Charnwood Local Plan Examination – Additional Hearing Statements

Matter 4: Assessment of Housing Need, the Housing Requirement and Mix and Choice of Housing

Define Planning and Design Ltd on behalf of Bloor Homes Ltd

Issue 1: Is the assessment of housing need and the housing requirement positively prepared, justified by the evidence and consistent with national policy?

Supplementary Question 1: In light of the Inspector's findings (Exam 55) that the minimum local housing need for Charnwood is 1,189 dwellings per year, should the housing requirement in Policy DS1 of 1,111 dwellings per year be increased to 1,189 to ensure the Plan has been positively prepared? Is there any justification for a lower or a higher figure?

Supplementary Question 2: Pending any changes to the housing requirement in Policy DS1 to accommodate Charnwood's apportionment of Leicester's unmet housing need, is there a sufficient buffer between the minimum housing requirement in Policy DS1 and the overall supply during the Plan period to ensure that there is a reasonable prospect of the housing requirement being met? In the event that the supply needs to be increased to secure an appropriate buffer, what source of supply would help to deliver this? Are any new site allocations likely to be required? If so, what would be the process and likely timescale for identifying sites?

As set out in BHL's additional Matter 2 hearing statement (particularly in relation to Supplementary Question 1), it is understood that CBC's intention is to meet its uplifted housing requirement, with a sufficient buffer, by accommodating appropriate uplifts to the capacities of some of the allocations that were set out in the submission CLP. BHL's additional Matter 2 hearing statement sets out that this is a sensible approach that will ensure that the plan can be adopted at the earliest convenience, thus allowing for the delivery of much-needed housing to meet Charnwood's needs and the unmet housing needs of Leicester City Council.