

Written Comments on Document GNC 30 – Council Note on Strategic Distribution

Pegasus Group for Harworth Group

Harworth Group supports the introduction of a criteria-based policy which will help to meet the need for strategic logistics and storage schemes over the Plan period. A flexible policy, based on the needs and locational requirements of the logistics sector is more capable of addressing that need than the application of a trigger mechanism first suggested by the Council.

The inclusion of criteria (g) in Policy 5 is consistent with national planning policy – NPPF Paragraph 87 states:

“87. Planning policies and decisions should recognise and address the specific locational requirements of different sectors. This includes making provision for:

b) Storage and distribution operations at a variety of scales and in suitably accessible locations that allow for the efficient and reliable handling of goods, especially where this is needed to support the supply chain, transport innovation and decarbonisation; modernisation of other industries of local, regional or national importance to support economic growth and resilience”

In line with the introductory text to para 87, Planning Practice Guidance NPPG Reference ID: 2a-031-201907221 states that the locational requirements for strategic facilities serving national or regional markets are likely to require significant amounts of land, good access to strategic transport networks, sufficient power capacity and access to appropriately skilled local labour. The proposed modification is consistent with this guidance.

In relation to criteria (i) clarity is required to enable applicants to understand the basis for demonstrating that there is a clear unmet need for strategic distribution floorspace.