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LDF Core Strategy – Consultation Response

The Northern Area Committee held a special meeting on 27th March 2008 at which the LDF Core Strategy Preferred Options paper was discussed. The following is a summary of the issues raised by district and parish councillors at the event, and represents the collective response of the Northern Area Committee to the LDF Core Strategy consultation.

- Members emphasised very strongly the need for housing developments to be accompanied by the necessary infrastructure developments such as retail, transport and sewerage.
- In relation to the above, it was felt that limiting supermarket development in Amesbury to the town centre was too restrictive and may hinder the progress of urgently needed new retail development.
- It was felt that Parish Councils should play a key role in determining the 'roles and functions of settlements' in order that local communities are allowed to shape their own identities, taking into consideration the prescribed sustainability criteria.
- Given that the need to build 12,400 houses ties into the provision of 14,000 jobs members asked where these jobs were likely to be created.
- It was felt that expectations for employment provision were overly-dependent on Porton Down Science Park, a project which is still to be fully determined and is only likely to provide around 500 jobs.
- Members emphasised that Amesbury, Bulford and Durrington, and not only Salisbury, would require good public transport links to Porton Down.
- It was felt that, within reason, every settlement across the district would have to accommodate a 20-25% increase in housing if the target of 12,400 new houses was to be met.



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- There were a number of concerns about process. Members felt that the SHLAA had created so much public concern because of a lack of clarity about where the document fits within the overall LDF process and what the implications of the document could be.
- It was requested that the use of Community Operational Research be considered in order to build a clear picture of the interrelated impacts of developments throughout the district.
- Given that the A303 is a crucial aspect of the infrastructure in the Northern Area it was felt that a commitment to lobby the government to address this issue should be clearly stated.
- Members felt that the impact of Salisbury district's large military settlements needed to be given consideration as this was not covered in the document.
- Comment was passed on the fact that three consultations had taken place within quick succession, hampering the ability of Parish Councils and members of the public wishing to reply.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Colin Mills
Chairman Northern Area Committee