

## **Comment from Southampton and Fareham Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

### **Re: Ford in the Region**

Comment from Captain Jimmy Chestnutt, Director General of the Southampton and Fareham Chamber of Commerce regarding Ford in Hampshire:-

“Ford is one of the region’s largest manufacturers and any reduction in output or relocation of production is bound to affect the families that have been involved with Ford for decades.

Southampton has been known as the home of The Ford Transit for many years and there is no doubt that if Ford reduce output it will also have an unwelcome and negative impact on the regional economy. We hope that the politicians can come up with a package to encourage Ford to stay in this area and that every possible step is taken to encourage Ford to keep as much of their production as possible in this area.

There are many factors which influence a choice of manufacturing location, but with a workforce in place that has decades of experience, a well established site, proximity to one of the world’s leading ports and with the advantages of a new rail freight upgrade in prospect , Southampton and the surrounding area must still remain an attractive proposition to Ford and other manufacturing companies.