Economic Development Team

Planning application: 26/01897/FUL

Erection of a discount foodstore (Use Class E) including access, parking, landscaping and other associated infrastructure and works

Location: Land Northeast Of 2 Old Houghton Road and Southeast of Main Street, Hartford

From an Economic Development perspective, we have reviewed the above application and offers the following comments.

The proposed development represents a significant commercial investment within Hartford and has the potential to generate a range of local economic benefits during both the construction and operational phases of the scheme. The delivery of a new discount foodstore would increase consumer choice for residents, help retain expenditure within the local area and create new employment opportunities across a range of skill levels

The proposal is also likely to support indirect economic benefits through local supply chains, service contracts and increased footfall within the wider area. The provision of additional retail provision can enhance the attractiveness of Hartford as a location for residents and businesses, contributing positively to the local economy.

Economic Development would particularly welcome opportunities for the applicant to:

- Promote local employment opportunities during both construction and operation of the store.
- Work with local training providers, Jobcentre Plus and employment support organisations to maximise local recruitment.
- Utilise local contractors and suppliers where possible.
- Engage with Huntingdonshire District Council's Economic Development team to explore business support, recruitment initiatives and skills programmes available within the district.

The development aligns with the objectives of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan and the Council's Economic Growth Strategy by supporting investment in commercial premises, encouraging business growth and helping to create opportunities for employment and economic activity within the district.

Economic Benefits

The proposal supports the Council's wider objectives around economic growth, business investment and place-shaping by:

- Bringing a vacant brownfield site back into active commercial use.
- Providing new retail floorspace capable of supporting business growth and investment.
- Creating employment opportunities associated with the construction and operation of the development.
- Increasing commercial activity and customer expenditure within Huntingdon.
- Contributing to the vitality and attractiveness of the local area through investment in a currently underutilised site.
- Supporting sustainable economic growth within one of the district's principal centres.

Based on the information submitted, Economic Development supports the application and raises no objection.

Open to Discussion

We remain open to further discussions to ensure this development meets the needs of the community and the local economy. Please let us know if there are opportunities to arrange a Teams call or further consultation via [redacted].