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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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18 September 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

RICHMONDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN CORE STRATEGY, PROPOSED SUBMISSION - AUGUST 2012.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Richmondshire Local Plan Core Strategy, Proposed Submission. The following comments are given on behalf of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) including Headquarters Catterick Garrison and the Defence Training Estate.

The MOD welcomes the positive way in which the Strategy integrates the MOD estate into the future development of the District. Catterick Garrison and Catterick Training Area will continue to be one of the MOD's principal locations for the Army. In particular Catterick Garrison will play an important role in delivering estate solutions as the Army becomes progressively UK-based as a result of the drawdown from Germany. Precisely what this will mean is still subject to national basing decisions but the Core Strategy will allow the delivery of different options as National Policy is developed.

The MOD's objectives for Catterick Garrison as set out in the Catterick Garrison Long Term Development Plan (Refresh) 2008 are to develop Catterick Garrison into the Army's premier base in the Northern UK providing:

1. A community which integrates military and civilian communities in an environmentally sustainable way, and which encourages social and economic development. Providing a mix of military and civilian jobs and a range of housing, together with community, commercial and recreational facilities in a new town centre.

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2. A military facility which maximises operational effectiveness, recruiting and retention, and which achieves estate efficiency and value for money.

3. A pool of sufficient land to provide for future demands.

The Core Strategy accords with these objectives and will enhance the opportunities for achieving these goals. The MOD fully supports the development of an enhanced Town Centre in Catterick Garrison and is actively marketing proposals for a Town Centre. The Strategy therefore accords with MOD's plans for the centre of Catterick Garrison

I summary the MOD supports the long-term aspirations for Richmondshire as set out in the Core Strategy. In particular the MOD welcomes the way that the Strategy endeavours to integrate the Military Estate and the Military Community into the District.

Yours sincerely

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