

INSPECTOR'S RESPONSE TO SOUTH SOMERSET'S LETTER DATED
12th NOVEMBER 2013

EMPLOYMENT POLICY SS3

The Inspector has the following comments on the letter which he received on 22nd November 2013, in which the Council questions whether or not the South Somerset Local Plan (LP) should identify specific employment sites.

Paragraph 1.7 of the proposed submission LP confirms that the plan will identify broad locations for employment and housing growth and paragraph 4.63 (as amended on page 21 of the Additional Minor Modifications) refers to an Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD). The Council's Local Development Scheme (Appendix 1) advises that work on the Site Allocations DPD was due to commence in May 2013, with adoption in May 2015.

Although a single local plan approach is favoured there is no obligation on a Council to prepare a single all-embracing document from the outset, although this should be the ambition. Bearing in mind work on the LP commenced before the publication of the NPPF, I consider that a pragmatic approach should be adopted.

In my view the LP should provide the framework from which the more detailed allocations document can flow. That is why I consider it to be important that the distribution of employment land (i.e. by settlement) is clear. Detailed allocations can then be proposed in the forthcoming DPD.

Based on the information provided in your letter I can confirm that the approach being taken by the Council appears to be appropriate.

David Hogger

Inspector

25 November 2013