

Chichester Local Plan Examination

Matter 4b: Employment Development

Statement on behalf of **Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd (RRMC)**

POLICY E2 EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT***Q.40 Are the suggested Main Modifications necessary for soundness?***

- 1.1 Draft Policy E2 (Employment Development) seeks to safeguard Existing Employment Sites to protect their contribution to the local economy. The Local Plan supports the principle of new employment floorspace for the refurbishment, upgrading or modernisation of existing premises on these sites.
- 1.2 Rolls-Royce Motor Cars (RRMC) strongly supports the protection afforded to employment sites in the emerging Local Plan. This is consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)'s overarching sustainability objectives as it relates to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy (Paragraph 8).
- 1.3 However, RRMC would like the existing Home of Rolls-Royce at Goodwood site to be identified as an Existing Employment Site in the Local Plan Policies Map as it has been an established employer since opening in 2003. Through the original and subsequent planning applications and consents, the Home of Rolls-Royce has established itself as an employment site which positively contributes to the district and wider economy. Indeed, planning applications at the site have historically made reference to it as an Existing Employment Site, and it is considered that the Council already views the site in this context for decision-making. The Local Plan should recognise this historic context.
- 1.4 Given the existing employment development on the site and the proposed expansion to the east (which further demonstrates RRMC's commitment to manufacturing activities at the site), RRMC suggests that there is an opportunity to regularise the categorisation of the existing Goodwood site as an Existing Employment Site. This would be consistent with NPPF Paragraph 85 of the NPPF which states:

"Planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. Significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development."

- 1.5 Policy E2 as currently drafted does not identify one of the most important employment sites in the District. This is neither effective nor justified, which undermines the soundness of the policy. Therefore, the following additional amendments should be made to ensure that the draft policy meets the tests of soundness:
- The Policies Map should be updated to identify the existing Goodwood Plant as an Existing Employment Site, protecting the site for employment uses to support future refurbishment, upgrading, modernisation and/or the provision of new employment floorspace.