

Sustainability Appraisal Extract of Policy C4 BAE Systems, Samlesbury

Introduction

This sustainability appraisal has been carried out in accordance with the Sustainability Appraisal of the Preferred Options Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD. For full details see the main and non technical summary reports.

Assessment of Preferred Policy

Brief description of the policy:

Policy C4 BAE Systems, Samlesbury

This policy sets out criteria for the continued development of the BAE Systems site in Samlesbury and what type of development and protection will be appropriate and infrastructure measures that will need to be provided through the Local Development Order. The policy advocates Green Belt release as an exceptional circumstance due to the national designation of the Enterprise Zone on this site.

| Preferred proposed residential allocations | Type of Use | Sustainability Proforma Conclusion |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| BAE Systems, Samlesbury | Employment/ Enterprise Zone | <p>The site, which comprises the BAE Systems complex at Samlesbury Aerodrome, is a current employment allocation. The site does not score well on the sustainability appraisal indicators in terms of its location and transport opportunities; however it is an existing development based on a former aerodrome that predates this process.</p> <p>The site does score well in terms of the economic indicators as the site will attract new employment opportunities for the area and inward investment. The site is located in the rural area which will also draw new employment opportunities within the rural area which could attract local people making less travelling to outside opportunities.</p> <p>The Green Belt release is of an exceptional circumstance due to recommendations from National Government about the importance of economic growth at this site and in this area.</p> |

What happened as a result of this SA?

| Preferred Development Management Policies | Changes as a result of a full SA |
|---|--|
| C4 BAE Systems, Samlesbury | <p>The above assessment outlined some concerns to the environmental and social sustainability of the site. As a result specific wording was included within the policy to try and mitigate against these potential effects and encourage a positive social and environmental outcome.</p> <p>'... the Council will produce a Local Development Order to aid the delivery process' was included to give opportunities for phasing, infrastructure, and other assessments possibly including environmental and transport. The Local Development Order will need to be consulted with the major environmental bodies such as Natural England who at this stage can further comment on the uses permitted within the site.</p> <p>The Green Belt release is only proposed for the enterprise zone and not for any general development.</p> |

Overall, the SA concludes that the economic objectives are so positive that they outweigh the social and environmental considerations due to the exceptional circumstance of the proposed enterprise zone. Ongoing monitoring and further assessment will be required at the next stage of the development plan process.