

Pattishall Parish Council Comments on WNC Senior Economic Growth Officer correspondence with Daniel Callis (Case Officer)

We read with interest the email dated 12th January 2023 from Louis Devayya, Senior Economic Growth Officer at West Northants Council, to Daniel Callis, Case Officer for the above planning application. In this he stated *“In a review of the economic impact of this application, it is noted that the scale of economic benefits would be higher were a different industry to be allocated to (the AL1) site”*. He then goes on to say that in West Northants *“key industries that need to be nurtured include high-tech innovation, research and development, life sciences and others”*, and that *“there is already an increasing offer of logistics jobs and the greatest amount of these are based within West Northamptonshire. Given the robust coverage of logistics employers and jobs within this area, it is recognised that there’s a need to nurture other growth sectors within this area”*. Finally he states that *“we are mindful that to secure the greatest level of economic impact in West Northants for our residents and for the area, that we attract the most appropriate inward investment which will create skilled, highly paid jobs”*.

Overall we believe that his views clearly underline that the creation of hundreds of new transport and logistics jobs in mega warehouses on the Employment Allocations around Towcester (and particularly for the DHL proposal for AL1) is totally wrong for this area as it does not match the local skills, will only result in workers commuting long distances into the area, does not support the commitment to encourage sustainable travel to site, and contravenes the letter and spirit of the South Northants Part 2 Local Plan as the site is clearly suited to and expected to have “small” and “medium” sized commercial buildings for companies and industries which will create high skilled jobs suited to our local workforce.

We fully support Mr Devayya’s conclusion and assertion that *“an application from one of the industries recognised as the future within the “Oxford-Cambridge Arc” would be more beneficial for this site”*.

In conclusion we therefore strongly urge you to use all the points stated by Mr Devayya as further evidence that this ill-considered and totally inappropriate Planning Application should be rejected.