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Ref: Y19/0257/FH
Otterpool Application

Dear Mr Farrar,

I am writing to confirm that EKC Group is supportive of the outline planning application Y19/0257/FH. As a large further education college group, EKC Group represents the interests of some 12,000 students, and more than 1,500 staff across East Kent. Many of these students are drawn from the Folkestone and Hythe District with a proportion of them attending our Folkestone College. Consequently EKC Group seeks to play an active part in engaging with largescale developments that will have an impact on the future of our students, while also promoting their involvement in placemaking for their futures. A large number of these students may one day reside in the new Garden Town development, and EKC Group is committed to ensuring that Folkestone and Hythe District remains a community in which they want to stay following their studies with us.

I am therefore pleased that Folkestone and Hythe District Council has engaged with our students so robustly with regard to this proposed development already, as outlined in your Statement of Community Involvement, and evidenced in the work students have created to help inform the development process. EKC Group would like to see this continue, with students given the opportunity to feed into elements of the development

such as the 'Cultural Creative Strategy' which notes there should be educational representation on a 'Create Otterpool Project Board'. As a long-term strategic development which will serve the needs of the next generation, we believe that it is crucial younger people are involved in every aspect of this development, and are actively engaged in asking what they want for their future.

We would also advocate for an additional point to be added to the Planning and Delivery Statement, which places a requirement on the house builders and developers – once appointed – to engage with local vocational training providers to offer apprenticeships and work experience opportunities during each stage of construction. As a major project, this would offer the opportunity to create the legacy of a highly skilled construction workforce, which would deliver benefit to the district for years to come.

I would again like to reiterate EKC Group's support of this outline planning application, and the opportunities it will bring for the many young people we deliver educational provision for within the district.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Graham Razey.

Graham Razey

Group Principal

EKC Group