

### Matter 5, Question 56a - Unsafe Vehicle Trip Rates Forecast

*SOC has asked the Council to explain errors in the traffic assessment, an example of which is described below, and to commission an independently prepared and transparent traffic assessment before determining the application.*

Trip rates for the strategic site are assessed, we believe by the applicant, using six selected transport surveys; five with between 23 and 82 homes and one with 432 homes. The Trip Rate Information Computer System (TRICS) Good Practice Guide 2016 states:

*“Users are encouraged to ensure that, for example, the average trip rate parameter value of their selected surveys ..... is as close as possible to the corresponding size (or other value) of the development being researched (without compromising the selection criteria).” (Paragraph 14.3)*

The six selected transport surveys with 23, 23, 32, 53, 81 and 432 homes are not remotely comparable in scale to the 2,350 home strategic site.

The Good Practice Guide encourages users “.....to include as many sites as possible. But this should not be to the detriment of selection criteria.” (Paragraph 11.2). Example assessments in the guide use 12 to 50 or more selected surveys. Statistically, it is unlikely that, from the 7,150 transport surveys on the TRICS database, these are the only six surveys suitable for assessing the edge of town strategic site.

While correlation between the five 23 to 82 home selected transport surveys is good, correlation for all six surveys is very poor as indicated on the chart below. The green line shows the best fit line, with good correlation, to the five 23 to 82 home selected transport surveys only and forecasts approximately 1,270 vehicle trips. Including the isolated 432 home transport survey reduces the forecast by approximately 300 vehicle trips. This is shown by the red line.

The important thing to note is the difference between the two best fit lines which is created by a combination of the isolated 432 home transport survey; selecting no transport surveys of similar scale to the strategic site; too few surveys and a requirement to significantly extrapolate (2,900%) to forecast trips at the 2,350 home strategic site. This difference strongly indicates a bias in the selected data and an outcome which is unsafe to be used in the determination process.

It is in everyone’s interest to remove or reduce this error so the assessment used is the best that can be reasonably undertaken.

