# RICHMOND & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

# RESPONSE to RDC DEVELOPMENT TARGET REVIEW

**1. Do you agree with the Council's reassessment of its development target?**

*Broadly, we are not in a position to challenge the statistics on population growth, which suggest a lower demand, however population forecasting is far from being an exact science and we feel that there may be scope for more housing to sustain the local economy. Any increase in targets must be sited where it does not conflict with heritage assets.*

**2. Do you agree that the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy has little impact on the Council's development targets?**
Yes, the estimates contained therein have been overtaken by more potentially reliable figures.

**3. Do you agree with the Council's position on the provision of military service families' accommodation following the publication of the Army Basing Plan?**

Yes, however it must be borne in mind that the Army's demand for accommodation is dependent on national policies for defence, which at present are increasingly fluid.

**4. Do you agree with the Council's approach to updating its Gypsies and Travellers Accommodation Assessment?**

Yes. However we feel that the transit provision should reflect the annual influx of travellers for the short period of Appleby Horse Fair. Whilst it is for a very short period the massive increase in traveller population should not be ignored.

**5. Do you agree with the proposed changes to the Local Plan Core Strategy identified at paragraph 5.2?**

Broadly yes however;

**Bullet point 4** could be clarified by amending "The proposed housing target of 180 homes each year" to read" at least 180 homes each year"

**Bullet Point 5** It is clear that the demand created by the Army is critical and at the time of responding both funding and policy are uncertain and it might be wise to err on the side of generosity in reaching targets for this.

**Bullet point 6** Whilst Appleby Fair is an infrequent and short duration event but one which attracts very large numbers of travellers and perhaps consideration should be given to transit facilities