

## Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>8 November 2016</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Employment Land provision in Thame</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Graeme Markland, Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Officer</b>

### Purpose of this Report

1. Given various new pieces of recent information, to receive an initial update on employment land provision in Thame.

### Update

2. Thame Town Council's submission to the SODC Planning Committee at the recent discussion of the planning application for Goodson Industrial Mews (7/10/16) highlighted the erosion of existing employment land in Thame.
3. The more erosion, the more Thame could become a dormitory / commuter town.
4. Other potential examples of erosion include Thame Service Station and now the recently submitted proposals for the Old Police Station.
5. The recent decision by Tesco not to appeal also raises uncertainty on the future of the Howland Road site. A close eye is being kept by officers on any marketing of that site, but there has been no publicity to date.
6. An advert has recently been placed on Rycote Lane, advertising a new site (subject to planning) outside of Thame parish alongside the Gregory site.
7. The recent SODC Preferred Options consultation was confused in its definition of Thame's future needs; there is uncertainty on the evidence base.
8. Councillor Mike Dyer's report on the Business Forum for the Policy & Resources Committee included: *"it is intended that the main topic (at the next meeting) will be to start gathering evidence towards identifying Thame's current deficiencies and future needs for industrial and commercial land and infrastructure. This is of particular concern not only in the context of new Local Plans but also following the loss of Goodsons Mews to housing development and the uncertainty regarding the future of the Tesco / DAF site."*
9. There is potential for those Business Forum discussions leading to the establishment of another Working Group.
10. As part of those investigations, some initial research is being undertaken into employment land provision at other nearby towns.
11. All of this is actually within the role of other level Councils, but yet again, Thame is finding a need to act, and is in danger of becoming a mini district/county council in its own right.

### Action Required:

12. To note the report.