

Strategic Policy and Research  
Future Merton  
London Borough of Merton  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Civic Centre  
London Road  
Merton SM4 5DX

21 March 2012

Ref: AK/dak/21961/03

Dear Sir

**Draft Sites and Policies Development Plan Document and draft Proposals Map – Public Consultation January 2012**

I write on behalf of my client, A W Champion Timber Merchants, who operate a well established business from two sites within the London Borough of Merton.

We have read your consultation document and wish to ensure that policies within it do not hamper or undermine the viability and possible expansion of the two sites.

Within the Borough of Merton, A W Champion operate from the following sites:

- Champion House, Burlington Road, New Malden KT3 4NB
- 2 Hartfield Crescent, Wimbledon SW19 3SD

**A W Champion**

A W Champion provide a wide range of timber products to builders and customers in the vicinity of New Malden and Merton. The New Malden timber yard is also A W Champion's Head Office, from which they run a total of nine branches throughout Surrey and Kent. Although expanded over time, the site has been used as a timber yard since 1933, and it currently employs over 90 members of staff with a wide range of skills.

A W Champion have an interest in sustainability which runs through all day to day operations of the company. They import most of their timber requirement from Finland and Sweden and ensure that all sources meet the highest standards. The company has been awarded the Environmental Chain of Custody Certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

### **Site Specific Policies**

The site at New Malden lies within a Strategic Industrial Location. This area has been the subject of planning permissions for several non employment uses, including the B&Q retail unit. This building is opposite AW Champion's building on Burlington Road. We are aware that your employment policies are subject to review and wish to ensure that new policies will encourage the improvement or intensification of sites such as AW Champion's.

The site at Wimbledon lies within the New Centre Boundary for Wimbledon. We note Policy DMR1 and DME1 but consider that these policies do not provide a conclusive framework that will encourage the improvement or intensification of the site. We would like to see greater emphasis on providing for the retention and encouragement of employment uses.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you the planning policy framework that relates to both these sites.

Yours sincerely

**Adrian Keal**  
Associate Director

cc. P Champion, A W Champion