

SITE SELECTION

- This development goes against the Government Manifesto which promised building on 'brown field' sites and 'levelling up'. This is a green field site in an area with low unemployment levels and lots of job opportunities
- The site 'selection' process by the MoJ, and the consideration of less harmful alternatives, has been secretive
- The MoJ have refused to provide any real evidence of the serious consideration of other sites and have had no other pre-planning discussions in the South East
- Why invest £250-300m of public money in a site that is flawed and has no opportunity for future expansion? There will be other brown field sites across the South East Region that would be more suitable
- The proposal would significantly consolidate, urbanise and intensify the development site which lies in open countryside, in an unsustainable location
- Ideally, for the cost efficiencies of prisoner transport and for families visiting prisoners, a new 'mega' prison would be best located within (or near) the M25. MoJ is pursuing this option at Grendon Underwood as it is easiest for them because they own the land
- The MOJ have previously deliberately underestimated the number of car parking spaces that will be required e.g. HMP Berwyn and have probably done the same in this development. Where will any additional car parking spaces be located?
- Environmental disaster, large carbon footprint (construction phase, operation of buildings, transport, loss of green field space)
- The Grendon Underwood site is within 40 miles of 10 existing prisons with a capacity of 7,804 prisoners. If the new 'mega' prison was built approximately 10% of the prison population of England and Wales would be concentrated within this small area