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Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP  
Secretary of State  
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local  
Government  
2 Marsham Street  
London, SW1P 4DF

9 October 2018

Dear Secretary of State,

## **LOCAL PLAN**

Wirral Council remains committed to delivering our Local Plan within the timescales we have put forward.

We are in the middle of an extensive public consultation exercise on our Development Options Review – which includes a full review of Green Belt land in the borough. We will deliver a Local Plan which is robust, right for Wirral, and which will meet all our identified housing and employment needs for the lifetime of the Plan.

The purpose of this letter is to request your urgent instructions on how the Government will interpret the recently published ONS household projection information which reduces Wirral's housing targets significantly, from 803 to 477 net new homes per year. We are aware that the Government will commence consultation on 3 December 2018 on these matters, but we need clarification prior to this. You will be aware that the timescales we agreed with civil servants in your department include decision points on our Local Plan in December and January.

While our consultation is ongoing, it is clear from the many hundreds of representations we have received from our local residents that they do not want to see vast swathes of Green Belt land built upon. They want to protect the unique beauty and character of our borough for present and future generations. We are fully in agreement with their views. The new ONS figure of 477 would enable us to avoid the need to develop on large tracts of green belt land and we would urge you to allow Wirral to use the new figures from ONS as our baseline target for our Local Plan. I would appreciate a response to this request at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Phil Davies