The Royal London Mutual Insurance Society Ltd response to Policy J/NE

We support Cambridge Research Park's (CRP) continued designation as an Established Employment Area in the countryside under Policy J/NE Section 6b. of the Proposed Submission GCLP (Regulation 19) which supports employment development in principle. We also support the policy approach of Policy J/NE, section 5 which sets out that within Established Employment Areas in the countryside proposals for employment development will be permitted where they are of a scale and character that reflects their location which seeks to support job creation in Greater Cambridge.

We welcome the distinction made within the "Expansion of existing businesses in the countryside" section 7, which explicitly excludes Established Employment Areas (EEA). This appropriately recognises EEA's strategic importance and ensures that additional and overly restrictive requirements are not applied to these key employment locations.

Within the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 the Plan sets out the Council will consider the case for removing restrictive planning conditions and planning obligations imposed under previous development plans which have served their purpose of supporting the embryonic high tech R&D sector and are not consistent with the current approach to local economic development.

However, this is not expressed in the current Proposed Submission GCLP (Regulation 19) and should be incorporated into policy J/NE to enable flexibility which is particularly important for established high-tech and R&D sites that have matured since those restrictions were imposed, such as Cambridge Research Park. This will support business investment and expansion, in line with paragraph 85 of the NPPF 2024, which places significant weight on supporting economic growth and productivity and creating the conditions for businesses to invest and expand.