

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service Further Comments Tailored to the Issues Identified by the Inspector Relating to the South Wiltshire Core Strategy Examination 2010

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service (Wiltshire FRS) has provided detailed representations, referencing the Core Strategy where applicable. Following receipt of the letter and accompanying 'Draft List of Main Matters and Issues' issued on 11th January, Wiltshire FRS provides here an additional summary of its main points related to the relevant questions in that draft list and based on its earlier representations. Wiltshire FRS is seeking a statement of common ground from the Council showing that the Council supports the FRS on these points.

Re: Question 5.5. 'Transport. An Insurmountable Barrier?'

There should not be a rise in the number of road traffic collisions (particularly the ones that have the more serious consequences) and there must not be an increase in congestion on the roads (delaying response times) due to the rise in the size of the population. Additional road safety risk and additional congestion should be designed out at the planning stage. Should this not be possible, then further information will need to be provided to Wiltshire FRS so that it can manage the predicted additional road traffic risk and so that it can determine the implications of lengthier response times due to predicted congestion. The outcome could be a requirement for additional infrastructure.

Re: Question 5.7 'Do any Key Strategic Elements of Infrastructure need to be in place before commencement of development?'

Additional fire and rescue service infrastructure will need to be provided early on in the development of the strategic sites. Otherwise, the risk will be present in the construction phase and in the beginnings of the occupancy of the dwellings and employment sites without the necessary fire and rescue service infrastructure being in place to respond adequately. Clearly, new fire hydrants will need to be installed during the construction phase and, being directly linked to the development; the costs of these will need to be borne by the developer at that time. There could be a funding gap for the Fire and Rescue Service in that initial revenue costs of fire and rescue services provided to support the developments would not be supported by revenue from Council tax receipts. Hence the need for funding support for initial revenue costs as well as capital cost of essential fire and rescue service infrastructure necessitated by the developments.

Re: Question 5.8 'Key Strategic Elements of Infrastructure. What, Who and When? What measures are proposed to ensure ...that the additional demand for emergency services...be dealt with? Who would be responsible for financing and implementing these various measures and when would they be implemented?'

- **Requirement for Community Chest/ Tariff**

A community chest or a tariff based approach should be provided for in the Core Strategy to ensure appropriate funding is received for essential community infrastructure including fire and rescue services. In the opinion of Wiltshire FRS a tariff-based approach is particularly necessary in the South Wiltshire area due its very rural nature and the relatively small size of each of the proposed developments. Against this backdrop there is to be a significant increase in the population (approximately a quarter increase). Individually, it may be difficult to prove, against developer resistance, the need for additional infrastructure. However, cumulatively, all of the

developments lead to a significant rise in the risk across South Wiltshire and because of this a tariff-based approach would, in the opinion of Wiltshire FRS, result in a more effective delivery of the required infrastructure.

If this is not possible, a general policy should be included in the core section of the plan highlighting the need, where appropriate, for developer contributions towards essential community infrastructure (either on or off site).

- **Policy Support for Additional Fire and Rescue Service Infrastructure to Support the New Growth**

Wiltshire FRS requires that policy backing is given for the provision of additional Fire and Rescue Service infrastructure to support the new growth. That additional infrastructure and its associated costs are to be specified within a Wiltshire FRS Developer Contribution document that is being produced in February 2010 and will be available to the Inspector and to the Council prior to the commencement of the Examination in March. That document will be subject to ongoing review and amendment.

- **Policy Support for Contributions To Deliver Essential Fire and Rescue Service Infrastructure**

Wiltshire FRS requires that policy support is given to providing developer contributions towards the costs of upgraded or new infrastructure that will be required to ensure appropriate fire and rescue service provision to areas of new growth, phased with the delivery of new housing. This may include capital and certain revenue contributions.

- **Recognition of the Contribution of the Fire & Rescue Service**

Wiltshire FRS requires that the broad contribution of the Fire and Rescue Service in making communities safe, strong and sustainable is recognised by the Council. Wiltshire FRS requests that some of the Fire and Rescue Service-related national indicators (as below) are referenced within policy:

- NI 33 arson
- NI 47 road safety
- NI 48 road safety
- NI 49 fire safety

- **Employment Land Allocations to Support Retained Fire over and to Make Rural Communities Sustainable**

There should be a requirement for a greater proportion of new employment to be provided in the immediate environs of the more remote local service centres of Tisbury and Mere. That is a more sustainable approach – where people live and work in these communities. Such an approach would allow the Fire and Rescue Service to deliver its services to those local service centres into the future, especially given the new growth in homes that is proposed in core policy 1. A failure to provide a proportionate level of employment within the immediate area of the settlements could jeopardize future fire and rescue service provision in these rural communities. (Fire and Rescue Service response in rural communities is primarily delivered by retained firefighters who have other jobs and have homes in the immediate area of the settlement and who respond to the fire station for calls, when required.)

Ends.