

**LEICESTERSHIRE, LEICESTER AND  
RUTLAND**

**STRUCTURE PLAN**

**1996 TO 2016**

**STATEMENT OF DECISIONS AND REASONS  
ON OBJECTIONS TO THE FURTHER  
PROPOSED MODIFICATION**

**November 2004**



**Rutland**  
County Council  
District Council

## Introduction

1. Following the resolution of the County Council to adopt the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan, the First Secretary of State on the 11th August 2003 directed the Three Councils to modify the Structure Plan as Proposed to be Adopted. The direction required modification to two policies, **Strategy Policy 17: Green Belt** and **Housing Policy 1: The Quantity of Housing Land**.
2. Strategy Policy 17 proposed designation of land as Green Belt in North West Leicestershire. The First Secretary of State was not convinced that there were any exceptional circumstances that would justify adding the land proposed, nor that this land would meet the criteria set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 2. On housing, the First Secretary of State was concerned that inappropriate account had been taken in the determination of the housing figures outside the Central Leicestershire Policy Area of unimplemented local plan allocations.
3. The Three Councils were therefore unable to adopt the Structure Plan in August 2003 as intended.
4. In order to satisfy the two elements of the direction, the Three Councils agreed to issue a Further Proposed Modification deleting Strategy Policy 17: Green Belt, and a policy statement (in the form of a revised Statement of Decisions and Reasons on Objections to the Proposed Modifications) setting out how the housing figures were determined, confirming that no account had been taken of unimplemented local plan allocations.
5. Accordingly, a Further Proposed Modification was placed on deposit for six weeks commencing Thursday 23rd September, deleting Strategy Policy 17: Green Belt.
6. At the same time a revision to the Statement of Decisions and Reasons on Objections to the Proposed Modifications was issued. The revised text set out how the housing figures were determined, without taking account of unimplemented local plan allocations. It did not form part of the Further Proposed Modification, and was therefore not subject to formal comment through the proposed modification process.
7. The deposit period for the Modification ended on the 4<sup>th</sup> November. A summary of representations were received on the Modification and the Three Councils' response is set out below.

**Strategy Policy 18: Green Belt****Summary of Issues**

One objection has been received, stating “keep green fields green”.

6 Representations of Support.

4 Representations stating no comment.

**Reasoned Response**

The Further Proposed Modification has been issued to comply with the Direction from the First Secretary of State. Green Belt designation will now be addressed in the forthcoming review of Regional Spatial Strategy.

**Proposed Policy Action**

No change to Further Proposed Modification.

**List of Respondents**

Blaby District Council

Blackbird Road Playing Field Action Group

Highways Agency

Little Bowden Society

Leicestershire Constabulary

National Farmers Union (East Midlands Region)

Northamptonshire County Council

Nottinghamshire County Council

Sport England (East Midlands)

Mrs K Avley

Mr B McNulty

**SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON HOUSING POLICIES**

**Introduction**

Six representations were received on the Structure Plan's housing policies. No Further Modification was proposed in respect of housing; nevertheless, the comments contained in the representations have been summarised below.

**Housing Policies**

**Summary of Issues**

1. In Oadby and Wigston, there are a number of brownfield sites that could be developed for housing to minimise greenfield development.
2. Oadby and Wigston does not have the economic or social amenities to support 1,700 dwellings.
3. Total provision for Oadby and Wigston should be 1,000, further reduced to 750 affordable houses.
4. Insufficient justification for Melton's housing provision.
5. There has been no re-calculation of housing figures for Melton as a result of the Direction.
6. Shepshed has provided more housing than other towns in the Borough of Charnwood. The current infrastructure will not support any further housing.
7. Because the housing element of the Structure Plan is not subject to formal comment, this denies objectors the right to challenge the basis for the distribution of housing.

One Representation of Support

**Proposed Policy Action**

As the housing policies were not subject to modification, no change is proposed to housing policies.

**List of Respondents**

Campaign to Protect Rural England (East Midlands)

Melton Borough Council

Shepshed Town Council

Town and Country Planning Services

Mr B McNulty

Mr J H Rumball