

Urban&Civic



# Wintringham St Neots

Huntingdonshire  
District Council  
Local Plan  
Matter 5 Statement

Examination in Public

June 2018

DAVID LOCK ASSOCIATES  
ON BEHALF OF URBAN&CIVIC





## **Huntingdonshire District Local Plan Examination in Public**

### **Hearing Statement on behalf of Urban&Civic plc (Consultee 992844)**

#### **C/O:**

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### **Matter 5 – Building a strong, competitive economy** **Employment land requirement and provision**

#### **Question 3**

**What provision does the Local Plan make for additional employment land through allocations? Is this an appropriate and justified amount? How has the Alconbury Enterprise Zone been taken into account in overall employment land provision?**

1. The provision of additional employment land as part of the site allocations at the designated Strategic Expansion Locations clearly accords with the draft Local Plan's overarching strategy to concentrate development at those strategic locations which offer unprecedented opportunities for sustainable, mixed-use development.
2. In particular, the designation of the Alconbury Enterprise Zone in 2011 provides a unique opportunity for a transformational shift in the local and regional economy. It is one of the clear drivers behind the draft Local Plan itself, underpinning the draft's Local Plan Vision of 'supporting a diverse, thriving economy' and supporting the NPPF's overarching core planning principle to 'proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, businesses and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs' (NPPF paragraph 17).
3. As highlighted within the Economic Development Strategy (Quod, 2012) submitted as part of the Alconbury Airfield and Grange Farm Outline Planning Application, the site is in a well-connected location in a strong regional economy and under single ownership, which "offers a rare opportunity to deliver a scale of development to meet the district's needs for expanding and diversifying the local and regional economy alongside the provision of new homes and extensive supporting services and infrastructure". This is

supported by the key findings of HDC's Employment Land Study 2014, which highlights that the district needs a balanced portfolio of land to accommodate a sustainable, growing economy and, significantly, that the council should seek to maximise the impact of the Alconbury Enterprise Zone.

4. The Alconbury Enterprise Zone at the former Alconbury Airfield and Grange Farm site is anticipated to provide 150 hectares of employment land and will provide 8,000 jobs in the period 2011-2036. This represents potentially over half of the 14,400 additional jobs projected to be delivered in Huntingdonshire up to 2036. As such, the Alconbury Enterprise Zone will make a very significant contribution to the objectives of Policy LP19 and should therefore be given a greater prominence within Policy LP19 itself and supporting text.
5. Whilst Policy LP19 clearly identifies the location of the Established Employment Areas in Huntingdonshire within paragraph 6.17 of the draft Local Plan, additional employment land to be provided is identified within the individual site allocations in Section D of the draft Local Plan. It is considered that the clarity of Policy LP19 would be enhanced if potential new employment areas to be provided via these site allocations were additionally highlighted within Policy LP19.