

Response to Representation 117 – Mr Nettleton

The Council's approach to identifying both housing and employment land needs is set out in Background Paper 1 published alongside the Local Plan. In summary, this outlines that in terms of housing requirements the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was agreed by all the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (L&LHMA) authorities which confirmed that each authority was able to accommodate the upper range of new housing suggested by the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) for the period up to 2028. In the case of North West Leicestershire this is 350 dwellings every year (7,000 in total for 2011-31).

In terms of employment land the requirements were established by the PACEC study. However, the amount of jobs forecast in the PACEC study did not take account of a proposal for Strategic Rail Freight Interchange west of J24 of the M1 (referred to as East Midlands Gateway or Roxhill) which was approved by the Secretary of State for Transport on 16 January 2016. As a result it was concluded that the resident workforce would need to grow by about 11,500 people for there to be sufficient labour, resulting in a housing need of about 520 dwellings per annum.

The Green Wedge Policy of the adopted Local Plan (2002) covered three parcels of land within the broad Coalville - Whitwick - Swannington area. The Submission Local Plan identifies one of the former Green Wedge areas as Countryside and the remaining two as Areas of Separation. As such therefore the Submission Local Plan does not allocate any areas of Green Wedge for development.

In terms of protecting open areas between nearby settlements, the Countryside Policy (S3) includes a specific criteria that seeks to ensure that development would not reduce the physical and perceived separation and undeveloped character between nearby settlements.

In regards to infrastructure the Submission Local Plan Policy IF1 identifies a range of infrastructure that new development would generally be expected to contribute towards, whilst proposed allocations made under policies H3 and Ec2 identify specific requirements applicable to those sites. Any contributions would be secured by way of a Legal Agreement or Community Infrastructure Levy charge (should the Council introduce this at some future date).

The consultation undertaken as part of the Local Plan preparation has been undertaken in accordance with the relevant Regulations and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.