

**SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE CORE STRATEGY
– EXAMINATION HEARING**

**STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF PERSIMMON
HOMES AND MAXIMUS DEVELOPMENTS**

MAY 2012

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Introduction

- 1.1 The following Statements have been prepared by Turley Associates on behalf of Persimmon Homes and Maximus Developments, who control land to the east of Chipping Sodbury.
- 1.2 Representations to the Draft Core Strategy (and subsequent proposed changes) were previously submitted on behalf of Persimmon Homes and Maximus Developments. Turley Associates are now instructed to progress these representations at the forthcoming Examination.
- 1.3 The following Statements provide our initial comments based on each of the matters identified by the Inspector for Examination at the respective sessions:
 - Matter 1: Legal Compliance/Procedural Matters
 - Matter 2: Justification – the Evidence Base
 - Matter 3: Spatial Portrait, Issues, Vision & Objectives
 - Matter 4: Sustainability Appraisal
 - Matter 5: Regional Strategy
 - Matter 6: Green Belt
 - Matter 7: Spatial Strategy, Location of Development
 - Matter 8: Provision and Distribution of Housing (see separate joint response submitted by Barton Willmore)
 - Matter 12: Gypsy and Traveller Provision (see separate response submitted by Turley Associates)
 - Matter 16: Infrastructure and Developer Contributions
 - Matter 17: Green and community Infrastructure and Cultural Activities, Sport and Recreation
 - Matter 18: Renewables
 - Matter 19: Design
 - Matter 20: Density/Diversity
 - Matter 21: Yate and Chipping Sodbury
- 1.4 These representations will be elaborated further at the relevant Examination sessions.

Matter 20: Density/Diversity

Question 1: Is there sufficient detail contained in policy CS16 to clarify the Council's approach to housing density?

- 1.5 As set out in our previous representations, **Policy CS16** should provide further guidance with respect to the different density ranges that might apply in different parts of the Core Strategy area. This text should recognise that flexibility will always be needed and all contextual and policy considerations will influence the optimum density (and an effective and efficient use of land) in each individual case. This could be within the policy itself or the supporting text.

Question 2: How crucial is viability in determining the mix of housing to be provided on a site and is it essential to reference this as factor when considering development proposals?

- 1.6 The amended policy wording is supported, in so far as it has removed the reference to an average density (40dph) across the plan area. Seeking to secure efficient use of land, whilst taking into account location, but also the Council's design objectives and housing mix is logical. The policy, however, should also make reference to the overall viability of development, as this is a critical element of determining the overall density which is appropriate at a particular site (and on larger sites within different parts of that site).
- 1.7 **Policy CS17** (as amended) is broadly supported as it reflects national planning policy (NPPF) and local evidence, in terms of the need to plan for a variety of housing types and sizes to accommodate a range of households. The policy should, however, also make specific reference to the viability of development in informing the overall mix (diversity) of accommodation to be provided, as this is a key element of deliverability (particularly on the large strategic New Neighbourhoods, which the Council relies upon for delivery of the Core Strategy).
- 1.8 It is crucial when considering both density and diversity to consider development viability, as if the density or diversity of housing development is unviable then it will not be brought forward, or will not be able to make expected infrastructure contributions (for example). The NPPF is clear with regard to ensuring viability and deliverability (Paragraph 173.) and this is particularly applicable to this element of the Core Strategy.