

Town Council Office:

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The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear Anne-Marie

Council has asked me to write to you concerning the delays in the making of a decision as to the proposed Morpeth – Ellingham works on the A1. Council is in favour of improved transport links for the town as a means of driving regeneration, but also as a key element of improving the quality of life of residents.

We have noted the delays arising from the Union Connectivity Review, to which HM Government has yet to make a response. If HM Government were to accept the results of the review in their entirety this would delay work on the A1, and any decision on the Morpeth to Ellingham works, until the further review which this review recommends had been completed.

Council would wish me to point out to you the central importance of the A1 to everyday life in Berwick-upon-Tweed; the strategic issues concerned in the Union Connectivity review are matters for government, but perhaps less important to the cancer patients who, aided by volunteers from Berwick and District Cancer Support group, made in 2022 1,115 journeys up and down the A1 to hospitals for treatment.

I make no apology on council's behalf for introducing issues as prosaic and banal as journeys to hospitals or residents struggles to access jobs and services via the A1. Whilst the A1 is a vital strategic road between London and Edinburgh, it is also for many people who live locally the only viable route to access work, health services and education, and council is deeply concerned that strategic reviews focussed on cost benefit analyses of the most financially effective strategic routes may overlook these local, but life changing concerns.

On behalf of council I have to ask for your advice as to how we best pursue the goal of improving the A1 as part of improving opportunities and access to services for all our residents.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Gareth Davies LI.B MIPM MAC  
Town Clerk



Town Clerk: Gareth Davies LI.B MIPM MAC [REDACTED]