is clear: a great many local planning authorities do not have a 5 Year Housing Land Supply as demand for housing rises. Thanks to the tough choices taken at Babergh, both by our Planning Committee and by the Cabinet, Babergh is now one of the authorities who can demonstrate a supply. This will give us more room to shape housing delivery within the district and ensure we build the housing our communities need, with as much local influence over developments within the district.”

The full Annual Monitoring Report is available online at:

<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/evidence-base/annual-monitoring-report-amr/>