

## Notes from meeting with Huntingdonshire Chamber of Commerce on 05.11.2014

- The site should not try to compete with Alconbury and should try to work in partnership with it (Speak to Urban and Civic). Alconbury will provide a lot more space than Northstowe for businesses as Alconbury is aiming to allow companies to provide all facets of their operations on the same site.
- Northstowe could provide flexible space for smaller, maybe start up, businesses that need 100 – 200m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace. There is a strong demand in the Cambridge area by small businesses of this size. These businesses need the ability to expand on a site.
- Will be hard to make Northstowe an enterprise zone if Alconbury doesn't grow. At present the government isn't promoting enterprise zones anyway.
- It is important that the employment uses are phased so that they don't harm the surrounding areas.
- There is plenty of office space in Cambridge but a lot of it is vacant because it is old and doesn't have high speed internet. We need to ensure that Northstowe has the latest high speed internet otherwise it won't be able to attract business and will be out of date.
- Need WiFi availability not just within buildings but also outside of buildings.
- It is very important how the employment site looks as this affects the image of potential businesses. Many businesses won't locate onto a site where there are MOT garages with old cars sprawled along forecourts. If the employment site does accommodate uses like garages then there needs to be space for the cars to be stored internally.
- Other incentives for businesses would be low cost buildings, for example those where energy costs are low. It is important to explore the possibility of having central boilers to serve numerous buildings so that costs are reduced.
- Employers like sites that their employees can easily access. This means that adequate parking is important but so are extensive cycle routes as many employees will cycle numerous miles to work if they can do so safely. Cambridge office space suffers from congestion and paying for parking.
- It is important to ensure that deliveries to retail stores can happen behind shops to ensure that there is limited disruption. Anglian Square in Norwich is a good example of this.
- A central area for goods to be delivered for employment uses will help ensure that congestion from lorries is reduced.
- In the United States roads are constructed with gravel next to them so that services can be replaced without disruption to road networks.