

Preferred Options Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document - Replacement, Page 24, Policy C4.

BAE Systems, Samlesbury

Introduction

BAE Systems, Samlesbury has been an important Strategic Site for many years, as allocated in the South Ribble Local Plan (2000) and identified in the Central Lancashire Core Strategy as a site which is strategically significant. It currently supports the local economy providing local employment opportunities and investment due to its specialised activities. However, it has the capability of stimulating economic growth in Central Lancashire, the wider Lancashire sub region and nationally, with the potential of attracting significant inward investment of an international scale.

Recently the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that an Enterprise Zone bid for Warton and Samlesbury had been approved. In line with this decision the following policy protects the strategic designation of the site including the BAE Core area and its operations and supports the delivery of Enterprise Zone which includes the necessary Green Belt release.

Policy C4 - BAE Systems, Samlesbury

a) The Strategic Site

The Council continue to support the specialised activity at BAE Systems, Samlesbury in line with the company's operations.

The boundary of the strategic site is identified on Map 2, shown in red and purple. The core area of the site operated by BAE Systems is shown on Map 1 in yellow.

b) The Enterprise Zone

The Enterprise Zone will allow the area to create more businesses, jobs and attract international investment, with positive benefits across the wider economic area. It will help improve the local economy and also increase the contribution to national growth.

The Enterprise Zone is identified on Map 1, shown in blue.

The Council supports the delivery of the Enterprise Zone and will produce a Local Development Order to aid the delivery process.

c) Green Belt Boundary

To enable the Enterprise Zone to work to its full potential and to be delivered, the Green Belt boundary is amended as identified on Map 2, shown in white and edged in red.

Proposals Map Ref: K - Shows the site as adopted in the South Ribble Local Plan

Additional Maps 1 and 2 - Show the amendments as described in this policy

Justification

The site and surrounding area is owned by BAE Systems who have operated at the site for many years. The site is situated in the Eastern area of the Borough in a key accessible location within Central Lancashire, with immediate access to the A59 and the M6 Motorway (Junction 31). Whilst the site is well located, its accessibility and connectivity will need to be strengthened through the delivery of the Enterprise Zone, with an additional highway junction being constructed to further access the site and support its delivery. The location and setting of the site has the potential to attract high profile new businesses and investment, which will also help to deliver a high quality environment and landscape.

The site has generated major employment opportunities and brought important investment into the area for many years. It is now important to build on these strengths through the delivery of the Enterprise Zone. The key focus will be to bring forward new employment investment and opportunities to the local area, wider sub region and on a national level, and at the same time to bring forward the provision of the necessary infrastructure to generate strategic employment opportunities and help create a dynamic and vibrant employment location.

The Enterprise Zone will attract, generate and secure high value jobs in Lancashire and the North West. This is fundamental to the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's ambitions to drive sustainable economic growth and prosperity within Lancashire by maintaining and increasing the economic contribution and the tradition of providing world class products and services that are made in Lancashire.

It is the intention of the County Council and South Ribble Borough Council to support the accelerated, integrated and comprehensive development of the Enterprise Zone. The Enterprise Zone is split into two key parts, one area is generally north of the runway, this land is immediately available and could be operational from April 2012. Land South of the runway is also included in the Enterprise Zone area however through the Local Development Framework (LDF) process there will need to be a release of Green Belt land, the earliest that development can happen is after April 2013, once the LDF has been adopted.

Within the Green Belt roll back process, there is land surrounding the site that is also controlled by BAE Systems, this will need to include the necessary measures to help mitigate against the loss of Green Belt and the impacts on the landscape and wider environment.