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Executive Leader of the Council
Councillor Seán D T Woodward

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Caroline Dinenage MP
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Date 04 April 2016

Dear Caroline

Following your recent letter about the National Grid proposal to construct the IFA2 interconnector at Daedalus, Officers have prepared a response to each of the questions raised by constituents, as they were set out in your letter.

Q1a Apart from the build, what other investments would this bring to Daedalus?

The Council has committed to use the premium that National Grid would pay for the land, to help fund the delivery of new improvements at Daedalus. These include runway lighting, navigational aids, café facilities, heritage facilities, fuelling facilities and Tower improvements, all of which are identified as ambitions but are not funded. In addition, it is likely that the National Grid would be expected to put in place measures that mitigate the impact of their building on the local area, through the planning system, and while these won't be determined until a planning application is considered, it is likely that they would be required to undertake environmental improvements in the vicinity.

Q1b Would it be Fareham's money from National Grid that is ploughed back into the Daedalus site?

Yes, the Council has committed to reinvest the receipt from the lease of land, back into Daedalus.

Q2 Will the money from the lease or sale be used for investment at Daedalus?

Yes.

Q3 How can this converter help [pursue the Vision for Daedalus and make it "a fantastic place to do business for aviation, aerospace and marine"]?

The money from the interconnector has been committed by the Council for improvements to the airfield. These improvements are not currently funded, but they are deemed to be essential for Daedalus, if it is to attract aviation/aerospace businesses to develop there, and to improve the attractiveness of the airfield as a destination for corporate/business aircraft as well as general aviation visitors. All of the areas for investment are deemed essential if the airfield is to grow into a financially viable place in its own right, in the long term.

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Q4 Is it at odds with the operation of the airfield?

There will need to be technical work to demonstrate that the Interconnector does not conflict with flight operations. However, the preliminary findings are that the building is sufficiently far enough away from the safety zone on the airfield, so does not represent a physical hazard.

Q5 How can Cllr Woodward state that the nearest houses are in Newgate Lane and ignore the Peel Common Estate?

The Council recognises that the Peel Common estate is in close proximity to the proposed Interconnector site, but the closest houses are in fact in Newgate Lane.

Q6 How does the Converter fit with the Council's vision for Daedalus, which is for an enterprise zone?

The Council's stated vision is "for Daedalus to become a premier location for aviation, aerospace engineering and advanced manufacturing businesses, creating many skilled employment opportunities for local people, which is under-pinned by a vibrant and sustainable airfield. Building on the existing general aviation uses, the airfield will be an attractive destination for visiting aircraft and will offer the hangars, facilities and services to attract more corporate and commercial aviation activities, allowing it to be self-sustaining in the medium term and contribute positively to the local community."

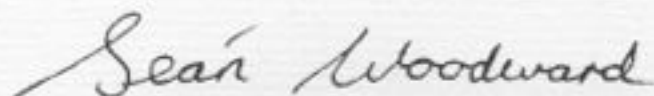
Delivery of the vision requires a substantial investment in new facilities and infrastructure, which needs to be funded. For this to be self-sustaining, the value of the land is being unlocked for investment in airfield infrastructure, so it doesn't fall upon taxpayers to pay for.

Q7 Cllr Woodward's opinion is that Daedalus is a better site for the converter than Chilling, which conflicts with the opinion of the National Grid's experts.

Daedalus is felt to be a more appropriate site because it has previously used for commercial purposes, and has long been identified as a development area for commercial uses. The site at Chilling is preferred by the National Grid due to its proximity to the connection point onto the national power network. However, the land is countryside, unlike Daedalus, there is no anticipation of large-scale commercial development there. For this reason, the Council believes that Daedalus is a more suitable site than Chilling.

If you require any further information, the Council will be very happy to assist.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Seán Woodward
Executive Leader of the Council