

Matter 2 Overall Spatial Strategy

2.1 Does the plan provide a sound framework for the roles that will be played by various parts of the Borough in meeting development needs over the plan period?

i) The settlement strategy and apportionment of growth is challengeable at a number of levels. In the case of Somerby, the designation of Sokerby as a Service Centre is flawed based upon the criteria. Lack of transport and other issues simply were not met and yet MBC have not updated scores of their housing allocation.

ii) Lack of robust evidence in the draft Melton Plan has been pointed out at consultation stage, particularly for sustainable neighbourhoods. How for example is "affordable housing" going to work spread across poorly served villages?

- iii) Table 4 should be revised on a more equitable/ flexible basis over the 70 or so villages, taking into account of smaller infill sites and ongoing applications for housing, flats, conversions and mixed developments. For example, a large hall, outbuildings, redundant buildings, church or barn might be converted into separate flats or extended. This does not appear to be encouraged or mentioned.

2.2 Does Policy SS3 provide effective guidance for development proposals?

The amended policy is not specific enough. It needs to be proportional and on a case by case basis. It needs to assess a range of tests from drainage, highways, landscape, archaeology, proximity to Conservation Area.

