

## **AGENDA ITEM 12 (g) - HOUSING BUILDING TARGET**

Amendment.

In the first sentence delete the words "The City Council recognises that"

Add "over" before "17,000"

Replace "20 years" with "16 years"

In point 1, add after the word "wrong" the words "and neither achieved their national housing targets."

In point 2, in the first sentence, add the word "current" between the words "The target"

Delete third sentence starting with "Our roads," and replace with "With additional need to plan for employment land as well as our roads, hospital, schools, GPs and other services, this places significant pressure on current communities and the ability of the City to create high quality places that people want to live in."

Delete all of point 3 and replace with new point 3

"The Government target of over 17,000 additional homes cannot be met without significant impact on the protected habitats that surround Portsmouth. It would be wholly wrong for the Government to unaccountably require the Council to cause environmental harm by over-riding environmental protection legislation."

Delete all of point 4 and replace with new point 4

"Under the Habitats Regulations the City Council is able to seek the opinion of the Secretary of State as to whether the need to meet this imposed housing target as part of a potential redevelopment of the Tipner-Horsea Island area is an



Amendment to therefore read:

The Government have imposed a house building target of over 17,000 new houses to be built in the city over the next 16 years.

The City Council rejects this for the following reasons:

1. The decision on housing need in Portsmouth should be made by local people in Portsmouth and not imposed by Government since local people understand the opportunities, constraints and complexities of the City environment. Both Conservative and Labour led Governments have imposed house building targets and both were wrong and neither achieved their national housing targets.
2. The current target of over 17,000 is too many. Portsmouth is an island with virtually no unprotected land to expand into. With additional need to plan for employment land as well as our roads, hospital, schools, GPs and other services, this places significant pressure on current communities and the ability of the City to create high quality places that people want to live in.
3. The Government target of over 17,000 additional homes cannot be met without significant impact on the protected habitats that surround Portsmouth. It would be wholly wrong for the Government to unaccountably require the Council to cause environmental harm by over-riding environmental protection legislation.
4. Under the Habitats Regulations the City Council is able to seek the opinion of the Secretary of State as to whether the need to meet this imposed housing target as part of a potential redevelopment of the Tipner-Horsea Island area is an 'imperative reason of overriding public interest' justifying the scale of development required and the impacts on the ecology of the Solent Waters. Given that it is a Government imposed housing target, whether the need to meet this target is a reason of 'overriding public interest' is a matter the Government should be clear on.

The City Council therefore asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Government to establish whether the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government is of the opinion that the housing target and the necessary associated development in the Tipner-Horsea Island area are of such overriding public interest as to justify the scale of development required and the impacts on the ecology of the Solent Waters. If the Government does not consider there to be justification then the Council demands a significantly lower housing target so that environmentally sensitive areas are not forced into development by the Government.