



**Worfield & Rudge Parish Council**

Correspondence address:

88 Brands Farm Way

Randlay

Telford

Shropshire

TF3 2JQ

#### **Matter 4- Employment land need, Requirement and Supply (Policy SP2) MMs 001 to 004**

Worfield & Rudge Parish Council would like to respond to the Inspector's questions for Matter 4 as follows: -

Q1) Is the updated approach to the employment land requirement and supply set out in the Council's updated Housing and Employment Topic Paper- April 2024 (GC45) of minimum 320ha of employment land over the plan period of 2016 to 2038, justified, positively prepared and consistent with national policy?

- 1.1. We note changes made to SP2 MM001 in that the requirements for both homes and employment is now expressed as a "minimum" rather than "around".
- 1.2. The use of the term "minimum" with the high growth option being selected would infer that greater growth than the High growth is possible, i.e. High growth plus. How has this been justified?
- 1.3. As such, there is an argument for setting the minimum slightly lower, thus avoiding development becoming unsustainable. Consideration should be given to a maximum figure where potentially unsustainable development would be expected to occur.  
Whilst accepting that there may reasonably be an aspiration for a minimum of 320ha employment land to be developed in Shropshire over the plan period, we are uncomfortable with the suggestion that this is a minimum requirement. We note that the individual settlement strategies refer to a level of development of "around". We would prefer to set a minimum level of employment development required at a lower figure.

Q3) Should the employment land requirement be also expressed in terms of the number of jobs expected to be provided.

- 1.4. In determining sustainability unavoidably provision of jobs will be interlinked with provision of homes.
- 1.5. We believe that employment land should be expressed in terms of number of jobs as well as number of associated homes in the locality, in the case of the Bridgnorth Place Plan area, only then can we assess true sustainability especially when homes are allocated to meeting the unmet need.
- 1.6. We agree with the philosophy of sustainable development with the aim of minimising commuting.

Mr C Furnival

Clerk of Worfield & Rudge Parish Council

**Email:** [worfieldandrudgepc@gmail.com](mailto:worfieldandrudgepc@gmail.com)