



## Stratford Liberal Democrats Press Release 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009

### District Council floats idea of new Town of 9,400 houses

Stratford District Council has started consultation on a range of new housing development options, with one scenario involving a total of 15,000 new dwellings by 2026 - some 9,400 above the current Regional Spatial Strategy preferred option. Consultation ends on Friday 28th August.

The consultation states that the Government is seeking higher housing growth than currently envisaged and sets out three possible scenarios, ranging from 7,500 new dwellings to 15,000.

For the highest scenario of 15,000 the District Council is proposing two options: either a new town of 9,400 dwellings or a combination, including a new town of 6,000 and an extra 4,000 dwellings in Stratford and the main rural centres.

'With around 54,000 houses in our district at the moment, the consultation is talking about a possible increase of 27% - or more than 1 new house for each 4 that we have now,' said Cllr Hazel Wright, Leader of the Liberal Democrats on Stratford District Council. 'To achieve this huge parts of the district would have to be turned into building sites. And it's worth bearing in mind that the district has already seen a 38% increase in the number of houses since 1981. Many of our towns and villages just can't take these sorts of increases, without a real change to the character of our area'.

#### **More information:**

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#### **Notes:**

(1) Housing numbers estimate: Audit Commission Report estimate Jan 2007: 52,500.