

30 July 2021

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By Email

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Dear Sir/Madam

CANTERBURY DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN 2040 – PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION PRE-SUBMISSION DOCUMENT

We are instructed by the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) to submit representations to the Canterbury District Local Plan 2040 preferred options document which is on consultation until 30 July 2021. First we provide background information about UCA and then set out our representations.

Background

The University for the Creative Arts (UCA) has four campuses in Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham and Rochester and offers a range of programmes spanning the creative arts, business and technology. UCA offers courses in Architecture, Crafts, Fashion, Graphic Design, Illustration, Fine Art, Photography, Film, Media, the Performing Arts and Creative Business. UCA is the country's number one specialist university for the creative industries and is often ranked as one of the top 30 universities within the UK. The Guardian Best Universities League Table ranked UCA as the country's top creative specialist university for 2021 and 7th for Business & Management.

UCA is located close by to Canterbury City Centre and has a special focus on architecture, spatial and computer design, fine art and visual communications. Its home to expert staff and extensive specialist facilities. Their programmes are acclaimed for their top teaching quality, and highly respected by creative sector employers.

UCA submitted representations to the Issues consultation of the draft Local Plan in September 2020. These representations sought amendments to the draft Plan to seek greater recognition and support for UCA as an established higher education institution within Canterbury, alongside the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University. We request that this letter is read in conjunction with our previous representation and we set out our representations to the current version below.

Representations to Issue: Employment and the Local Economy

We have reviewed the latest draft of the Local Plan and UCA is disappointed to see that they are not mentioned in this version of the Plan. Consequently, there remains no specific recognition of UCA's Canterbury Campus and its importance to Canterbury City Council.

The 'supporting the development of our universities' section of the Plan acknowledges the importance of higher education and universities but, does not mention UCA. We note that two options are put forward 'Issue EMP6 how should we support the development of our universities' and 'Issue EMP6B align the Local Plan with the growth plans of the universities'.

UCA appreciates that both options for Policy EMP6 would support UCA, but is particularly supportive of Option EMP6B, as it seeks to take a more proactive approach to support the delivery of the universities' growth ambitions and to embed elements of the universities master plans within the Local Plan itself. This support is



subject to the qualification that UCA should receive the same recognition as University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University, being one of the established higher education institutions within Canterbury. Similar to those institutions and although smaller in scale, UCA has always had a Masterplan, to guide development at the Campus, which includes an aspiration to improve accessibility of the Campus for pedestrians and cyclists.

Paragraphs 25 -26 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019, revised in July 2021) state that Local Planning Authorities should engage with their local communities and relevant bodies to identify matters they need to address in their plans. Effective and on-going joint working between policy-making authorities and relevant bodies is integral to the production of a positively prepared and justified strategy.

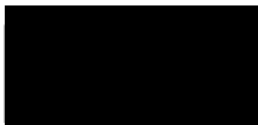
In light of the above, we wish to repeat our request for UCA to receive recognition in the Local Plan as an established higher education institution in Canterbury.

Conclusion

UCA would be delighted to have an opportunity to expand on these representations and provide further information on their Canterbury Campus. Should you have any queries or wish to discuss any aspect of this representation, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Emma Andrews.

We would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this letter. We reserve the right to supplement this letter at a later of representation at a later date.

Yours faithfully



**Raveen Matharu MRTPI
Planner**