

**Input to Independent Examination of the Fylde Council Local Plan
By Treales Roseacre & Wharles Parish Council - Representer Number 65 :**

This relates to Stage 3 Inspector's Question :

- Session 1, Question 1

Treales, Roseacre & Wharles Parish Council has previously made submissions that the Emergent Local Plan has not demonstrated that it has taken in to account of the impact of the national government policy to promote the development of Shale Gas. This would have impacts upon the environmental attractiveness, the various economies across the Fylde Council area and the demand for homes. In these previous submissions it has been demonstrated that This has the potential to have a range of impacts which would change the economies in the Fylde and reduce the OAHN.

New market signals with regard to shale gas development include:

- a) the operator, Cuadrilla, holding the Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences for across the Fylde area continues to invest heavily into the area. They have significantly developed the fracking surface works and heavy industrial activity on designated countryside. See picture below of Cuadrilla's Preston New Road site reportedly as of 19th November, which can be compared with our previously supplied images in our evidence (EL2.002a. i); and
- b) the most recent Public Attitudes tracker "Wave" survey series (November 2017 - Wave 23) conducted on behalf of the Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Department has been published. This enquires about various energy matters including shale gas/fracking and concludes that : (see page 5 at link : https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/656549/Wave_23_Summary_Report.pdf)

"Of those who offered an opinion, more people were opposed to fracking (36%) than supported it (13%). Support for fracking is at its lowest point since the tracker began asking respondents about their opinions on the subject at wave 8."

The previously submitted evidence showed that level of opposition to fracking was 31%. These results show a further significant movement in public opinion against fracking.

Note : There has been no change in the published National Government's policy support to promote the development of Shale Gas extraction.

Our previous submission (EL2.002a. ii) highlighted that almost half of the households in the Fylde have been assessed by FBC's evidence to be occupied by either retirees, or commuters. Over the plan period where retirees or commuters who oppose fracking simply do not elect to include the Fylde as a candidate location to move into, then demand for homes would logically fall by 36% of half of the total households in the Fylde. When this was first submitted to this examination, a 31% reduction in demand from retirees and commuters resulted in a 10,700 reduction in homes over the plan period. A 36% reduction would result in a reduction in demand of 12,425 homes. Note this is *only* the people that object to fracking, *not all* the retirees and commuters who have a choice as to whether they would elect to move into the Fylde. This

would have a significant consequential effect on indirect and induced jobs, with a further reduction in demand for housing.

There is a similar effect on the impact on the visitor economy where people opposed to fracking, do not elect to spend their leisure time and money in a fracking area, with the further impact on reduced housing demand.

No evidence has been presented in the emergent Local Plan on the assessment of the beneficial, or negative impacts on the economies and OAHN of the Fylde.

The compliance with government policy in the forecasts over the plan period creates a massive impact. It needs to be assessed, as per compliance with other government policy and consequential actions proposed for the economy and OAHN.

In addition,

BAE Systems, one of the largest employers of national high value jobs in the district, has announced that 750 jobs will be lost at its Warton site in the Fylde and the sister site at Samlesbury just east of Preston. (See link - <http://www.itv.com/news/granada/2017-10-10/bae-systems-confirms-job-losses-for-lancashire-sites/>)

Oxford Economics 2015 report on the Impact of BAE Systems on the UK Economy

(see link - <http://www.oxfordeconomics.com/my-oxford/projects/311905>)

Section 5.3 “NORTH WEST – MILITARY AIR AND INFORMATION “ on page 40 states that

“The Warton, Samlesbury, and Preston (Channel Way) sites in the North West region directly employ 9,500 fulltime equivalent workers, with a further 1,600 jobs supported in the indirect supply chain, and an additional 5,100 jobs supported through the consumer spend of these employees. The employment multiplier is 1.7 for the North West region, meaning that for every 10 FTE jobs at BAE Systems, 17 FTE jobs are supported across the local area as a whole, including those directly employed at BAE Systems.”

No evidence has been presented of the resources assumed to be made available to FBC to mitigate: these direct, indirect or induced job losses; or the consequential reduced demand for homes in the economy of these or prospective future reductions in employment as a result of productivity improvements in the military aerospace sector.

There is no evidence presented in the Local Plan of the resources available to support the attraction and creation of additional jobs to the Warton and Blackpool Airport Local Enterprise Zone sites and any consequential increase in housing demand in the district.

Fig 1 : Aerial View of Cuadrilla Shale Gas Preston New Road surface works site in rural countryside at Little Plimpton – dated 19th November 2017

