

STRATEGY/VISION/SUSTAINABILITY - Policy DS1

Session/Issue 1:

- i) **Does the Joint Core Strategy [JCS] provide an appropriate spatial vision for the district over the plan period, consistent with national guidance in the NPPF and/or justified by clear and robust evidence and, if not, what is the best alternative and why?**
1. The JCS Spatial Planning Vision (para 2.16) is inconsistent with the NPPF, is not justified by clear or robust evidence, does not provide an effective vision to inform the development of the Plan's objectives and policies.
 2. One of the core planning principles of the NPPF (para 17) is that Plans should set out a "positive vision for the future of the area", however the Plan's vision, particularly in respect of the 'three key areas', does not provide this required positive direction. For the County Town of Winchester it simply states that it needs to meet its housing and community requirements and the economic sectors that will help to the town diversify. **The scale of housing and economic growth and jobs needs to be clarified in the vision for Winchester Town.**
 3. For the South Hampshire area, the vision says that it only needs to provide homes, jobs, and physical and social infrastructure. There is no locally distinctive dimension to this part of the vision and no indication of the type or scale of jobs the Council envisages despite the Plan identifying South Hampshire as being the area of most significant change in the District. **The vision for the South Hampshire area needs to be more locally distinctive and not treat this part of this District as simply a place to provide for the District's development needs. The scale and type of economic growth also needs to be set out.**
 4. Finally, the vision for the 'market towns and villages' does not mention the role that the economy will play in helping them to 'remain viable settlements'. This part of the vision also states that these areas will 'be allowed to grow to respond to local needs', it is not clear what is meant by this and whether the Plan will seek to only meet local housing needs in market town and rural areas. **This part of the vision should clarify what is meant by market towns and villages only being allowed to grow to meet local needs.**
 5. The NPPF (para 21) states that in drawing up Local Plans, LPAs should set out a clear economic vision and strategy for their area which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth. There is no clear economic vision for the overall District or its component policy areas including the area located within South Hampshire which has a regionally and nationally important role as the largest urban area in the South East outside of London. For the 'areas at Waterlooville and Whiteley' the vision is very weak as it does not identify the type or scale of jobs. For Winchester Town it explains that it needs to meet its housing and community requirements, however fails to include the economy in its vision for the town. The Plan must
 6. The evidence used by the LPA does not justify the vision which appears to seek a District that meets the housing and job requirements of its population. A fuller assessment of the LPA's housing and economic evidence is provided in our response to Question 1 iv, Question 2 i and to question 3 i. We refer to these to avoid repetition.

7. The vision sets the tone for the remainder of the Plan and therefore it needs to be much clearer as to its strategy for delivering economic growth in the District. As it is currently drafted the spatial vision does not provide an effective vision that can be implemented through the Plan's policies.
8. The spatial vision could be made sound by being more locally distinctive and setting a much clearer economic vision for the overall district and the three areas. It must also seek to balance the District's housing requirements with the provision of jobs.