

My ref: DA/CLM
Your ref:

Date: 15 February 2022

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Place & Economy
Steve Cox
Executive Director
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Dear Ms Sahai

RE : APPLICATION BY NATIONAL HIGHWAYS ENGLAND FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE A428 BLACK CAT TO CAXTON GIBBET ROAD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME: FINAL JOINT AUTHORITIES POSITION SUMMARY STATEMENT

We are writing on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council (20028267), Huntingdonshire District Council (20028273) and South Cambridgeshire District Council (20028271) (the Cambridgeshire Authorities) regarding the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Road Improvement Scheme (the Scheme) Development Consent Order (DCO) Examination.

The Joint Authorities consider it appropriate to set out the final position at the end of the A428 examination process, along with some additional contextual information. This document will be formally submitted at Deadline 10 of the Examination process.

The Joint Authorities remain supportive in principle of the Development Consent Order application by National Highways.

The Joint Authorities and National Highways have collaborated throughout the examination process and worked hard to find both technical and strategic solutions to most of the issues under examination. To this end, we would take this opportunity to recognise the efforts of National Highways staff.

The engagement through the examination has been to the reasonable satisfaction of the Joint Authorities. Lessons learned should be applied to future NSIP consents, particularly in terms of earlier, structured dialogue from the promoter at the pre-application stage and providing sufficient resource to facilitate this frontloading.

That said, there does remain divergence between the Joint Authorities and National Highways on some matters considered as priorities for local communities and Elected Members. Those issues are as set out in the other documents we have submitted today at Deadline 10 and in the non-agreed items set out in our SoCG with National Highways. To avoid repetition we do not set them out here, but as you will see from those documents, areas of particular concern include carbon off-setting, bio-diversity net gain, traffic modelling, lack of an adequate mitigation solution for traffic monitoring and management, NMU provision and the archaeological strategy.

In other areas, we believe we have made good progress with National Highways: such as design approval for local highways, a role in the development of the Environmental Mitigation Plan development, new highways standards and new highways approval and handover. We hope those issues to be settled in a legal agreement which is nearing finalisation. It has not been possible to agree standards for de-trunked highway, but we are hopeful that a robust process to determine those standards and fundamental principles for those standards can also be set out in the legal agreement. That agreement will of course need to make provision for the costs of the local authorities in participating in the different processes the agreement contemplates. We continue to work to finalise the legal agreement with National Highways and expect to be able to provide a further update on that before the close of the Examination. It is the expectation of that agreement has allowed the Joint Authorities largely to agree the form of the draft DCO to be submitted at this Deadline (with the handful of specific exceptions noted in our Deadline 10 submission). Finalisation of that agreement would allow the Joint Authorities to withdraw the relevant representations on many points.

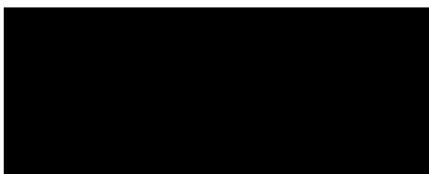
The Joint Authorities hope that you find the final position statement summary helpful.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the work of yourself and the wider A428 Planning Inspectorate team throughout the examination process.

Yours sincerely



Steve Cox
Executive Director for Place and Economy
Cambridgeshire County Council



Clara Kerr
Strategic Growth Manager
Huntingdonshire District Council



Sharon Brown
Assistant Director, Delivery
Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service on behalf of South Cambridgeshire District Council