

Tulley Bunting

Greater Cambridge Local Plan – The First Proposals

Comments on Section/Policy

by Imperial War Museum (IWM) and Gonville and Caius College (Caius)

13 December 2021

J/NE: New employment development proposals

Policy J/NE is based on directing employment to key locations and says ... *“To support **local employment opportunities** the Local Plan can provide a degree of flexibility to the edges of villages. Development in these locations would be permitted (outside the Green Belt) subject to a number of criteria”.* (our bold italics).

The implication of this policy is that outside the defined areas then development is focused on *“**local employment opportunities**”*. This means the opportunity to bring forward a major new innovation cluster would be greatly limited as the GCLP appears to provide little support or flexibility for this.

In our view the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policy E/9 provides a clearer and stronger strategic policy which permits employment clusters in suitable locations which draw on the specialisms of the Cambridge area in identified sectors and in.... *“other locally driven clusters as they emerge”*.

IWM and Caius therefore ask that the GCLP continues with the general cluster policy as set out at adopted Policy E/9, as this more clearly accords with the NPPF (Para 81 and 83). Retaining this policy approach would enable new innovation clusters to locate within the Cambridge area in appropriate locations, and thus enable the area to continue as an engine for economic growth particularly in innovation sectors, and also reflecting the themes in the emerging OxCam ARC strategy.