

**Stephen Kelly**

Joint Director of Planning & Economic Development  
Greater Cambridge Planning Service  
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02 October 2020

**Greater Cambridge Local Plan – Relocation of Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group**

Dear Stephen

I write to provide a further update and evidence to the Greater Cambridge Planning Service relating to our relocation plans for Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group (MADG), to inform your deliberations regarding the growth ambitions and spatial strategy of the new joint Local Plan.

Through the hard work of my team over the last couple of years, I am confident that this clear and precise submission will convey both our commitment to relocate, whilst also demonstrating that we have secured a deliverable route to achieving this, such that the Council can confidently rely on the availability of Cambridge East in the next joint Local Plan.

**Local Plan Position Statement – October 2020**

I enclose a document, which we have described as a Position Statement, providing all relevant evidence relating to the proposed relocation of Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group from Cambridge Airport.

Officers will be able to see from the submitted evidence that we have secured an Option Agreement at one of our two shortlisted sites, and that there would be no commercial, planning, technical or regulatory impediment to a move to Cranfield. At the time of writing, we continue to explore alternatives as part of our rigorous assessment process to determine the best possible site to relocate to.

Whilst our submitted evidence demonstrates a high degree of confidence in Cranfield and that it would provide a suitable new home for the business, this does not represent a final decision to relocate to Cranfield. It does however show that if Cranfield emerges as the preferred location in our assessment process, that the relocation is achievable and deliverable. We are confident this should provide a sound basis on which the Council can rely on the Airport site as being available for development from around 2030, and I commit to providing you with further updates on the site selection process in the first half of 2021.


## Key Points to Note

You will see from the submitted material that we have made significant progress, including:

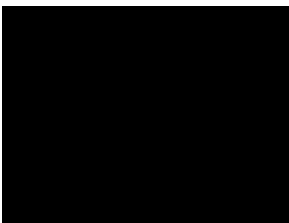
- Signing an **Option Agreement** with Cranfield University (CU), which would facilitate the relocation of our airside business to Cranfield, with potential to also achieve co-location of other non-airside business units should we wish. A summary of the agreement is included in our submission, as well as a letter from the Vice Chancellor of CU, Sir Peter Gregson, confirming CU's commitment to accommodating Marshall at the site.
- Strong commitment from Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) to support MADG's relocation to Cranfield (see letter enclosed).
- Extensive formal pre-application advice from CBC officers as Local Planning and Highways Authority. CBC have indicated support for the principle of development, and we are confident of obtaining planning permission.
- Extensive stakeholder engagement with local businesses, local parishes and other interest groups.

## Summary

I would like to reiterate again the commitment of Marshall to relocate from the site and to make Cambridge Airport available for development. Our submission sets out our best view on the programme to achieve this and demonstrates with a high degree of confidence that this is achievable.

I would be grateful if you would communicate directly with Richard Howe   
Managing Director of Marshall Group Properties on all matters relating to Cambridge East and MADG relocation.

Your sincerely,



Alex Dorrian CBE  
Executive Chairman

Cc: Caroline Hunt, Greater Cambridge Planning Service