

ankItem 8 - Application of Additional Designated Rural Area Status in relation to Core Strategy Policy SP3

The attached report was considered by the Housing & Health Advisory Committee on 7 February 2023. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Housing & Health Advisory Committee (7 February 2023, Minute 87)

The Housing Strategy Manager presented the report, outlining the additional Designated Rural Area status designations successfully applied for via the Secretary of State, which came into force in December 2022. 17 Parishes were now fully designated as rural areas, and 10 were partially designated.

The Housing Strategy Manager explained that applying these new designations in relation to Core Strategy SP3 would apply the affordable housing obligation on the lower site threshold of 6 to 9 homes within these areas. This would maximise affordable housing contributions from smaller sites, which could then help deliver affordable housing in other areas across the District. This would not impact the rural exceptions housing programme.

Members were advised that affordable housing could be provided on Rural Exception Sites within these areas. These sites would have planning constraints and would be delivered for local residents in perpetuity.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet that the additional Designated Rural Area status conferred by the Housing (Right to Buy) (Designated Rural Areas and Designated Regions) (England) Order 2022, as set out in Appendix A, in relation to Core Strategy Policy SP3 (Provision of Affordable Housing), be approved.