

**Mr Nicholas Coombs
The Planning Inspectorate
3/18 Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
BRISTOL
BS1 6PN**

**Your Ref: TR010018
Our Ref: JL/SJB/HA28**

12 January 2015

Dear Mr Coombs

**PLANNING ACT 2008 (AS AMENDED) SECTION 55 – APPLICATION BY HIGHWAYS
AGENCY FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE A14
CAMBRIDGE TO HUNTINGDON IMPROVEMENT SCHEME.**

ADEQUACY OF CONSULTATION

Thank you for your letter dated 31st December 2014 requesting a representation from this Council on the adequacy of consultation and whether this Authority considers that the developer has complied, in relation to this application, with the required duties.

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

The Highways Agency consulted with Huntingdonshire District Council on 13th February 2014 at the draft stage of the development of the SoCC in order to provide the Council with the opportunity to submit any comments on the content of the SoCC or suggestions with regard to the proposed consultation methodology.

The Council responded on 6th March 2014 that it had considered the SoCC and was pleased to confirm that, subject to one minor descriptive amendment relating to the widening of the A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon, the Council were content with the documentation produced. I can confirm that the descriptive change was amended within the final published SoCC.

Duty to Consult Under the Terms of the Act

I can confirm that the Cabinet of Huntingdonshire District Council formally considered the Statutory Consultation relating to the above in its role as a statutory consultee and Tier 1 Authority at its meeting held on 19th June 2014. It was agreed with the Highways Agency prior to this meeting that the District Council would submit its formal response after this meeting noting that this was after the formal closing date for responses of 15th June 2014.

At this meeting, the Cabinet noted the principal elements of the scheme, the detailed considerations of the proposals, the roles and responsibilities within the Development Consent Order process, including legal implications, and the timetable leading to an eventual decision by the relevant Secretary of State and the proposed timeline relating to a commencement of works on site.

As part of this report, the Cabinet also noted the involvement of the Council in this process as a Tier 1 Authority and the work undertaken in partnership with the Highways Agency and the Council being able to provide input to the proposals in order to seek the best possible solution for Huntingdonshire and that Officers of the Council would continue to work with the Highways Agency, and other partners, across a number of technical disciplines in developing the most appropriate solution.

At this meeting, the Cabinet formally considered and agreed that the overall consultation process had been extensive, entirely appropriate across all sections of the community within the scheme corridor and that the Council had been properly consulted as required and that the developer, namely the Highways Agency, had complied with the required duties under the terms of the Planning Act 2008.

In conclusion, the Council would wish to make note that due to the timescales and the availability of key documentation such as the Environmental Statement and continuing discussions relating to various matters therein, that it has not yet been possible to reach full and final agreement with the Highways Agency on all pre-application matters. However, the Council can report that it continues to work positively and proactively with the Agency and other Tier 1 Authorities, namely Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, with the shared agenda of reaching agreement on as many matters as possible prior to the final version of this Council's 'Statement of Common Ground' with the Highways Agency being agreed.

As I believe you are aware, I can confirm that it is the intention of this Council that, together with Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, to submit a 'Joint Local Impact Report' to the Planning Inspectorate relating to this proposed application.

In the meantime, if you require any clarification on any of the above matters, please do not hesitate to contact my Transport Team Leader, Stuart Bell on (01480) 388387 or stuart.bell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



JOANNE LANCASTER
MANAGING DIRECTOR

c.c. Stuart Bell – Transport Team Leader
Cambridgeshire County Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council