

Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan Examination

MF7 Inspector's Note to the Council on Employment Sites and B8 Uses

Policy EP1 encourages inward investment and employment growth, but refers to the allocation of new employment sites in a subsequent DPD, which could be adopted some time away.

There is a clear need for the Local Plan to be positively prepared and to accord with the Government's Growth Agenda. In particular, the Local Plan should not hold up the implementation of new businesses within the Borough, especially within sectors such as storage and distribution (Use Class B8) for which the ELR Update (PS/02/23) states in paragraph 1.1.10 that strong evidence for market demands exists.

Given the strategic considerations, in what ways can Policy EP1 provide the necessary strategic direction to steer potential users of large employment sites to appropriate sites in the very near future?

Mike Fox

Inspector

3 November 2015