

This document acts as a Covering Letter with reference to the New Alresford Employment Needs Group Reports, dated 24th April 2013 and 10th March 2015

As Chairman of the Employment Needs Group (ENG), I wish to make a few points about the activities, processes and outcomes of these reports.

The first report issued on 24th April 2013 was the result of two key group meetings attended by approx 22 people. These people were a mixture of local business owners, experienced local workers, residents and some NATC Councillors. The main focus and discussion of this group was about existing businesses, their opportunities for growth in Alresford and, some key information about how business had expanded in the past. This group's discussions centred on changes for the better, with aspirational and forward looking ideas.

Following new projected population figures from WCC, the ENG reconvened some 2 years later to discuss any impact. Two meetings were held, with a sub group assigned to clarify sections, which would be presented to the full group for authorisation.

A similar mix of people made up the full group, numbering approx 50 people. From the original 22 attendees in the 2013 group, one person attended the first meeting in 2015, and zero persons the second meeting.

Of the 7 Recommendations in the 25th April 2013 report, 5 remain unchanged. An Addendum was issued referring to 2 Recommendations dated 10th March 2015.

It is not my role to draw conclusions on the content of these two documents, however I believe it is part of my role as Chairman to explain the differences.

The 2013 Report has great merit and offers clarity on the aims of future employment in Alresford. A great deal of work has gone into the Addendum in a short period of time, and I believe it is an accurate document of great use.

However, two separate groups of people, looking at the same topics some 2 years apart, has resulted in two different responses, and it is this point that the reader should be aware of when reading both of these key documents.

Simon Evans
ENG Chairman

12th March 2015