



Policy LP57 Ministry of Defence Evidence Report

**Proposed Submission
April 2016**

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1 Introduction and Policy Context

Introduction

- 1.1 A joint Local Plan for the Central Lincolnshire area is being produced which will set the framework for how development will be considered across the districts of the City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey to 2036.
- 1.2 This Evidence Report (which is one of a collection) provides background information and justification for policy LP57, which relates to development at Ministry of Defence establishments.

National policy

- 1.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in March 2012 and the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) was introduced in 2014 which offers 'live' government guidance.
- 1.4 Paragraph 164 of the NPPF is particularly relevant to policy LP57 as it states that local planning authorities should work with the Ministry of Defence's Strategic Planning Team to ensure that they have taken into account the most up-to-date information about defence and security needs in their area.

2 Central Lincolnshire Context in Relation to Policy LP57

- 2.1 Large areas of Central Lincolnshire have been used for national defence purposes throughout the last century and the military presence has brought, and continues to bring, many benefits, particularly to the economy.
- 2.2 The active Royal Air Force (RAF) bases within the area include Waddington, Cranwell, Digby and Scampton.
- 2.3 The key issues facing the Central Lincolnshire authorities with regards to MOD establishments are the need to support operations which are in the interest of national defence, and to enable the redevelopment of redundant MOD land for the economic, social and environmental benefit of Central Lincolnshire.

3 Local Plan Policy: Preliminary Draft

- 3.1 The Preliminary Draft version of the Local Plan (published for consultation in October – November 2014) did not include a policy on MOD establishments.

4 Local Plan Policy: Further Draft

- 4.1 Policy LP57 was introduced to the Further Draft Local Plan in response to the comments received during the consultation on the Preliminary Draft version of the Local Plan. Specifically, the MOD submitted representations, including a suggestion that there should be a specific policy within the Local Plan relating to the development of Defence sites for operational purposes to ensure that establishments within the Plan area are able to continue to fulfil their Defence role effectively. We accepted in principle the MoD request, and liaised with the MoD in drafting the policy presented in the Further Draft Local Plan

(though that should not be taken to mean that the MoD necessarily supported the detail of the policy as drafted).

- 4.2 In addition to the above suggestion, the MOD also made representations in relation to other specific parts of the draft plan, including comments on the spatial strategy; the approach to the settlement hierarchy; the proposed level and distribution of growth; and the proposed affordable housing policy. Their specific comments in relation to parts of the draft plan were duly considered and actioned, where appropriate, in the development of the Further Draft version of the plan.

Further Draft consultation

- 4.3 There were only nine responses received in relation to policy LP57 during the Further Draft consultation, in summary:

- There was some support for the policy, including particular support for development of housing on redundant sites.
- Various suggestions for improvement of policy wording and requirements.
- Concern that policy does not recognise importance of and opportunities presented by heritage assets on military sites.
- The Ministry of Defence supported the first part of the policy and principle that redevelopment or change of use of redundant sites will be supported, but raised concerns over criteria (a) to (e) and the three bullet points.

Specifically, the MOD raised the following concerns:

- Criterion a – the term “at least a substantial majority” is considered to be very unclear and needs clarification.
- Criterion b – the criterion as currently written does not appear to take into account that improvements could be made, if required, to accommodate increase in traffic.
- Criterion c – this criterion is extremely vague and highly subjective. Furthermore it is considered that this criterion is not needed as the requirement for the provision of appropriate infrastructure is already covered within Policy LP12 Infrastructure to Support Growth.
- Criterion d – again this is repeating an area of policy covered elsewhere in the document (LP25 Design and Amenity).
- Criterion e – concerns over the phrase “comprehensive masterplan for the whole of the land under the control of the MOD in that area”. Suggestion that the masterplan should only relate to those areas which are likely to be the subject of the development / redevelopment.
- In relation to the section on the creation of a civilian community, it is questioned as to whether the first bullet point is required, given that provision of relevant infrastructure is already required under Policy LP12. It is suggested that the second and third bullet points need some re-writing as they don’t currently make sense coupled with the preceding wording “*particular consideration will be taken as to whether.*”

5 Local Plan Policy: Proposed Submission

- 5.1 The Proposed Submission policy has been revised to address concerns raised during the consultation on the Further Draft Local Plan. Namely, the criteria have been revised to provide clarity where necessary, and the former criteria c has been deleted to remove duplication of the ‘Infrastructure to Support Growth’ policy.

6 Alternative Reasonable Options

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been considered for this policy. (Option 1 is the preferred policy approach which has been included in the Proposed Submission Local Plan.)
- 6.2 **Option 2:** No policy on MOD establishments and instead rely on other Local Plan policies and national policy (this option was pursued in the Preliminary Draft version of the Local Plan, as explained in section 3 above). In light of the MOD's response to the Preliminary Draft Plan this approach has since been rejected as the MOD representations raised some valid, constructive points and therefore it is considered appropriate to have a specific policy on MOD development given the MOD presence and activity throughout Central Lincolnshire.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 This Evidence Report demonstrates the rationale for the proposed policy as contained in the April 2016 Proposed Submission Local Plan. We hope this helps demonstrate how we have responded to comments received during both the Preliminary and Further Draft consultations, as well as how the latest evidence and national guidance has been taken into account.