Matter 2: Soundness of the Local Plan

Issue 3: Is the general approach and coverage of the Local Plan justified and effective?

Rob Routledge and Chris McKinney on behalf of the Council
Issue 3: Is the general approach and coverage of the Local Plan justified and effective?

Q16. Is the Council’s approach to the promotion of sustainable development effective? [Policy SS1]

Council Response

16.1 The Local Plan provides policy coverage for the whole of Bolsover District and our general approach to seeking to achieve sustainable development is considered to be justified and effective.

16.2 In relation to the specific nature of Q 16, the Council’s approach to the promotion of sustainable development is considered to be justified and effective. The importance of sustainability can be seen in the Key issues for the District (Para 2.41), Chapter 3, Visions and Objectives, starts with the aim of Creating a Sustainable District, and the Vision focuses on the three pillars of the Social, Economic and Environmental roles of the district.

16.3 Our approach to sustainability is embodied within our use of the Settlement Hierarchy to help identify the most sustainable locations to allocate development, and the application of Sustainability Appraisal work to inform our choice of Strategy and sites for the Local Plan.

16.4 Policy SS1 Sustainable Development, addresses all of the Objectives of the Plan, reflecting the social; environmental and economic pillars of sustainability as well as those specifically related to Sustainable Growth and Climate Change. It is the overarching policy of the Plan which other more detailed policies within relate to.

16.5 The Policy reflects paragraph 15 of the NPPF, and has been drafted so as to not duplicate the presumption in favour of sustainable development, but to provide a clear policy that guides how the presumption should be applied locally in Bolsover District. To this end the Council considers that policy SS1, adequately covers the three dimensions of sustainable development and will be effective in helping to inform proposals for new development and to deliver sustainable patterns and forms of development with Bolsover.

16.6 The Policy also accords with paragraph 151 of the NPPF, which sets out that Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. This is also in accordance with section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 which states, “a local authority exercising their plan making functions must do so with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development”.

16.7 The Plan provides for a range of sites across the District through strategic sites (SS4, 5 & 6) and specific allocations (LC1) and provides Development Envelopes (SC1) around some of the smaller villages to allow for natural growth, as well as allowing for development within the countryside (SS10) if certain criteria are met.
16.8 Policy SS1 does not have specific measurable indicators for every criteria, as it is considered that such an approach would be unworkable and overly prescriptive. However it does require all major applications to be accompanied by a Planning / Sustainability statement which addresses the criteria so that consideration can be given to the contribution to the achievement of sustainable development can be properly considered. This is considered to be a reasonable approach reflecting the requirements of the 2004 Act referred to above.