
From: Angela Parkes
Sent: 22 December 2009 14:03:05
To: Clive Inwards
Subject: Planning application 09/02396/COMIND - AWE Aldermaston, Aldermaston, Reading Berkshire
Attachments: 221209 la response letter.pdf

Dear Mr Inwards

Please find attached herewith our response to the above consultation

<<221209 la response letter.pdf>>

Wishing yourself and all your colleagues a very Merry Christmas.

Regards

Angela Parkes
PA to Sue Janota, Planning Manager
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Clive Inwards
Planning & Trading Standards
West Berkshire District Council
Council Offices
Market Street,
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RG14 5LD

22 December 2009

BY EMAIL

Dear Mr Inwards,

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 CONSULTATION UNDER
SCHEDULE 1, PARAGRAPH 7(3)**

**PLANNING APPLICATION LOCAL AUTHORITY REFERENCE:
09/02396/COMIND - AWE Aldermaston, Aldermaston, Reading,
Berkshire – Application for a replacement facility for the storage and
handling of enriched uranium covering 18,489 sq m gross floorspace ,
including office accommodation, storage facilities, material handling
areas and ancillary support services and associated works.**

OUR REFERENCE: A/09/079

Thank you for your consultation on the above planning application. We have reviewed the proposed development against the Regional Spatial Strategy, the South East Plan (May 2009), and our observations are set out below. It should be noted that these are officer comments.

Location

The spatial strategy of the South East Plan is based on an urban focus that aims to foster accessibility and avoid unnecessary travel. Policy SP3 looks primarily to locate new development and redevelopment within or adjacent to the region's urban areas and to achieve at least 60% of all new development on previously developed land and through conversions of existing buildings. Policy WCBV2 seeks to give priority to the retention of existing employment land in employment use.

The proposed development is for the replacement of an existing facility and involves redevelopment on brownfield land within the central industrial zone of AWE Aldermaston. Therefore, it is not considered that the proposal would materially conflict with regional and sub-regional policy objectives of the South East Plan relating to the location of development.

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Economy and transport

Policy RE1 of the South East Plan aims to ensure that the regional economy contributes fully to the UK's long term competitiveness and that the principles of sustainable development are respected. Policy RE2 looks to support nationally and regionally important sectors and clusters and to encourage types of business that will help the regional economy to continue to develop successfully. The supporting text identifies six key sectors of the economy considered to have the greatest capacity to deliver growth and this includes aerospace and defence. Policy RE3 looks to facilitate a flexible supply of employment land to meet strategic and local business needs and Policy RE6 seeks to maintain and enhance the competitiveness of the most economically successful parts of the region, such as the Western Corridor and Blackwater Valley sub-region where the retention of existing employment land in employment use is a priority.

The proposed development is for the replacement of existing operational storage and handling facilities for enriched uranium on the site and forms part of the MoD's larger overall modernisation programme for AWE Burghfield and AWE Aldermaston. These are identified as being extremely important to the local economy and saved Policy ECON.2a of the adopted West Berkshire Local Plan (September 2007) supports schemes for employment use on such sites subject to a number of criteria. There will be no increase in employment levels on site when the development is complete, there is an existing travel plan and additional cycle parking is proposed to encourage car sharing and alternatives to car travel. The scheme is therefore considered to be consistent with regional and sub-regional policy objectives for the economy and transport.

Other matters

In addition to the above, there are a number of other priorities arising out of the South East Plan which can be dealt with by way of condition or legal agreement if the council is minded to grant planning permission. These relate to the following policy areas:

- Infrastructure (including transport)
- Design
- Sustainable construction and energy Efficiency
- Water resources and flooding
- Air and noise
- Natural environment

Conclusions

The application seeks the redevelopment of a previously developed site within the existing boundary of AWE Aldermaston, identified in the adopted Local Plan (saved policies) as one of the MoD sites located in West Berkshire's rural areas that is extremely important to the local economy, and is consistent with regional and sub-regional policy objectives relating to the location of development and the economy.

In conclusion, on the basis of the information provided, we have the following observations in relation to this application:

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If the council is minded to grant permission, it should address the following through appropriately worded conditions and/or legal agreements:

- Secure the phasing and delivery of new or improved infrastructure to meet the needs of the development including appropriate transport infrastructure, an agreed travel plan and car and cycle parking reflecting the principles set out in Policies CC7, T1, T2, T4 and T5 of the South East Plan;
- Secure a design relevant to context that promotes a high quality of environment consistent with Policy CC6 of the South East Plan;
- Secure the use of sustainable construction methods and greater use of decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy sources and the incorporation of energy efficiency measures in accordance with the objectives of Policies CC2, CC3, CC4, NRM11, NRM12, W2 and M1 of the South East Plan;
- Secure the incorporation of measures to achieve high levels of water efficiency and the incorporation of sustainable drainage systems and other mitigation measures where appropriate in relation to flood risks and impacts on groundwater in accordance with Policies CC2, CC3, NRM1, NRM2, NRM4 of the South East Plan;
- Secure an appropriate package of measures to prevent and mitigate against air and noise pollution in accordance with Policies NRM9 and NRM10 of the South East Plan;
- Ensure an appropriate package of protection and mitigation measures to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the site and surrounding area in accordance with Policy NRM5 of the South East Plan.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of our response, please contact Sue Janota on 01483 555200 or suejanota@se-partnershipboard.org.uk.

I would be grateful if I could be informed of the decision in due course and receive copies of the Decision Notice and Committee Report.

Yours sincerely,



Catriona Riddell
Director of Planning