



## Meeting note

### File reference

<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	Susannah Guest
<b>Date</b>	15 November 2016
<b>Meeting with</b>	Highways England
<b>Venue</b>	Temple Quay House, Bristol
<b>Attendees</b>	Natalie Webb – Highways England Rebecca Croft – Highways England Steven Laphorn - Jacobs  Susannah Guest – The Planning Inspectorate David Price – The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project introduction – A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees

### Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The developer was reminded of the Planning Inspectorate's openness policy that any advice given will be recorded and published on the National Infrastructure website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) (PA2008) and that any advice given does not constitute legal advice upon which developers (or others) can rely.

Introductions were made by everyone present, and individual roles were explained. The Planning Inspectorate provided a brief overview of the PA2008 process and associated timescales.

### Project Introduction

The developer provided an introduction to the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet scheme. In summary, the developer noted that the project had been identified in the Road Investment Strategy (2015) and work has been progressing to develop possible options for delivering the scheme. The developer explained the key objectives of the scheme related to safety considerations and relieving congestion and indicated the extent of the current proposals – stretching from the A1/A428 Black Cat junction in the west across to Caxton Gibbet roundabout in the east.

The developer discussed some features of the surrounding environment including the East Coast Main Line, existing A428 Cambridge Road, the flood plain and the location of some Scheduled Ancient Monuments amongst other features. The developer also explained that funding had recently been spent in the area in respect of 'pinch point' junction improvements and resurfacing of the A428.

The relationship of this scheme to the nearby consented A14 proposals was noted as well as to other developments (for example developments progressing under the Town and County Planning Act) in the vicinity.

The developer provided an overview of the likely programme for this scheme, highlighting that non-statutory options consultation was anticipated for early 2017 with possible Preferred Route Announcement in summer 2017 and formal submission to The Planning Inspectorate anticipated in summer 2018.

The developer explained the engagement to date with relevant local authorities and key stakeholders.

There was a general discussion relating to the delivery options for the scheme and the ability of Development Consent Orders (DCO) to permit a phased approach to construction. The Planning Inspectorate noted that the possibility of a phased approach to construction was not an unusual occurrence in respect of schemes determined under this regime. The Inspectorate stressed the importance of ensuring that this approach (if adopted) is adequately assessed, in terms of environmental effects but also as part of the application process. The Planning Inspectorate noted in particular the importance of securing necessary DCO control measures applicable to the phased approach to construction (for example, through appropriate DCO requirements). The Inspectorate suggested the adoption of any such approach would likely be of interest during any examination process.

The Planning Inspectorate briefly discussed the local environmental context and the constraints affecting the scheme design options. The Planning Inspectorate provided a summary of the key changes in the new EIA Directive which is required to be transposed by May 2017. There followed a general discussion about the developer's approach to their environmental impact assessment and the appropriate timing of a scoping request considered against the wider need to consult with stakeholders. The Inspectorate explained the importance of the scoping report including sufficiently detailed information on design details in order to support decisions in the scoping opinion not least which aspects/issues can be scoped out. The developer stated an intent to discuss this further as design details for the scheme take shape.