

# Row as council scraps homes plan

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THE council leader in Amber Valley says “unsuitable” planning applications are now likely to be submitted after the borough council withdrew its “core strategy” for homes.

The strategy – an important planning document – was set to earmark sites in the borough that could be used for building homes up to 2028.

This was to be in areas which Amber Valley Borough Council thought were suitable.

However, the authority has now

withdrawn the strategy because it came to the conclusion that developers would not be able to build the homes quickly enough.

Council leader Alan Cox said developers were to blame for the plan being withdrawn.

But Chris Emmas-Williams, the leader of the Labour opposition, has called for Mr Cox’s resignation over the issue.

Conservative leader Mr Cox said: “That is a childish suggestion from a childish group of individuals.

“This decision has got absolutely nothing to do with politics. Developers have turned around to us very recently and said they cannot manage to build that amount of homes in that time.

“That makes it impossible for us.



Amber Valley Borough Council leader Alan Cox blamed developers for withdrawal of the core strategy.

We cannot carry on and put the plans in front of a planning inspector because he would hardly look at them without rejecting them. What we need is firmer commitment from developers who can keep to what

they said they could build.”

Mr Cox said there was already planning permission for 5,000 homes on land in Amber Valley, none of which had yet been started.

He said: “That proves this is not a

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**CHRIS EMMAS-WILLIAMS**

disaster. But I do think it will be another 12 months until we can get something together firmly.

“In the meantime, I fear there will be more applications on land which is unsuitable and will have a negative impact on residents. This

could include green belt land.”

Mr Emmas-Williams said: “What a total mess the Tories have made once again in our borough.

“This is the second time in two years that they have made disastrous decisions to the major planning vehicle for our next generation.

“I am asking councillor Alan Cox to consider his position as leader of the council, as well as chair of planning, because it is through his lack of judgement and blatant political interference in the process that our green spaces are at the mercy of aggressive developers.”



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