Housing and Residential Land in West Sussex

The planning authorities in West Sussex share the Government’s objectives for housing. This includes focusing additional housing on existing towns and cities to promote more sustainable patterns of development and make better use of previously-developed land.

The West Sussex Approach

We monitor residential land availability in West Sussex on behalf of the district and borough councils. To determine how much housing has been built and the amount of land available for future house-building, we have undertaken annual surveys since 1975.

The survey now focuses on recording dwelling completions and the formally identified stock of residential commitments at the annual survey base date of 1 April.

Commitments include sites with planning permission, allocations in adopted local / neighbourhood plans, sites where prior notification has been granted for permitted development change of use to residential and site-specific local development framework submission documents.

The district and borough councils undertake studies to assess the supply of housing land at the district level. The studies take account of the results of urban capacity studies and Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments, and consider the likely supply of housing from a number of sources including commitments, windfall sites, and new strategic allocations. Windfall sites include redevelopment and infilling, the conversion or sub-division of existing dwellings, and the change of use of existing buildings from non-residential use.

District planning authorities will take account of the identified supply of housing land in determining how much additional housing land, both previously-developed land and greenfield sites, is needed and when it should be developed.

For further information on the supply of land for housing, contact the local district or borough council.

View the Survey Data

Visit our website (www.westsussex.gov.uk/hls) to view the survey data.

- gross and net dwelling completions by district;
- projected house completions for all large¹ and small² sites identified for housing;
- residential land availability;
- housing completions on greenfield and brownfield sites by district;
- housing completions by parish, neighbourhood and urban ward.

Contact Us

If you have any queries, please contact Ian Hayward (0330 22 25718 - ian.hayward@westsussex.gov.uk) or Nicola Fry (nicola.fry@westsussex.gov.uk).

¹ Large identified sites are those where five or more dwellings could be accommodated. Likely development timescales for all large sites are agreed by our planning officers and the relevant district or borough council, taking account of any possible development constraints on each site.

² Small identified sites are those capable of accommodating up to four dwellings. As it is inappropriate to carry out site assessments for all the permitted small sites, we prepare details of the likely construction rate basing its assessment on past experience. It is assumed that all dwellings under construction and 45% of those permitted but not started will be built in the five years from the survey base date. Projected completions on large and small identified sites are brought together.