

**International Advanced Manufacturing Park
Area Action Plan
Examination in Public
Opening Statement**

The International Advanced Manufacturing Park – the IAMP – represents a major opportunity to contribute significantly to the economic prospects not just of Sunderland and South Tyneside, but the wider North East and the UK as a whole.

Embedded in the Strategic Economic Plan for the Region, the IAMP will build on the continuing success of Nissan, the largest and most productive car manufacturing plant in the UK, to create a World Class environment for advanced manufacturing, innovation and knowledge based industries in a truly connected location alongside the A19 Expressway and in close proximity to the Ports of Tyne and Sunderland.

This Area Action Plan and the proposals it seeks to enable, are perfectly timed following on from the publication of the Government’s Industrial Strategy Green Paper and Nissan’s announcement that it will build the next generation Juke, Qashqai and X-Trail models at the Sunderland Plant to complement the recent investments in Ultra Low Emission Vehicles and the Infiniti models.

Indeed, the policy proposals for IAMP, that will be considered this week, are reflective of the key components of the Industrial Strategy. This Government Green Paper seeks to reshape and rebalance the UK economy so that it is best placed to face the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities of Britain’s exit from the European Union. It proposes the Country builds on existing strengths such as the North East’s reputation for manufacturing and exporting and recognising the advanced manufacturing sector as an existing strength and competitive advantage.

Sunderland City Council and South Tyneside Council have worked together to prepare the Area Action Plan for the IAMP. This Plan will become part of each authority's Local Plan and provide the policy framework which will ensure the comprehensive development of the 100 hectare site alongside significant investment in the local ecology and biodiversity.

The IAMP has been designated as Nationally Significant by the Secretary of State. This means that it will follow a specific process to obtain the necessary planning approvals by means of a Development Consent Order that will be determined by the Secretary of State. The DCO will be submitted by IAMP LLP, the joint venture set up by both Councils, in its specific – and distinct - role as scheme promoter. This is entirely separate to the Councils’ roles as relevant Local Planning Authorities.

As demonstrated in the Councils Statement of Compliance, the Councils consider that the Plan before you is considered to be ‘sound’.

More specifically, the Plan is in accordance with paragraph 182 of the NPPF as it is:

- **Positively prepared** as it meets the objectively assessed needs and will be supported by infrastructure to ensure its deliverability.
- **Justified** as it is the most appropriate strategy, when considered against all other alternatives, based on the evidence prepared.
- **Effective** as it is the product of clear partnership working between the two Local Planning Authorities within which it is physically located to ensure that the plan's vision can be delivered.
- **Consistent with national policy** as it is compliant with the fundamental principles of sustainable development as set out in the NPPF.

Finally, the Councils also consider that the Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate and the relevant legal and procedural requirements.

The importance of the IAMP to the future economic growth and prosperity not just of the Region and the UK as a whole should not be underestimated – as recognised through its designation by Government as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. The Area Action Plan placed before this Examination represents the spatial planning policy framework to enable this to happen and ensure that these major strategic objectives are realised.

GDM