

SENT BY E-MAIL

Further comments on behalf of the Sibley family and others and their land off Segensworth Road.

Fareham Plan: Employment policies

I refer to the response of FBC to the Inspectors Questions on how they have taken into account the Solent LEP's Strategy for Growth as in your email, below.

The Strategy for Growth has as its time horizon 2015 to 2020 i.e. it is a short-term urgent response to recent closures and sudden loss of employment in major industries.

This negative shift in the economy was the trigger for the LEP SEP as a response to ministers.

The FBC response has none of the urgency of the SEP; It continues to rely firmly on the PUSH proposals of three years ago; according to FBC this has to remain the blueprint (or straightjacket) for any further release of new land. Any new land or response must wait for the Review of the Plan which is supposedly to follow quickly. But a Review is never quick and could not possibly deliver any extra stimulus before the 2020 end date of the SEP.

This is not the approach of NPPF which says that Local plans should plan for the unexpected in order to allow initiatives which might otherwise be stifled. Para 21 has the following for supporting economic growth:

"• support existing business sectors, taking account of whether they are expanding or contracting and, where possible, identify and plan for new or emerging sectors likely to locate in their area. Policies should be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan and to allow a rapid response to changes in economic circumstances;"

I have highlighted the key section.

In response to the SEP, FBC should cease to rely on the minimalist approach to economic development as if everything in the LEP garden is rosy; at present the Councils are stifling investment by accepting the employment based strategy of PUSH and not looking at the needs of firms as the justification for land release. If the allocation of land is unacceptable then at least a new policy should be included in the plan which allows for consent to be given for the release of land in response to changes in economic circumstances.

I propose a policy which would enable planning consent to be granted for economic purposes where alternative land is not either suitable or available. Without such a policy, which would be subject to the normal criteria, the plan is not in accordance with NPPF and is NOT SOUND.

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