

Statement on behalf of Basildon District Council

"In a meeting with agents and developers this morning, we were told that Rochford District is not accepting the housing numbers set out in the RSS/East of England Plan and that Rochford's view is that Basildon Borough ought to accept higher numbers to make up for this shortfall. They also advised us that today is the last opportunity for us to express our view that Basildon does not accept this approach.

If Rochford does indeed consider that Basildon should accommodate higher housing numbers to offset Rochford not meeting its allocation set out in the RSS, I point out the following:

- while we have some sympathy with anyone faced with 'top down' / 'imposed' housing requirements, the RSS is still extant following the challenge to its revocation by Cala Homes;
- we understand that the Government is to introduce arrangements for councils to cooperate once the RSS is abolished, but these are yet to be put in place; and
- in the absence of such arrangements I do not know of any sub-regional or inter-authority agreement on re-allocating RSS minimum targets; so on behalf of Basildon Council I object to this approach by Rochford. "