

Councillor R Chambers OBE Leader Medway Council Gun Wharf Dock Road Chatham Kent ME4 4TR Brandon Lewis MP Minister of State for Housing and Planning

Department for Communities and Local Government 4th Floor, Fry Building 2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF

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Our Ref: NPCU/CONS/A2280/73620

Dear Councillor Chambers,

## Application by Defence Infrastructure Organisation for the development of a mixed use settlement at Lodge Hill, Chattenden, Rochester, Kent - Application MC/11/2516

The Secretary of State is writing in respect of the above mentioned application.

We are giving careful consideration as to whether or not this application should be called in. In doing so, we are carefully considering the Written Ministerial Statement of 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012, which sets out Government policy in relation to call-in powers. We are of the view that we need further information before making a decision on whether or not to call in this application.

A number of representations in relation to this application have been made to us, including from Natural England and the RSPB. We wish to be informed of the local planning authority's views on a number of those representations, copies of which are attached to this letter. In particular, we wish to be informed of the views of the Council's planning committee that considered this application on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

We wish to be furnished with those views by 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

For the avoidance of doubt, the article 25 direction, which prohibits your local planning authority from granting planning permission in relation to this application, will remain in place until we make a decision on whether or not to call in the application.

## **BRANDON LEWIS MP**