

Stevenage Borough Council have consistently called for 10,000 homes West of the A1(M). Mr Miliband launched the Labour Party Right to Grow Policy in Stevenage, with the Leader of Stevenage Borough Council. Those 10,000 homes are not included in this draft Local Plan, which runs to 2031, so the housing figures put forward by NHDC do not add up.

In conclusion, it is clear that the draft Local Plan is not positively prepared, justified, effective or consistent with national policy. It has a disproportionate impact on the villages of Knebworth and Codicote in particular and should be withdrawn. A five year land supply should be identified and consideration given to the development of a new Garden City to meet future housing needs instead of adding increasing numbers of homes on the edge of communities already fully utilising the public services available.

#### **25<sup>th</sup> October 2013 Freedom of Information request to NHDC**

*"I would like to request from North Hertfordshire District Council all documents and emails regarding any discussions, meetings and minutes of any meetings by officers or portfolio holders of North Hertfordshire District Council that have taken place or are planned to take place regarding the number of houses in the draft local plan.*

*"I understand from the Housing Growth Targets consultation which NHDC ran from 17th February to 30th March 2012 that the consultation paper outlined eight different options for housing growth, ranging from 15,800 new homes down to 2,500 homes. The Council's preferred option (Option F) was indicated as approximately 7,000 new homes, based on meeting affordable housing needs. This is set out under Core Strategy within Planning and Policy, link is:*

*[http://www.northherts.gov.uk/index/environment\\_and\\_planning/planning/planning\\_policy\\_and\\_projects-2/core-strategy.htm](http://www.northherts.gov.uk/index/environment_and_planning/planning/planning_policy_and_projects-2/core-strategy.htm)*

*"Then a draft document, dated Oct 2013, which is on NHDC's website as part of the consultation process on housing mentions a target of 10,700 additional dwellings, between 2011 and 2031, of which 1,220 have been delivered leaving 9,480. Below is the relevant extract at: [http://www.northherts.gov.uk/index/council\\_and\\_democracy/consultations/current\\_and\\_recent\\_consultations.htm](http://www.northherts.gov.uk/index/council_and_democracy/consultations/current_and_recent_consultations.htm)*

*"I believe figures of just over 12,000 dwellings are now being mentioned despite the fact we are still in October.*

*"There is substantial confusion as to why NHDC had a preferred option of approximately 7,000 new homes last year, which has now increased to 10,700 earlier this month and I understand a figure of over 12,000 new homes is now being sought a few weeks later. This is a substantial increase in the number of new homes and it is important to fully understand why the figures are increasing so quickly if we are to give our constituents any confidence in the local plan.*

*"The unilateral conversion of priority 3 sites into priority 1 sites that also seems to be taking place will cause great anger and many constituents will no doubt wish to raise this at the inevitable public inquiry. If NHDC has been directed to amend the figures by civil servants, the planning inspectorate or any other agency then I believe this freedom of information request will be able to highlight the individuals responsible. If there has been no such direction then I can see no reason why the number of new dwellings that was originally consulted on should not proceed as the basis for the local plan."*

**Stephen McPartland**  
Member of Parliament for Stevenage

January 2015