

Rushmoor Borough Council comments

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Thank you for consulting Rushmoor Borough Council on the draft London Plan. Our comments relate principally to policies SD2 (Collaboration in the Wider South East) and SD3 (Growth Locations in the Wider South East and Beyond).

Rushmoor is a relatively small and urbanised local authority situated in north-east Hampshire and forms part of the Wider South East, as defined within the draft London Plan. Whilst the Borough does not border London, part of Rushmoor's housing market area (in the Borough of Surrey Heath) borders a local planning authority which borders London (Runnymede). The South Western Mainline, which the draft London Plan identifies as a Strategic Infrastructure Priority, also cuts through the Borough and is a significant commuter route into London for many of Rushmoor's residents.

Rushmoor welcomes that the draft London Plan 'aims to accommodate all of London's growth within its boundaries' (para. 2.2.1). However, it notes that the Plan states that 66,000 new homes will need to be built each year for at least twenty years but that the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment suggests that London has the capacity to deliver approximately 65,000 additional homes a year. Rushmoor notes that the Mayor of London is interested in collaborating with willing partners to explore if there are opportunities to accommodate growth in locations outside the capital. However, Rushmoor would like to point out that it has planned to deliver sustainable development and will meet its own housing needs set within the context of its housing market area. It has no capacity to meet any unmet housing need from London.