

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

15 March 2016

Question from Cllr Ernie Clark to

Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cabinet member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste

I am advised by a planning officer that 'At this present moment in time, Wiltshire Council is not able to demonstrate a five year housing land supply in the North and West Housing Market Area. The Housing Target for Wiltshire is only a minimum and will need to be met in order to demonstrate a five year housing land supply in the future.'

This failure of the Core Strategy so soon after its adoption, is causing speculative planning applications throughout the N&WHMA in general and in/around my Division in particular. Examples are applications for 210 houses in the Hilperton Gap, 30 houses in the grounds of Hilperton Grange and a forthcoming application for 250 houses on Ashton Road. All these applications are outside Settlement Boundaries and only stand any chance of success owing to the land supply problem.

What steps are being taken to increase staffing levels to address this serious issue as a matter of urgency? How has this situation been allowed to come about? Have any actions been taken against any officers in relation to this lamentable predicament? When will the Trowbridge DPD, which seems to be well behind schedule, be ready for public consultation?