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Mr Alan Hurford
Town Clerk
Bridgwater Town Council
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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 22 January 2015

Dear Mr Hurford

Bridgwater Highway Issues and Bypass to North of Town

Thank you for your letter containing the resolution of Bridgwater Town Council, which was received in this office by email on 21 January 2015.

I understand the concerns that the Town Council has about traffic congestion in Bridgwater and the impacts that you predict arising from the construction of the Hinkley Point C (HPC) project, including the highways works that have been consented through the Development Consent Order (DCO). However, these matters were carefully considered and addressed in the examination of the nationally significant infrastructure project and the report of the Examining Authority to the relevant Secretary of State.

I understand from colleagues that Bridgwater Town Council was an active participant at the examination of the HPC application in 2012 and that representations were made by the Town Council about transport and traffic in Bridgwater.

During the examination the examining authority clarified that the examination of the application would be undertaken on the basis of the application before them, which did not include a northern bypass of Bridgwater. It was explained at the time that to include a northern bypass in the HPC application would require a new application and the applicant, NNB Genco (EDF Energy), was not willing to include this in their application.

Now that the Development Consent Order has been consented, any change to include a northern bypass in connection with the HPC project would necessitate a new application for development consent for the whole HPC project. This was explained in paragraphs 4.15 and 4.16 of the [Panel's Report and Recommendation](#) to the Secretary of State.

I would like to reassure you that the transport and traffic impacts of the HPC

application were carefully and robustly assessed by the Panel during the examination. Traffic and transportation were identified by the Panel as a principal issue at the examination.

Any measures beyond those that were granted consent by the Secretary of State in the HPC Development Consent Order, as made, such as a new northern bypass of Bridgwater, would now need to be progressed separately by the local Highway Authority, Somerset County Council, or another promoter of major infrastructure in the Bridgwater area.

I fully appreciate that the conclusions of the Examining Authority and the decision on the HPC application will have been a disappointment to the Town Council with regards to a northern by-pass.

Yours sincerely



Mark Southgate
Director of Major Applications and Plans

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.