

My ref: A428/EXAM/CP/060721

Your ref:

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021

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Place and Economy  
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For the attention of Candice Patten (Case  
Manager)

The Planning Inspectorate  
National Infrastructure Planning

Sent by email only to:

[A428.Blackcat@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:A428.Blackcat@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Dear Candice

**A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvement Scheme  
Response to Rule 9 and Rule 17 letter dated 2 July 2021**

I write on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Huntingdon District Council and Bedford Borough Council (**the Councils**) in response to the Rule 9 and Rule 17 letter (**the letter**) dated 2 July 2021 in respect of the above Scheme.

The letter requests that:

- (1) Comments are provided by the Applicant and Interested Parties on Relevant Representations;
- (2) Statements of Common Ground are submitted by the Applicant; and
- (3) Local Impact Report(s) are submitted, all on the same day, 31 August 2021.

The Councils consider that an extension to the deadline for the submission of Local Impact Report(s) is required.

The Councils note that there have been many Relevant Representations made by local people and landowners which raise points which are pertinent to understanding impacts on the Councils' administrative areas, including concerns relating to construction disturbance, the provision of routes for non-motorised users, noise and light pollution, and cumulative impacts with East West Rail, amongst others.

Sight of the Applicant's responses to these Relevant Representations is required in order for the Councils to formulate properly their position on local impacts. A sequential approach is necessary to achieve this, and the Councils understand this approach has been permitted for other schemes, where Local Impact Reports have been requested in response to Deadline 1, rather than prior to the start of the Examination.

The Councils therefore request that Local Impact Reports are requested by Deadline 1 of the Examination. Subject to receipt of the Rule 6 Letter in mid-July, the Councils anticipate this to be around end-of September, which is an extension of a period of one month from the date originally requested.

Meantime, the Councils will continue to seek to engage with the Applicant to further understand and resolve the issues between them, including the working towards the preparation of a Statement of Common Ground, and note that we await a first draft for review and discussion. Although in that regard, the Councils also note that a more useful Statement of Common Ground can be produced once the Councils have sight of the Applicant's responses to the Relevant Representations.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

**Chris Poultney, Transport Strategy Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council**  
**Chenge Taruvinga, Strategic Sites Team, South Cambridgeshire District Council**  
**Claire Burton, Implementation Team Leader, Huntingdonshire District Council**  
**Alastair Wren, Principal Planning Officer, Bedford Borough Council**