

**KIRKLEES LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION
STAGE FOUR HEARINGS**

**HEARING STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY
SPEN VALLEY CIVIC SOCIETY**



**Re MATTER 27: STRATEGIC EMPLOYMENT ALLOCATIONS
GREEN BELT RELEASES**

SITE E1985(a): North Bierley Treatment Works

Date of Submission: 15th January 2018

Issue: Are the proposed strategic employment allocations justified; effective; deliverable and consistent with national policy?

Response:

1. Spen Valley Civic Society's (SVCS) overarching concern is that nearly all of the proposed employment allocations of any significant size, defined as strategic, are located in and around the Spen Valley on land currently designated as green belt.
2. Document 1D1.1 confirms that **51.4%** of the total requirement for green belt employment sites in Kirklees is to be met in this area on 3 major sites – E1832(c); E1831 and E1985(a), which are all within 2.5 miles of each other and border other Local Authorities [Calderdale for E1832(c) and Bradford for E1831 & E1985(a)]. This is an unreasonable and disproportionate allocation of employment sites in one small corner of Kirklees. As a consequence of their geographic location, Kirklees will be supplying employment opportunities not for its own residents, but for people in Bradford and Calderdale, who live much closer to these sites than most Kirklees residents. Where are the residents of Huddersfield and South Kirklees going to find employment opportunities?
3. With regard to **site 1985(a) SVCS agrees with the allocation of this green belt site for employment because it is substantially brownfield within green belt.** Our understanding is that this site is currently the subject of a planning application to Kirklees Council (ref 2016/92298). SVCS has submitted a consultation response to this application stating that we support industrial development, provided that a green belt gap is retained at the northern end of the site, close to the boundary with Bradford MDC. We have proposed tree belts surrounding the northern and eastern boundaries of the site, to link with ancient woodland at Hanging Wood (LW58) and Chatts Wood (LW59).