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28 June 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

Sustainability Appraisal Addendum to the Core Strategy

I am setting out my comments on the above report.

Employment.

The majority of the new jobs being created will be filled by people coming into the District, because of the present low unemployment, lack of growth in the indigenous population, and a lack of skills match for people commuting outwards e.g. nurses.

What is the projected net job increase over the next two years? How many of those positions are forecast to be filled by people currently living in the District?

Housing.

Housing is the prime driver of the plan, but the house build programme does not seem to be related to need. The employment opportunities for the occupants almost seem to be an afterthought mentioned later in the report. The same comment applies to Affordable Housing. What is the projected demand for new houses and Affordable Housing in the next two years? How many unsold and unlet properties are there currently in the District?

Greenbelt

The plan is vague on how much of the existing Greenbelt will be used for new housing and industry. Looking at housing locations it would seem that a high percentage is to be utilised. Is this correct?

Transport

The growth in houses, employment, and air travel (easyJet are forecasting 800,000 passengers next year) will put pressure on road transport. What is the estimated percentage increase in vehicles on the road in the next two years?

Other

The policy regarding Compulsory Purchase Orders has changed. Will businesses and residents required to move be fully compensated e.g. moving costs loss of profits etc.?

Does the carbon emissions reduction target of 10% from the 2008 base by 2016 apply to the whole District? What is the base?

In future revisions can actual achievements be shown against target for new jobs created and houses built for the previous year?

I have concerns about the proposals because:

- i) The house build programme is just a figure and does not represent need and affordability to the intended market.
- ii) There is no clear statement on Greenbelt build.
- iii) There is a no coherent Transport Plan based on assessments of traffic growth

Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]