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Our Ref:J:\J021840\Core Strategy Representation\  
Consultation Response Form (2 of 2) 24 June 2009.doc

Planning Policy Team  
West Berkshire Council  
Market Street  
Newbury RG14 5LD

GL HEARN 

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Options for the Future**  
**Consultation Response Form West Berkshire Council**  
**Representation on behalf of Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE),**  
**Aldermaston/Burghfield.**  
**2 of 2**

GL Hearn is instructed to submit the following representations on behalf of the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), Aldermaston/Burghfield. This representation relates to the two sites, of Aldermaston and Burghfield, as identified in the site location plans enclosed.

The representation includes details addressing comments under the following four key headings as required by the consultation response form.

**1. The number of the policy option or paragraph number you are commenting on:-**

Not applicable

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**2. Whether you support or object to the preferred approach:-**

Support the inclusion of a policy approach, as below, in the West Berkshire Options for the Future (Core Strategy) Development Plan Document.

**Preferred Policy Approach**

**Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE): Aldermaston and Burghfield sites**

**CS16: Proposals for development requiring planning permission within the existing boundaries of AWE: Aldermaston and Burghfield sites, will be expected to demonstrate that they pay due regard to:-**

- (a) the natural and ecological assets of the area;**
- (b) the visual and environmental amenities of neighbouring development;**
- (c) local transport conditions; and**
- (d) any additional relevant development control criteria.**

Within the AWE: Aldermaston and Burghfield sites planning permission will be granted for the expansion of existing uses provided that the proposal would not lead to any adverse effects of the existing use on surrounding environs. The AWE: Aldermaston and Burghfield sites will be identified in the Adopted Proposals Map which is to be prepared as part of the forthcoming Local Development Framework.

When assessing these proposals, consideration will be given to whether an EIA is required.

**3. Your reasons for support or objection:-**

The objectives of this policy are to:-

1. Strike a balance between recognising the social and economic benefits of the MoD land and minimising the environmental impacts.
2. Recognise the contribution made by AWE to the local and regional economy.
3. Recognise the role of AWE as a playing a central role in national defence.

The Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) is located at sites at Aldermaston, Burghfield and Blacknest in the administrative area of West Berkshire. AWE has played a central role in national defence for more than 50 years and is responsible for the entire life cycle of the United Kingdom's nuclear warheads, from initial research and design, through component manufacture and assembly, to in-service support and final decommissioning and disposal.

The Council recognises the significance of these sites in providing the primary location for AWE and the benefits in terms of contribution to national security, research and development as well as employment.

In July 2004, the Secretary of State for Defence affirmed to Parliament the UK Government's commitment to maintaining the safety and effectiveness of the current nuclear deterrent, including making the necessary investment at AWE, and to keeping open options for the future. A significant funding budget was also released to follow a three year investment programme.

**4. What change you are seeking which could resolve any objection:-**

The inclusion of a policy approach within the West Berkshire Core Strategy as detailed in section 2 above. This presents an opportunity to recognise the importance of these sites and their contribution to the economy and national security whilst ensuring that development does not harm its surrounding environs.

I look forward to discussing this representation with officers from West Berkshire Council at the earliest opportunity.

Yours faithfully

**Michael Lee-Wright**  
**Environment Planning Director**  
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