

**AMBER VALLEY BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN**  
**EXAMINATION HEARINGS**  
**HEARING POSITION STATEMENT**  
**ON BEHALF OF AMBER VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Matter 2: General Issues**

d. Evidence Base

*i. Is the evidence base relating to such matters as housing, employment, retail and flood risk up-to-date and relevant?*

1. The Council considers that the evidence base for the Local Plan in relation to the above matters and any other matters is up to date, relevant and proportionate.

*ii. Are there any important developments/changes since the submission of the Plan, for instance in terms of planning permissions/completions? Is the SHLAA and SHMA up-to-date and robust?*

1. An updated housing land supply position as at 1 April 2018 has been provided since the submission of the Local Plan (AV/05 - 6a).

2. The Council considers that the Amber Valley Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), which was updated in 2017 and published alongside the submitted Local Plan, is up to date and robust. The updated SHLAA follows the methodology previously agreed by the local authorities within the Derby HMA (Amber Valley Borough Council, Derby City Council, South Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council) and which was used in the previous 2013 SHLAA update. The methodology is considered to provide a consistent approach to site assessment and selection and to be consistent with the DCLG Planning Practice Guidance published in 2014.

3. Further details of the Council's assessment of potential housing sites and selection of preferred sites are set out in the 'Technical Paper Proposed Housing Growth Sites Methodology For Site Assessment And Selection (ED34), which should be read in conjunction with section 7 of the Submission Sustainability Appraisal Report (CD02) and Appendix 6 of the Technical Appendices to that Report (CD02a).
  
4. The Council considers that the Derby HMA Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), following the preparation of the Amber Valley Addendum to the SHMA in 2016, is up to date and robust. The Council's Hearing Position Statement in relation to Matter 4: Housing (a. Housing Requirement) sets out the Council's position in relation to the SHMA in more detail.

*iii. Does the Council have a programme for reviewing the key evidence base?*

1. The Council will establish a programme for reviewing the key evidence base in the context of its commitment to undertake an early review of the Local Plan, following adoption.

*iv. Has a Heritage Impact Assessment been undertaken? If so, what were the conclusions?*

1. The Council has undertaken Historic Environment Assessments of potential housing sites, in accordance with the guidance set out by Historic England. The conclusions of each Assessment are set out in the document 'Historic Environment Assessments of Potential Housing Sites 2016-17' (ED32).

*v. Has a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment been undertaken? If so, what were the conclusions?*

1. The Council has commissioned a Landscape Sensitivity Study (ED30) to assess the sensitivity to development of the landscape surrounding settlements within the Borough, which the Council has used to inform its assessment of

potential housing sites and selection of preferred sites. The Study concluded whether the landscape in these locations had a high, medium or low sensitivity to development.