

We note that the applicant has not provided a retail impact assessment of the proposed Aldi as it is not required by Policy DM2 of the Local Plan or by the NPPF. However, there is a Local Plan Policy ST7 that states that development proposals will *'maintain or enhance the range of town centre services and facilities to secure Faversham's role and functioning and support its vitality and its uniqueness, strong sense of place and the range of independent retailers.'* We therefore consider that the impact of the proposal on the town centre should be considered before the application can be determined.