**Addingham Neighbourhood Plan**

**Housing Site Assessment Methodology**

Introduction

This note sets out the proposed approach to assessing the suitability of sites in the village for new housing as part of the Neighbourhood Plan for Addingham currently under preparation. The detailed factors to be recorded in the assessment of individual sites, and the underlying criteria, are contained in two Appendices attached to this note.

Context

Bradford Council’s Local Plan Core Strategy for the District (currently awaiting formal adoption) includes an allocation of 200 new homes for Addingham over the Plan period 2013 - 2030.

Addingham Parish Council has decided that the village Neighbourhood Plan will include the allocation of sites for new housing. This requires a thorough assessment of potential housing sites and full consultation with residents of the village.

Potential housing sites in Addingham identified by Bradford Council **\*** include sites within the current settlement boundary and areas of open land currently designated (and protected) as Green Belt. However Green Belt sites will not be covered by the proposed assessment work, since Neighbourhood Plans are unable to include allocations which would involve alterations to current Green Belt boundaries.

The proposed assessments will therefore examine all other identified sites, plus any new ones brought forward through a proposed Call for Sites exercise, to be undertaken shortly as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. The work will also identify the number of dwellings that could be accommodated on sites deemed to be suitable for development.

This will form a contribution to the overall dwelling allocation set by Bradford Council. If this process results in a need for further sites, consideration may have to be given to sites in the Green Belt; this work would be undertaken by Bradford Council through formal review of Green Belt boundaries and the Council’s Site Allocations process. This work would be subject to extensive consultation with residents in the District.

Assessment Methodology

Assessment of sites must be done in a systematic, rigorous and transparent way. The Neighbourhood Plan Forum has drawn up a set of forms to assist this process, based around Bradford Council’s current site assessment methodology.**\*\*** These forms list the various factors and criteria that need to be considered in order to assess the suitability and availability of a site for development, along with a scoring system which will allow comparison between sites (see Appendices).

This process will identify sites considered acceptable for housing given the need for development to be sustainable and the character of the village protected, along with an indication of the numbers of dwellings that could be accommodated. Further investigations may be required to refine the assessment of individual sites.

Next Steps

Once this work is completed, it will be possible to prepare a draft plan showing suitable housing sites and the dwelling contribution. This draft plan would then be considered by the Parish Council, and if approved, would be subject to comprehensive consultation with village residents.

The outcome of this consultation will then inform the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan, along with ongoing work on all other Plan topics.

Subject to the Parish Council’s approval of the assessment approach, a copy will be provided for Bradford Council and the work will be undertaken over the next 2-3 months.

Attachments

Appendix 1 Site Assessment Template including scoring system

Appendix 2 Site Assessment – Criteria and Evidence

Footnotes

**\*** BMDC Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 2015

**\*\*** BMDC Allocations Development Plan Document – Issues and Options – Site Assessment

 Methodology – May 2016

 **Addingham Neighbourhood Plan Forum**

 **May 2017**