



HORSHAM LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION (OUR PLACE REF 1198209)

MATTER 4: Business and Industrial Needs

1.1 This statement has been prepared on behalf of Our Place Sustainable Development Limited ('Our Place'). It follows the Inspector's Notes IDJB02 (Inspector's Guidance Note) and IDJB03 (Inspector's Draft Hearing Agenda/Programme) and considers the proposed approach to meeting business and industrial needs as set out in the Council's Employment Topic Paper (HDCJB09).

a. Whether the plan makes sufficient provision for business, industrial and logistics needs

1.2 Our Place notes the Council's claim that it is able to meet its identified employment needs as set out in the Council's Employment Topic Paper.

1.3 Paragraph 27 of that same Topic Paper recognises that the co-location of employment land within strategic site allocations "*is considered essential to help ensure sustainable communities are created.*" The Council continues in that paragraph to note that additional employment sites are being considered as part of further strategic scale housing developments.

1.4 Our Place supports the principle of this. For new settlements to thrive and become sustainable, they need a broad range of supporting commercial and employment uses alongside them. The benefits of co-locating housing with other such uses are manifold, including boosting productivity and economic growth, reducing external vehicle trips (with associated benefits to noise and air quality), and creating sustainable, healthy new communities.

1.5 Therefore, when considering any required additional strategic housing allocations, Our Place recommends that the Council considers the role that commercial and business uses can play not just in economic productivity but also in place-making. That means what uses may be required to support any such new communities and allow them to thrive, rather than just through the narrower lens of what land and uses may be required to meet more generalised employment land needs for the District or the wider Functional Economic Market Area.

1.6 So long as these points are considered at the hearing session, Our Place does not anticipate the need to take part.