

APPENDIX C – POLICY Ec2 (EMPLOYMENT COMMITMENTS)

CHAPTER: 7	POLICY NUMBER: Ec2	POLICY NAME: EMPLOYMENT COMMITMENTS
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MAIN ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE	ACTION	RESPONDENTS ID	RESPONDENTS NAME
The policy should NOT be changed (Ec1 and 2) with regards to development in the countryside.	<p>Policy Ec2, when drafted, will be concerned with sites which currently have planning permission for employment development. The policy's purpose is to explain the likely response/requirements for an application to renew the planning permission on one of these sites.</p> <p>The policy does not have a specific role with respect to development in the countryside. That is dealt with by other policies in the draft plan, most notably Policy S4.</p>	No change.	103 401	Judith Bilington; Mr Wykes
It will be important to ensure that any commitments are fully and robustly assessed before they are relied upon in the Plan. The same level of scrutiny should be applied to all such sites, and a realistic approach taken. If a site is unlikely to deliver employment it should not be allocated for that use.	Policy Ec2, when drafted, will be concerned with sites which currently have planning permission for employment development. These sites will not necessarily be allocated in the Local Plan.	No change.	225 229	St Modwen Logistics; P,W,C&R Redfern
I fail to understand Ec1 and Ec2. Ec1 and Ec2 will be included in the next plan, which one? This feels	Policy Ec2 will be included in the next draft of this local plan and it will subject to full public	No change.	255	John Aust

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underhanded and some kind of subterfuge.	consultation at that point. The policy deals with sites which have planning permission. For this reason, it makes sense to defer writing the policy until the next stage so the list of sites it includes will be as up to date as possible.			
Policy Ec2 (amongst others) is to be included in the next version of the Local Plan. As this will be the Publication version (Regulation19) will consultees have opportunity to comment on or suggest changes to the Policy wording without the need to 'object' or find it 'unsound' as such.	The Regulation 19 (pre-submission) stage is the formal consultation stage. Responses will need to be expressed in terms of 'support' or 'objection' for a policy/site allocation and, in the latter case, identify which of the NPPF 'Tests of Soundness' are failed by the policy/site in question.	No change.	404	Environment Agency
It is presumed that the actual Local Plan will clarify how the Freeport sites will be considered, i.e. will they be treated as part of the baseline/existing commitments that the Local Plan will need to work alongside/be accommodated on top of?	This is correct. The next, pre-submission version of the Local Plan will confirm the plan's approach to the Freeport.	No change.	341	LCC
Nationally the rural economy is 18% less productive than urban areas and the inability to secure planning is a major barrier. This could reduce inequality around the area, replace	[The respondent linked this comment to Policy Ec2 although it relates to more diverse matters. It is answered here for ease].	No change.	422	CLA Midlands

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<p>lost farm incomes from subsidies and provide well-paid employment opportunities. Easy significant gains (e.g. increased Business Rates, renewable development) by allowing well-designed sustainable rural development. Too much development is being refused or not coming forward due to the costs and risks involved in a planning application.</p>	<p>There is a balance to be struck between enabling sustainable rural development and maintaining the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. Draft Policy S4 deals with development in the countryside and it specifically allows for the expansion of rural enterprises (criterion (i)) and for development related to agriculture and forestry (criteria (a) and (b)). In addition, Policy Ec12 provides a positive framework for the visitor economy which is particularly focused in the more rural parts of the district.</p> <p>The Council considers that these policies in combination accord with the NPPF's section on supporting a prosperous rural economy (paragraphs 88-89). Importantly, having an up-to-date Local Plan is a key way to provide more certainty for all those using the planning system.</p>			