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**Birmingham City Council**

29th March 2021

Dear Ms. Dunn,

**Review of the Birmingham Development Plan**

Redditch Borough Council (RBC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on your letter dated 26 February 2021 and to continue to engage constructively with the Birmingham Development Plan in the best interests of positive plan-making as a Duty to Co-operate partner.

At this early stage in the plan-making process, this represents an informal officer response.

As you will be aware the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 was adopted in 2017 and is required to be reviewed by 2022 to ensure it is still fit for purpose. Part of this review will include a Housing and Employment Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA), which will be conducted in the near future. This will assist the Council in considering whether the housing and employment provision levels within the current plan up to 2030 are still appropriate.

Until this element of the review or any other work conducted as part of the review process is undertaken, Redditch is not in a position to raise any specific strategic or cross-boundary matters with regard to your evidence gathering exercise. However, the Council wishes to raise at this stage that it may have further cross boundary issues to address following the receipt of the HEDNA report and throughout the plan review process.

The Council notes the City Council's recognition that the Government's recent revisions to the Standard Methodology will subject Birmingham to a 35% uplift on its housing number. We also note that National Planning Policy Guidance states that the uplift is expected to be met by the cities and urban centres themselves, rather than the surrounding areas. In considering how need is met in the first instance, brownfield and other under utilised urban sites should be prioritised to ensure homes are built in the right places.

I trust the above comments offer a helpful contribution at this stage. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Louise Jones  
**Principal Planning Officer – Strategic Planning**  
Redditch Borough Council