

## **EX 36 - Employment Land Supply Briefing Note November 2017**

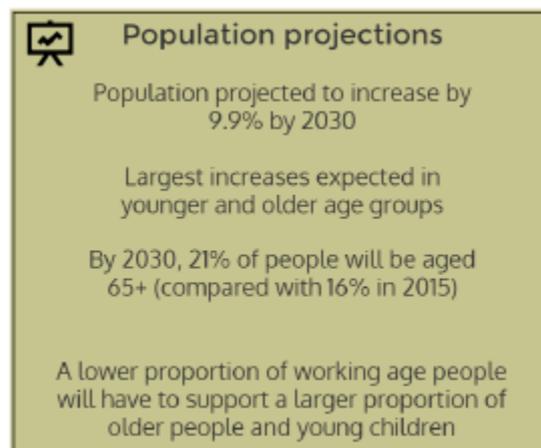
We are both concerned and disappointed to see that the Council has only considered Litchfield's assertions regarding employment numbers. We made well evidenced and robust points during the Public Examination regarding the validity of the basis for Kirklees' calculation yet none of these have been addressed. We must ask why this is the case.

We are still of the view that the job growth percentage of 75% is unrealistic and unrealisable. Even the Employment Technical Paper recognises that "*predicting an exact rate is very difficult. The KES does not define exactly what 'around' means but a rate of 74% or above would probably be seen as meeting this target.*"

The latest issue of the UK Labour Market for December 2017 reports a national employment rate for 16 – 64 year olds as 75.1% "*the highest rate since records began in 1971*". The latest figures available from NOMIS show that in June 2017 the number of people in employment in Kirklees was 201,100, an employment rate of 70.7% compared to 72.9% in Yorkshire and The Humber and 74.4% in Great Britain.

We find it hard, given the area's track record, to believe that the Council will be able to increase the number of people in employment much above this level, particularly as 81% of those economically inactive do not want a job. We cannot accept that the increase in employment will be taken up by inward migration.

The Council's Joint Strategic Assessment reports the growth in the population as given below:



We believe that the way in which the numbers of new jobs has been calculated by the Council is totally lacking in transparency. In paragraph 2.4, the Council says it has used ONS, BRES and APS data to reflect actual jobs growth. Litchfield draws on the work of Cambridge Econometrics. This work is not being dismissed but reference to ONS statistics indicates that the numbers quoted in the Briefing Note have been manipulated in some way (unknown).

A request was made in November 2017 to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for it to carry out a modelling exercise based on a 72% jobs growth number. This request was passed to Kirklees Council but no reply, not even an acknowledgement

of the request has been received. This experience is not the only example of Kirklees' failure to respond.

The Council states that, in 2013, the total employment figure stood at 168,340 and by 2031 it would increase to 195,490, up by 27,150 jobs or about 16%. The figures for the 75% employment rate for the same years were 130,580 and 153,850, an increase of 23,270 or 17%. Would someone please explain the logic and basis for these calculations

Reference to ONS Population Projections (Table 2: 2014-based Subnational Population Projections for Local Authorities and Higher Administrative Areas in England) shows the Government's estimates. The methodology used to calculate the numbers is given in the supporting technical documents so the steps taken to make the calculations and their weaknesses are known.

The table given below highlights the 15 – 64 age groups. There was a discussion during the Stage 2 about how the length of a person's working life is changing and this point is taken but the evidence available indicates that the number of people working beyond the age of 65 is comparatively low. The inclusion of 15-year olds here is accepted as a weakness but it seen as balancing the number of those aged over 65 still in work. The table clearly shows that while the overall population of Kirklees is set to increase by around 10%, the work age population is set to increase by around 4%. The jobs growth numbers do not appear to be related to the growth in working age population. What is the relationship between the numbers used to estimate the increase in jobs with the estimated increase in people?

Without information about the methods used to estimate the number of jobs forecast for the Kirklees economy, it is impossible to check their robustness and validity. This means that the Plan is lacking in transparency and therefore cannot be sound.

While applauding Kirklees's ambition and optimism, we recommended that, rather than use such a high figure and risk failure, the Council should use a range e.g. 72% - 75% for the growth in employment and the associated allocation of land.

The job growth number matters as it is used to justify the amount of land needed for new employment. As stated above we contest this, not only on the unrealistic nature of the job growth figure, but because we question Kirklees' view of the sort of jobs likely to increase.

We believe the Council's view is old fashioned and does not recognise fully the opportunities for increasing employment.

An example of this is the failure to link the growth in the older population with the increased demand for health, social care and other support services. The increase is leading to more services being provided in the community. Workers in this sector do not need office or workshop space. Similarly, the growth in the digital economy, creative industries, the media and tourism will create jobs in the rural parts of the District, not on industrial sites. Kirklees has not invested in the rural economy. Nor, in our view, does the Council fully understand the nature of micro and small businesses or the self-employed (many of whom are excluded from the Council's surveys and research). They do not need land to support growth; our research and that of other bodies such as the RSA suggest that finance and

practical focused business support is needed and would be more appropriate than just the allocation of sites.

For information, the priorities for delivering the vision given in the Economic Strategy are:

- Precision engineering and innovative manufacture
- Innovation and enterprising businesses
- Workforce, skills and employment
- Infrastructure
- Quality places

The first is highly specific and we believe the over-reliance on one sector (manufacturing and production) makes the area vulnerable. A broader based, more flexible plan with realistic and realisable objectives for growth and regeneration would be more sustainable and deliverable in our view.

We are puzzled to see the Kirklees has discounted, from its figures, land made available as windfall sites but has included a huge margin of 30% to take account of sites that cannot be delivered. We believe that the accepted inability to deliver sites reflects on the Council's ability to deliver job growth. The Council seems obsessed with employment growth taking place on large sites far away from where people live. We do not think employment growth need occur in this way. Indeed, our recent survey of local businesses identified traffic problems as the major issue. Congestion is not the problem: traffic volume and the need to rely on cars are. Increasing the need to travel will not help regeneration of employment across Kirklees.

Brown field sites, being smaller and closer to where people live, in our view would be a more sustainable option than striving to place employment on green belt land and sites, well removed from housing.

Therefore, we believe that the separation of employment sites and housing is unsustainable. We maintain that greater use of mixed sites and brownfield sites and the concentration of house building in existing urban settlements would serve to reduce traffic, provide the type of housing needed by local people and thus would be more sustainable.

<b>AGE GROUP</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>	
0-4	29	29	28	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	
5-9	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	
10-14	26	26	27	27	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	
15-19	27	27	27	26	26	26	26	27	27	28	29	29	29	30	30	30	30	29	
20-24	29	29	29	30	30	30	29	29	28	28	28	28	29	29	30	31	31	32	
25-29	28	28	29	29	29	30	29	29	29	29	29	29	28	28	28	27	28	28	
30-34	28	28	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	30	30	30	29	29	29	29	29	28	
35-39	26	27	27	28	29	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	30	30	30	30	30	
40-44	30	29	28	27	26	26	27	27	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	30	
45-49	31	31	32	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	26	27	27	28	28	28	29	28	
50-54	29	29	30	30	31	31	31	31	31	31	30	29	28	26	26	26	26	27	
55-59	25	26	26	27	28	28	29	29	30	30	30	30	31	31	30	29	28	27	
60-64	23	23	23	23	24	24	25	25	26	27	27	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	
65-69	24	24	24	23	23	22	22	22	22	22	23	24	24	25	25	26	26	27	
70-74	17	17	18	20	21	22	22	23	22	21	21	20	20	21	21	21	22	23	
75-79	14	14	14	14	14	15	15	16	18	19	20	20	20	19	19	19	18	18	
80-84	9	9	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	12	12	13	13	15	16	16	17	17	
85-89	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	10	
90+	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	
<b>All ages</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>476</b>	
% growth																			110.4
15 - 64	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	283	284	285	286	286	287	288	288	288	288	288	
% growth																			104.0



Holme Valley Vision  
Response to Matters 36  
regarding Kirklees Council's Local Plan