

CHAPTER 6

THE ECONOMY

ECONOMY

6.1. PARA. 6.1.3.

Objection

945	Somerset County Council
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Issue

The omission of information on self-employment.

Inspector's reasoning and conclusions

The objection asserts that the data used in Paragraph 6.1.3 are potentially misleading as they relate only to employees whereas total employment, including the self-employed, is estimated to have increased by 8.7% to 13,800 between 1981 and 1993. In spite of intermediate fluctuations the number of employees was at roughly the same level at the end of the period as at the start. The real growth occurred in self-employment which increased by over 100 in the same period. In 1993 it accounted for an estimated 28.8% of all employment in the District compared 18.8% in the administrative county of Somerset.

I agree with the LPA that paragraph 6.1.3 should give fuller emphasis to the rôle of self-employment by updating the figures in Table 2 and the accompanying paragraph when the Annual Employment Survey results for 2001 become available.

6.1.1. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the Plan be modified by the updating of the employment statistics in Table 2 and paragraph 6.1.3 when the 2001 Annual Employment Survey results become available.

6.2. PARAS. 6.2.1 AND 6.2.2 & CHANGE NO 103

Supporter

393	Country Landowners Association
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Objection to PC103

2447	Council for the Protection of Rural England
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Issue

Whether the second sentence of the new paragraph inserted by PC103 should encourage rather than foster an environment more conducive to business success.

Inspector's reasoning and conclusions

I do not find the rationale of objection 2447 clear. I interpret 'foster' in PC103 to indicate a stronger and potentially more proactive stance than 'encourage' as advocated in the objection. PC103 is a direct

reference to the Council's Corporate Strategy. However, the LPA reports that since the publication of the Revised Proposed Changes a new Corporate Plan has been adopted. I agree that PC103 should be updated accordingly, in the form advocated by the LPA.

6.2.1. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the Plan be modified by PC103, subject to amendment as below:

The District Council's adopted Corporate Plan places a key emphasis on economic regeneration measures which have the following main objective:

'To regenerate the local economy by increasing the number and quality of employment opportunities through supporting new and existing businesses.'

In order to attain this objective and in the light of the preceding analysis of the local economy a comprehensive programme of actions has been identified for the coming years.

6.3. LOCAL PLAN OBJECTIVES

Objection

394	Country Landowners Association
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Conditionally withdrawn objection

634	Mr and Mrs Achurch
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Inspector's note

Objection 634 is withdrawn in response to PC103 which replaces paragraphs 6.2.1 and 6.2.2 with a statement of the District Council's Corporate Strategy.

Issue

The inclusion of an additional Local Plan Objective advocating the regeneration of the economy.

Inspector's reasoning and conclusions

I consider the theme of regeneration sufficiently infuses other objectives of the Plan and the recommended further change in PC103 that the specific objective advocated is unnecessary.

6.3.1. RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that no modification be made in response to this objection.