

**SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORE  
STRATEGY**

**EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC**

**Statement of Common Ground as  
agreed between  
Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Fire  
and Rescue Service**

19 FEBRUARY 2010



Plan reference: EIP question 5.5

Representation Number: N/A

#### Issues Raised

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.

#### Wiltshire Council Response

The Salisbury Transport Model has been published and provides assurance that a range of improvements and changes could be developed that would allow Salisbury's growth to take place.

#### Agreed position

The anticipated increase in LGV and private motor vehicle traffic in the area due to the developments over the RSS period will impose additional demands on the Fire and Rescue Service. The impact of increase in road traffic on Fire Service response times will be recognised in the core strategy document.

Add bullet to para 3.12 of CS page 26 'Tackling infrastructure barriers to delivering growth' to state, Key infrastructure challenges for the area are:

- Addressing the impact of increased population and traffic on Fire Service response times.

Also add additional bullet at para 4.9, page 35, to read:

- The impact of strategic growth on the road network will be managed through measures identified in the Salisbury Transport Model to mitigate congestion in order to safeguard emergency services response times.

Plan reference: EIP question 5.7

Representation Number: N/A

#### Issues Raised

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.

#### Wiltshire Council Response

References are made to the provision of Emergency Services infrastructure in the Strategic Site Development Templates contained in Appendix A of the Core Strategy.

Although these Templates suggest some specific measures, they are not intended to be exhaustive in this regard. If site-specific measures are identified and are necessary in connection with the development, there is no reason why they could not be delivered through the planning obligation process.

#### Agreed position

'Essential infrastructure requirements' section of all templates to be revised to reflect broader role than response and that some of the additional Fire and Rescue infrastructure may need to be provided early on in the development process.

Add footnote to all templates linked to 'Essential Infrastructure Requirements', These infrastructure requirements will be negotiated and delivered on a site by site basis as part of section 106 agreements until the Wiltshire wide DPD on planning obligations to incorporate the CIL, setting out a tariff approach is adopted.

Plan reference: EIP question 5.8

Representation Number: N/A

#### Issues Raised

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).

#### Wiltshire Council Response

The Council investigated the possibility of introducing a Community Chest approach to matters such as this during the Core Strategy process.

However, the Council's view is that it would be premature to introduce a planning policy relating to this until such time as the Government's proposed Community Infrastructure Levy is finally introduced. It is therefore proposed that the Community Chest proposal will be reconsidered and, if appropriate, dealt with in a subsequent DPD in due course.

In the meantime, a specific Core Strategy policy covering this topic is not required as Core Policy 2 (Strategic Allocations), supported by the Development Templates contained in Appendix A, already deals with the issue of essential infrastructure provision.

It is noted however noted that Core Policy 2 makes reference to 'fire service response' only, which we acknowledge might be of concern to the Service.

## Agreed position

Amend fourth bullet point in Core Policy 2 to read: Adequate Fire and Rescue Service infrastructure necessitated by all proposed growth including their cumulative impacts.

Add to evidence base, Topic Paper 19 on Infrastructure:

For example, the Council's Salisbury Transport Strategy Briefing Note for the Inspector January 2010 identifies that there will be 8,700 new homes and 13,500 new jobs in the Salisbury City by 2026. This is significant development for which Wiltshire FRS must provide services to the same level as it does to the current risk. These are to be spread out in various directions around the City, expanding its urban boundaries creating risk in new places. A site by site approach and an approach that only deals with strategic allocations and then only dealing with sites individually is not acceptable to Wiltshire FRS. An approach that would recognize the additional demand created by all of the development when considered cumulatively would be one that would be acceptable to Wiltshire FRS.

Plan reference: EIP question 5.8

Representation Number: N/A

#### Issues Raised

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.

#### Wiltshire Council Response

As previously stated, a specific Core Strategy policy is not required as Core Policy 2 (Strategic Allocations), supported by the Development Templates in Appendix A, already deals with the issue of essential infrastructure provision.

#### Agreed position

Add footnote to all Development Templates in Appendix A, linked to 'Essential Infrastructure Requirements', These infrastructure requirements, including contributions towards cumulative impacts, will be negotiated and delivered on a site by site basis as part of section 106 agreements until the Wiltshire wide DPD on planning obligations to incorporate the CIL, setting out a tariff approach is adopted.

Plan reference: EIP question 5.8

Representation Number: N/A

### Issues Raised

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.

### Wiltshire Council Response

The Wiltshire LDF will include expediting the production of a Planning Obligations DPD that will incorporate a tariff system based on the CIL. This will incorporate the Fire Service requirements. In the interim it is proposed that justified Fire Service requirements, both related to strategic sites, and the cumulative impacts of all growth will be secured through the planning system via section 106 agreements negotiated on a site by site basis.

### Agreed position

Agree that it needs to be clear how contributions will be delivered through the planning system, to meet the direct and cumulative impacts that the growth will have on the Fire Service. This will be identified through a tariff service in due course and until such time as its introduction, then agreement will be negotiated through section 106 agreements. Revise CS to clarify this through the following change:

Add footnote to all Development Templates in Appendix A, linked to 'Essential Infrastructure Requirements', These infrastructure requirements, including contributions towards cumulative impacts, will be negotiated and delivered on a site by site basis as part of section 106 agreements until the Wiltshire wide DPD on planning obligations to incorporate the CIL, setting out a tariff approach is adopted.

Plan reference: Integrated Delivery Plan

Representation Number:

### Issues Raised

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

### Wiltshire Council Response

A target for Fire and Rescue Service response times is included in Strategic Objective in Appendix E of the Core Strategy, but it is acknowledged that the role of the service goes beyond this.

Would therefore like to consider adding text to be suggested by the Service.

Would also like to consider adding suggested Nis, but would require advice from the Service as to how these Indicators are monitored.

Wiltshire FRS has three key time-related targets relating to its response work:

1. For 80% of fire calls received by Wiltshire FRS, a fire engine will arrive at the scene within 10 minutes of the vehicle being mobilised.
2. For 98% of fire calls received by Wiltshire FRS, a fire engine will be at the scene within 20 minutes of the vehicle being mobilised.
3. For 95% of road traffic collision calls received by Wiltshire FRS, a fire engine will be at the scene within 20 minutes of the vehicle being mobilised.

The document that Wiltshire FRS is currently writing and that will be submitted to the Inspector and the Council this month will be designed to maintain current performance levels against these targets when the developments have been built whilst also managing other additional demands on the FRS caused by the developments. Performance against these targets is monitored internally, by Wiltshire FRS.

Performance against the four national indicators listed is monitored by Wiltshire FRS and, where relevant, Wiltshire Police and by the Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership with regular (quarterly) reports being sent through to the Wiltshire Council Performance Management Team.

Agreed position

Additional text provided above with clarification on targets to be included in Appendix E of the Core Strategy Integrated Delivery Plan . Reference to any other targets should be removed.

Plan reference: EIP question 5.8

Representation Number: N/A

#### Issues Raised

There should be a requirement for a greater proportion of new employment to be provided in the immediate environs of the local service centres of Wilton, Tisbury and Mere. That is a more sustainable approach – where people live and work in their communities. Such an approach would allow the Fire and Rescue Service to deliver its services to the 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.)

#### Wiltshire Council Response

This concern is fully understood and is agreed with. However, taking into account both the requirements of the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Council's own evidence on employment, the proposed allocation of employment land uses is felt to be appropriate.

We are not aware of any evidence to demonstrate how numbers of retained firefighters relate to job numbers in South Wiltshire and therefore have no justification for adjusting proposed employment allocations to take this into account.

Please see CLG report: *The Primary Employment Status of Retained Duty System Firefighters*. May 2006.  
(<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/fire/pdf/151255.pdf>.)

Whilst it might not detail the numbers it does detail the type of employment that should be available in a local service centre to allow the retained duty system to operate and so the community to receive fire cover – an essential element of infrastructure.

## Agreed position

Changes are requested to reflect the need for planning to assist in the provision of an appropriate employment base in the rural service centres to support the retained duty system model of fire cover. Wiltshire FRS is looking for the spatial planning to assist in this matter and believe that this also fits with the sustainable community agenda.

Agree to highlight this issue, revise evidence base Topic Paper 4 Supporting Communities, to include:

'there is a need to reflect the need for planning to assist in the provision of an appropriate employment base in the rural service centres to support the retained duty system model of fire cover.'

Add reference to this requirement through amendment to Footnote 35 on page 25 of the CS regarding maintaining access to community facilities and services.