



**Defence
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Canterbury Local Plan Team
Canterbury City Council Offices
Military Road
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12th May 2026

DELIVERED BY EMAIL:

Draft Canterbury District Local Plan: Regulation 19 Consultation

Dear Local Plan Team,

I am writing in response to the recent publication of the Regulation 19 Consultation Draft of the Canterbury District Local Plan and your request for comments by 18th May 2026.

As you may be aware the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) is seeking to establish the foundation for the 'right-sized' military estate of the future. There is a strong military imperative that the quality and performance of the Defence estate must be enhanced in order to sustain, and in places, improve, military capability. Given current and future funding pressures, this can only be achieved if the estate is significantly smaller and more efficiently utilised, in order to achieve the best value for money from Defence funds. As part of this exercise MOD is considering the future of Old Park Training Area, approximately 92 HA of land to the east of Canterbury which falls within the local plan area. In addition, the MOD is considering the future of surplus dwellings and land at Border House and Tabard House on Chaucer Road, Canterbury.

DIO's role is to steward the Defence estate to ensure it is appropriately sized, fit for purpose and delivers best value for the public purse. These sites no longer serve an operational military function and their rationalisation forms part of the MOD's wider estate optimisation programme. Importantly, any capital receipts arising from redevelopment would be reinvested in the operational Defence estate.

The release of this land therefore represents an opportunity to bring forward sites in a sustainable location at the edge of Canterbury, capable of delivering multiple Local Plan objectives within a single, comprehensive framework.

Enclosed with this letter are representations to the Regulation 19 consultation in respect of Site 1 – Old Park Training Area and Site 2 – Border House and Tabard House.

MOD trust the above will receive your full consideration and look forward to engaging with the further stages of the Local Plan review and on the future development at the sites.

We would also be grateful if notification of any consultation on further stages of the plan could be sent to DIOODC-TownPlanning@mod.gov.uk and copied to;

[REDACTED]

Should you have any queries regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Alison Broderick-Hill | Senior Town Planner
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