
Matter 1

Duty to co-operate

Daventry Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Examination

1. Duty to Co-operate

1.1. ***11. Has the Council engaged constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis with all relevant organisations on strategic matters of relevance to the plan's preparation, as required by the DTC?***

- 1.1.1. The Council states in Exam 1B at its response to PS106/01, that Economy and Employment Background Paper (ECO1) (December 2013) confirms that the jobs requirement in the WNJCS policy S7 is met through strategic allocations and permissions at the time the WNJCS was adopted.
- 1.1.2. Although the WNJCS is less than 5 years from adoption and therefore the target does not have to be reviewed until the year end, DDC is reliant on evidence which is more than 5 years old in its assertion that adequate employment land provision has been made to meet that policy requirement. This is not a robust basis.
- 1.1.3. ECO1 states that the jobs requirement for the WNJCS is 28,500 over the period 2008 – 2029. An annual requirement of 1,357 new jobs across West Northamptonshire. ECO1 Table 18 and 4.6 state that this is a minimum requirement.
- 1.1.4. ECO1 3.43 states that this jobs figure makes no allowance for growth of the labour force in the adjoining areas of West Northamptonshire that commute into West Northamptonshire for work. In view of the good accessibility of West Northamptonshire, and the large centres of population outside its boundary, it is likely that such in commuting is significant in scale, and can be expected to be continue to grow in line with population increases in neighbouring areas, including for example, Rugby. The Rugby Local Plan Inspector's report published on 7 May concludes that there is no need to allocate additional employment land beyond the planned level which is aligned with population growth, and maintaining the existing balance between population and jobs. Existing trends of migration from places such as Rugby can therefore be expected to continue and to grow in line with population growth in those areas. ECO1 states that it includes an allowance for additional growth sufficient to capture in commuting into West Northamptonshire, but also states that it is not possible to project the growth of jobs requirement from in commuting with any certainty (both 3.43). In-commuting is not therefore accurately reflected in the identified job need. This underlines why the WNJCS S7 need figure should be treated as a minimum and reviewed on an ongoing basis.
- 1.1.5. The latest West Northamptonshire Joint Authorities Monitoring Report (WNJAMR) 2017/2018 sets out at Table 5 the net change in employment for the period 2008 – 2017, of 19,000 net additional new jobs. This equates to 14 years equivalent target jobs growth (at 1,357 pa) which has been achieved in 9 years. The actual rate of job growth has been 2,111 jobs pa. That average net rate of job growth includes significant job losses during the recession from 2008. If that conservative average net growth rate were extrapolated over the remainder of the JCS period 2017 to 2029, it would indicate an additional 25,332 jobs and a total net gain over the period 2008 – 2029 of 44,332 jobs. That represents 15,832 jobs more than the identified need. This illustrates why the need should be treated as a minimum. This latest evidence indicates that the economy will support more job creation than has been planned for and the Part 2 Daventry Plan should embody flexibility and additional capacity to accommodate that greater than forecast growth.

1.1.6. Analysis of WNJAMR Table 5 shows that from 2008 employment levels, Daventry District has increased employment by 6.5% (2,500 jobs), Northampton Borough by 8.8% (11,000 jobs) and South Northamptonshire by 19% (5,500 jobs). This shows that Daventry District is not delivering employment growth at the same rate as the other WNJCS authorities. This underlines why there should be transparency in the level of employment growth which is planned in each LPA. The low level of employment growth in Daventry may reflect the shortage of good quality sites for new employment development which are attractive to the market. The objective of balancing housing with employment will not be achieved unless there is clarity on the employment land requirement for Daventry District.

1.1.7. Table 1. Net Job Creation Comparison

	Daventry District	Northampton Borough	South Northamptonshire	West Northamptonshire
Jobs at 2008	38,500	125,000	29,000	192,500
Jobs at 2017	41,000	136,000	34,500	211,500
Increase	2,500	11,000	5,500	19,000
Increase %	6.5%	8.8%	19%	9.9%

1.1.8. Over the same 9 year period, Daventry District has delivered 2,913 net additional dwellings. The Northampton Related Development Area 6,464 net dwellings, and South Northamptonshire 3,556 net dwellings. The net new jobs to net new dwellings ratio in Daventry District is 0.9, in Northampton Borough 1.7, and in South Northamptonshire 1.5. This further illustrates that Daventry District is not creating new employment at an equivalent rate to the other LPAs, and is not keeping employment growth in line with housing growth.

1.1.9. Table 2 Net Job Creation Relative to Net Additional Dwellings

	Daventry District (excluding NRDA)	Northampton Borough (including NRDA)	South Northamptonshire (excluding NRDA)	West Northamptonshire
dwellings increase 2008 - 2017	2,913	6,464	3,556	12,933
New jobs : new dwellings	0.9	1.7	1.5	1.5

- 1.1.10. The WNJAMR does not disaggregate NRDA related housing completions in Daventry and South Northamptonshire. It is not possible therefore to add back those completions into the figures for each LPA. If those dwellings delivered in Daventry for the NRDA were added to the net dwelling increase in Daventry, it would lower the ratio of jobs to dwellings and further increase the differential between Daventry and the rest of West Northamptonshire.
- 1.1.11. WNJAMR Table 6 shows that the only category of employment experiencing significant growth in Daventry District is manufacturing, whilst employment growth across the remainder of West Northamptonshire is spread across multiple sectors. This further highlights the need for adequate provision to be made for B2/B8 floorspace in Daventry District to meet market demand.
- 1.1.12. The Daventry District share of the WNJCS requirement for job creation has not been assessed positively nor on an ongoing basis.
- 1.1.13. In order to be positively prepared on an ongoing basis, the Plan should provide employment creation proportionate to the level of housing growth, and consistent with the ratios of employment creation to housing being delivered in the remainder of the WNJCS area. The evidence of job creation during the Plan period indicates that the level of employment growth supported by the economy will significantly outperform the planned level of provision across West Northamptonshire. Provision should be made by the Plan for that growth. This would be consistent with that identified need being treated as a minimum.
- 1.1.14. In its response to PS106/01 the Council acknowledge that The Demand For Small and Medium Units study identifies a need for such units to serve DIRFT at M1 J18. This need is not planned for by the Plan and further illustrates that Council has not prepared the Plan positively to meet identified needs.

1.2. *What strategic, cross border matters have arisen through the preparation of the Plan and what co-operation took place to resolve them?*

- 1.2.1. The requirement for employment land to meet the job creation targets. The proportion of that requirement that falls to Daventry District is unclear and it is not evident that DDC has cooperated fully in taking its appropriate share of the provision to meet needs arising in Daventry District.

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