



Kingswood Parish Council Hearing Statement

Stroud Local Plan Examination

Matter 8 – Employment Provision

February 2023

This Hearing Statement is prepared and submitted on behalf of Kingswood Parish Council (KPC).

Issue 8 – Does the Plan set out a positively prepared strategy for the provision of employment land to meet identified needs within the Borough that is justified and effective. Are the policies for employment development sound?

Employment land supply

Table 5 of the Plan (page 40) summarises the employment land supply as 79 ha for the plan period. This consists of eight new strategic employment sites, as allocated in Core Policy CP2 and individual site allocation policies.

The Employment Land Review (2021) (ELR) (EB30) identifies a land supply to meet the needs. It concludes that a realistic supply of possible employment land supply to 2040 is 105.14 ha, consisting of 14 main sites.

Table 4 of the Plan (page 37) sets out total commitments of 52.1 ha (as at April 2020) and potential losses of 40.6 ha, leaving an available supply of commitments of 11.5 ha. Deducting this from the employment requirement for the plan period of 62.4-71.8 ha leaves a residual employment land requirement of 50.9-60.3 ha.

Taking into account relevant questions under Matter 4 our queries on employment land supply are as follows:

Q3. If the ELR shows that an employment land supply of 105.14 ha (comprising of 14 main sites) is available, is it clear how the Council has determined which sites should be included in the Plan? How does this fit with the Council’s methodology for site assessment and selection as set out in the SALA (EB18) and its findings (EB19-EB26)?

KPC Response:

1. It is not currently clear and KPC would have welcomed this being explained through the Council’s Employment Topic Paper however it provides no such details.

Q4. Paragraph 4.1 of the Employment Topic Paper (EB7) identifies that the level of existing commitments and Plan allocations exceeds the employment land need identified in the ENA study as 62.4-71.8ha. It states that the ‘additional supply, above need levels, provides a buffer to allow for further losses of employment land, to other uses, to 2040’. What further losses is this referring to and is this approach justified?

KPC Response:

2. KPC would welcome SDC’s response to this as it is also unclear as to what the ENA is referring to in terms of ‘further losses’.

END.