

Stage 3 Hearing Statement – Upper Dearne Valley Environmental Trust
Matter 17 – Economy policies

Issue – Does the Plan set out positively prepared policies for supporting a strong and thriving economy, which are justified, effective and consistent with national policy?

[Policies PLP 9, 10]

- a) Does Policy PLP 9 provide a clear framework for applicants on when/how measures to support a skilled and flexible workforce will be sought by the Council? Is the approach appropriate and justified by the evidence?

No comment at this stage.

- b) Is the approach to new buildings in the Green Belt, as established in section 2 in Policy PLP 10, clearly expressed and justified?

Cross referencing to the relevant policies would make understanding clearer and be more 'user friendly'. This comment applies to all policies that make reference to others.

- c) Does section 3 in Policy PLP 10 give sufficient recognition to the desirability of protecting the character and appearance of the countryside, and the existence of permitted development rights?

In our view, PLP10 fails to place sufficient value on the economic and other benefits of high quality and versatile agricultural land as required by the NPPF. The Council just see farming as 'in decline' instead of coming up with really positive policies to support farming and agriculture. We believe farming will achieve greater economic significance after Brexit. The Council appear all too ready to allow development on farmland/greenbelt (e.g.2333a), ignoring the value of farming and environmental sensitivities.

- d) Is the approach to farm shops outlined in section 4 of Policy PLP 10 and paragraph 7.31 justified and in line with national policy?

No comment.