Judge may be asked to rule on new homes plans in South Derbyshire

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By CHRIS MALLETT



Fields off Wragley Way, Sinfin, which could accommodate houses.

A JUDICIAL review has been threatened against South Derbyshire District Council over its proposals for where thousands of homes could go in its area?

When such a move is successful, it can lead to the scrapping of a local authority's plans.

The district council is in the latter stages of finalising its housing proposals, which include sites that would be bolted on to the south of Derby.

One of the sites in question is off Wragley Way, Sinfin, where developer Hallam Land Management wants to build hundreds of homes.

Were the final version of the district council's plans to include that site, Hallam would stand a better chance of getting permission.

The proposal's have been examined by a planning inspector and it was during that process that an objector threatened a judicial review of the housing strategy

A report from Derby City Council, which has not yet submitted its strategy for examination, said the objector claimed a judicial review was justified because the district council, city council and Amber Valley Borough Council failed to consider if they should produce a joint housing strategy as required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act.

A district council spokeswoman said: "An independent inspector has been appointed to examine South Derbyshire's Local Plan which is aligned but separate to local plans for Amber Valley and Derby City Council. This [the objectors claim] was part of the challenge in the run up to the South Derbyshire examination that these plans should have been completed jointly.

"The view wasn't accepted by South Derbyshire and was discussed through the examination."

It is not clear what the status of the judicial review threat now is. The district council said it did not have "any further information with regards the threat of judicial review".

The city council report calls on the authority's leadership to formally conclude it is the authority's plan to prepare "a separate but aligned core strategy rather than a joint plan with Amber Valley, South Derbyshire."

The district council spokeswoman said the outcome of the inspector's examination had been for to ask for further work from the authority, which was now under way.

This includes looking again at the infrastructure, meaning things like roads and schools, that would be needed to serve proposed sites.

Between 2008 and 2028, the district council needs to ensure the building of 13,454 homes, of which more than 2,500 are to enable Derby to meet its housing needs.

The city council's cabinet is expected to confirm its approach at its meeting next Wednesday

http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Wrangle-new-homes-South-Derbyshire-judge/story-25855321-detail/story.html