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A STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FROM HAMPSHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF ALPHA PARK, ELECTRON WAY, CHANDLERS FORD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER 15/00294/FULLS TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2016

Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and its Planning & Transport Committee would like to re-iterate strong support for this planning application. The development will provide modern, sustainably designed logistics facilities close to the motorway network to help serve the economy in the South of England. Such facilities are in very short supply and it is important that existing brownfield sites are reused to provide new floorspace. This in turn will attract new businesses and the jobs and investment that flow from their occupation.

The Chandlers Ford and Eastleigh area has for a long time been highly regarded for the significant and important role it plays in the local economy due to its proximity to ports and the strategic road network. Upgrading or renewal of older industrial spaces is essential if this role is to continue. This makes development like the one proposed at Alpha Park on Chandlers Ford Industrial Estate all the more important.

Significantly, the development will provide £12 million of private sector investment into the local economy and will create up to 180 jobs, many of which will be available to local people throughout the construction and operation phases. There will also be positive economic spin off effects for local businesses and contractors and it is anticipated that this development will kick start regeneration of the wider Alpha Park estate. We strongly support the renewal of this existing employment site and the redevelopment of the redundant industrial building.

This site was previously in industrial use and is clearly not suitable for office, research, or other non-industrial / non-warehousing development. Out of centre business/office parks are plentiful in the area and are the favoured locations for office occupiers looking for space.

We understand that the developer Bericote has already had enquiries from both local and national occupiers to take up space in the development, which is clearly very encouraging. A lack of available, modern warehouse in south Hampshire makes the need for this type of development even more acute. We all enjoy “next day delivery” with on line shopping, but we also have to support the need for local sites to keep the logistics sector moving.

The Chamber would like to commend the developer Bericote for the considerable efforts taken to consult on this planning application and engage key stakeholders and residents. It is very clear that the substantial scheme changes have been made over several months, since the presentation made last March to Chamber members on Hampshire Chamber’s Planning & Transport Committee.



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To sum up, this is a very well-considered proposal that has clearly been amended to respond to feedback received. The further scheme changes now proposed only seek to underscore the developer's intention of delivering a development that wholly respects the amenities of residents, whilst also ensure that the scheme can be let to prospective tenants. It will deliver important employment floorspace without unacceptably impacting on local residents, while supporting the economy through the renewal of outdated stock and delivery of jobs and investment to Chandlers Ford.

We would therefore strongly encourage the Planning Committee to support the application.

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Hampshire Chamber of Commerce is the Independent Voice of Local Business across the county and is one of the largest business representational groups in the UK. It brings together the combined influence, strength and expertise of the county's three former major Chambers of Commerce. This substantial business network engages businesses of all sizes and in all sectors, whether throughout Hampshire, or in local groupings as and when required to focus on the areas of Solent LEP, Enterprise M3 LEP, South Hampshire, the New Forest, North or East Hampshire, or the city regions of Portsmouth, Southampton, Winchester and main towns such as Aldershot, Andover, Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Fareham, Farnborough, Fleet, Gosport, Havant.