



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

Sunderland City Council and  
South Tyneside Council  
c/o Vicky Happer  
Senior Economy Communications Officer  
Corporate Affairs and Communications Team  
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Our ref: NPCU/RARE/J4525/75872

Date: 15 September 2015

e-mail: vicky.happer@sunderland.gov.uk

Dear Ms Happer

**DIRECTION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 35(1) OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 (AS AMENDED) AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (BUSINESS OR COMMERCIAL PROJECTS) REGULATIONS 2013 RELATING TO THE INTERNATIONAL ADVANCED MANUFACTURING PARK, ON LAND TO THE NORTH OF THE EXISTING NISSAN SITE, TO THE WEST OF THE A19 AND TO THE SOUTH OF THE A184, SUNDERLAND**

I refer to your e-mail of 10 August 2015 and subsequent correspondence relating to the above legislative provisions requesting the Secretary of State to give a Direction allowing the Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council project known as the International Advanced Manufacturing Park, on land to the north of the existing Nissan site, to the west of the A19 and to the south of the A184, Sunderland, to be treated as development of national significance for which development consent is required under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008.

The Secretary of State notes that this proposal is mainly for the construction of buildings and facilities for manufacturing uses, but also includes elements for research and development, storage and distribution and office uses, that it does not include the construction of any dwellings nor does it include the winning and working of peat, coal, oil or gas. The Secretary of State is therefore satisfied that this proposal falls within a business or commercial project of a prescribed description for the purposes of section 35(2)(a)(ii) of the Planning Act 2008 and regulation 2 of The Infrastructure Planning (Business or Commercial Projects) Regulations 2013.

The Secretary of State has assessed the request against the criteria in the relevant policy statement and has considered all other relevant matters.

The Secretary of State considers that the proposal would be likely to have significant economic impact, be important in driving growth in the economy, and that it would have an impact on an area wider than a single local authority area. The Secretary of State also considers that the substantial physical size of the proposal is relevant to his decision that this project is of national significance.

The Secretary of State therefore thinks that the project is nationally significant.

Hence the Secretary of State considers that the project can be treated as development for which development consent is required under the Planning Act 2008.

The Secretary of State also thinks that this would be a project that would benefit from the 'single authorisation' process offered by the Planning Act 2008 regime.

This Direction is given without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of any application for an order granting development consent relating to the proposal.

I am sending a copy of this Direction letter to the Planning Inspectorate and Matt Verlander at Arup Associates.

Signed by



Rebecca Pointon  
Team Leader - National Planning Casework Unit  
Authorised to sign on behalf of the Secretary of State