

West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan Examination

Examination Statement of Grainger plc (part of the North Dorchester Consortium)

MATTER 5: Economy ECON 1-10

Section 4:- Employment (ECON 1-3); Retail (ECON 4); Tourism (ECON 5-7); Agriculture and Equestrian Development (Econ 8-10)

- 5.1 *Does the spatial strategy provide an adequate basis for addressing the future needs of the two areas or would other options provide better outcomes?*
- 5.1.1 No. The Plan has failed to explore the further employment development potential of the county town of Dorchester, in particular at locations that are or can be made highly accessible to the strategic road network and therefore offer locational advantages for a range of strategic employment activity.
- 5.1.2 We suggest that the contribution that land at North Dorchester can offer for employment development purposes has been completely overlooked by the plan preparation process.
- 5.1.3 We consider that development at North Dorchester can contribute strongly to meeting the aims of the West Dorset Community Plan to:
- Reduce the need to travel by providing jobs and services close to homes or to places which are accessible by other means of transport to the car, and
 - Support a broad range of business types by retaining and developing business parks and industrial estates, mixed use development and other opportunities for employment.
- 5.2 *Is sufficient attention given to employment needs in rural areas?*
- 5.3 *Is the general approach to retail development appropriate and in accordance with the principles in the NPPF?*
- 5.4 *Does the Plan provide a suitable framework for supporting the tourist economy?*
- 5.5 *Have the needs of primary industries (agriculture, forestry, extraction operations) been adequately addressed?*
- 5.2.1 No response is provided to questions 5.2 – 5.5.