



## Meeting note

### File reference

<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	Kate Mignano
<b>Date</b>	1 March 2017
<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet</b>
<b>Venue</b>	Teleconference
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Highways England</b> Natalie Webb Nicholas Coombes Alistair Frost Anne-Marie Rogers <b>The Planning Inspectorate</b> Tom Carpen Richard Price Kate Mignano
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project Update
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees

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

The Planning Inspectorate advised on its openness policy, explaining that any advice given would be recorded and placed on the Planning Inspectorate website under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

### Project Update

Highways England (HE) gave an overview of the proposed scheme. It would comprise the creation of a grade-separated junction at the existing A1/ A421 Black Cat roundabout connected via a new dual-carriageway to the existing A428/ A1198 Caxton Gibbet junction, which would require improvement as part of the proposed Development Consent Order.

Route options have been explored, resulting in three potential routes for the new dual-carriageway and three for the A1/ A421 Black Cat junction. HE considers that each route option would include a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

### Consultation

Non-statutory consultation on the route options was due to take place from 6 March 2017 until 23 April 2017, and would include seven exhibitions in the local area.

HE confirmed that it had already begun to engage with statutory consultees including the local authorities, Natural England, Network Rail and the Environment Agency. HE was drafting the Statement of Community Consultation and would be sending it to the local authority for comment prior to statutory consultation.

### **Anticipated Scheme Program**

- Non-statutory consultation March to April 2017
- Preferred Route Announcement expected summer 2017
- Scoping expected summer 2017
- Statutory consultation September to October 2017
- Scheme development December 2017 to February 2018
- Submission of draft documents April/ May 2018
- Submission of application August 2018

### **Local Development Scheme**

HE updated the Inspectorate on the status of the relevant Local Development Plans. The local plans for Huntingdonshire and Central Bedfordshire were at various stages of development. However there are adopted Core Strategies in place which set out the spatial strategies for the local areas. Improvement of the A428 is considered necessary to deliver the housing, employment and retail development proposed in the Core Strategy.

### **Other Matters**

The Inspectorate offered a further meeting to be held following non-statutory consultation to discuss Environmental Impact Assessment.