

Mena Caldbeck

Planning and Regulation
Stevenage Borough Council,
Daneshill House,
Danestrete,
Stevenage SG1 1HN

Dear Mena,

Thank you for your recent request seeking LEP support for Article 4 Directions – to remove permitted development rights (PDR) at Gunnels Wood Road and Pin Green for both office and industrial use.

We wrote to district authorities in Feb 2013 saying that the issue of permitted development rights was a matter for the Local Planning Authorities, who have a better knowledge of the role of their employment areas in their local economies and who should have the final say on whether to exclude areas from residential development or not.

However, at the time we made a special case to the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles to ensure that the Gunnels Wood industrial area should be exempt from PDR. We understand that the exemption is due to expire in 2019. Since the LEPs policy on exemption rights has not changed since our original letter in February 2013, we would strongly support Stevenage Borough Council's defence of employment land in the area. The LEP will be examining its policy going forward but we are happy to support the borough's case to retain employment land given recent developments in the county where the loss of employment space is being raised by both public and private sectors as a serious cause for concern.

Yours sincerely



Paul Witcombe

Enterprise and Innovation Manager

Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

