

## **Amendment to recommendation from P&R**

### **Council notes:**

1. The work of the Local Plan Sub-Committee, which follows national government guidance and shows that in order to accommodate the number of new homes that are required by the government's standard method in Three Rivers it is necessary to develop many Green Belt sites on the edge of existing settlements, creating maximum impact on current residents and harm to existing communities;
2. The pandemic and 'lockdown' have dramatically changed leisure activity and increased the demand for outdoor recreation and open space easily accessible from people's homes;
3. That Three Rivers achieved its target for building new homes each year until 2018 when the government dramatically increased the required number from 180 to over 600 per year;
4. That the government minister has not accepted the Council Leader's request to discuss the government's target for the number of new homes to be built in Three Rivers, but has confirmed that an alternative approach to the target is not ruled out;
5. That the MP for SW Herts and the MP for Watford have not replied to the Council Leader's request for support to reduce the government's target for the number of new homes to be built in Three Rivers.

### **Council recognises:**

1. That the Council needs to produce a Local Plan in order to manage development, ensure appropriate infrastructure provision, and safeguard Green Belt;
2. There is an acute housing crisis in much of the UK and in particular high-cost areas like Three Rivers, and a pressing need for more homes, especially more affordable homes, so young people are not forced to move away from the area;
3. This need should not be addressed at the cost of harming existing communities and reducing the quality of life and wellbeing of existing residents;
4. It is not possible to provide the government's target for additional homes without causing disproportionate harm to existing communities as a result of building on much-needed accessible open space.

### **Council therefore resolves:**

1. To amend the recommendations of the Local Plan Sub-Committee and Policy & Resources committee as follows:
  - a. Omit the 'contingency' sites which are not required to achieve the target numbers;
  - b. Omit sites CFS21 & CFS26a which would cause particular harm to existing communities and residents' quality of life without providing compensating benefits to the community;
2. To work with local Residents' Associations, Parish Councils and others to continue to press the government for a reduction in the government's target for the number of homes to be built in Three Rivers and for additional powers to determine the mix and tenure of new homes in order to better meet the needs of local people;
3. To regularly inform all residents of the Council's proposals and progress.
4. That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Planning Policy & Projects and the Director of Community and Environmental Services in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Planning Policy to make the necessary changes required as a result of this motion before the documents are published for consultation. (note – this is needed in order to avoid coming back to P&R or Full Council)