

### **Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration – 12 December 2023**

#### **Written question from James Cave of Freshwater to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration**

Background: Population growth on the Island has in large been fuelled by the over 65-year age group, including mainland retirees. This demographic imbalance is predicted to become even more pronounced putting even more strain on our already creaking health and dental services.

Question: Does the committee consider that the DIPS adequately addresses this issue and that the building of hundreds of market value houses a year in the West Wight and across the Island will help to reduce, or increase this trend?

#### **Officer response:**

Policies in the DIPS cannot directly control or restrict in migration to the island of particular demographic profiles.

As set out in the table at paragraph 3.48 of the DIPS, over the 15 year plan period within the West Wight a total of 321 homes either already have planning permission (141) or have been allocated for development (180). This averages 21 per annum.

The delivery of market value houses also enables the delivery of affordable houses, as set out in policies AFF1 and H5. These policies require deeper discounts from market value for affordable properties than can currently be required.