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Planning and Development Management
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Your ref: TR010060
My ref: 22/00002/NSIP
Telephone: 01245 606826
Date: 25 August 2022

Dear Ms Allen

Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening Scheme

Adequacy of Consultation Request

I am responding on behalf of Chelmsford City Council to your letter dated 16 August 2022 regarding the Adequacy of Consultation Request.

Having had regard to:

Duty to Consult - Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008) Section 42
Duty to Consult the Local Community - Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA 2008) Section 47 and,
Duty to Publicise - Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA 2008) Section 48.

I can confirm that Chelmsford City Council consider that National Highways has carried out adequate pre-application consultation in accordance with the provisions as set out in Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act.

Chelmsford City Council can confirm that a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was prepared as part of the proposal which sets out how the Applicant proposed to consult people living near than land that would be affected by the proposal.

The Applicant has also prepared a Consultation Report (5.1 Consultation Report, August 2022, Volume 5) that forms part of its Development Consent Order (DCO) submission.

Table 1.1 of the Consultation Report lists the consultation that has taken place. In relation to Chelmsford, this states that the Applicant commenced non-statutory options consultation from 23rd January 2017 to 3rd March 2017. Formal statutory consultation took place from 22nd June 2021 – 16th August 2021, with a further supplementary consultation taking place between 9th November 2021 from 19 December 2021. Further targeted consultation, specifically within the City Council's area, took place between 11th February to 18th March 2022.

Chelmsford City Council has provided full responses to the non-statutory and statutory consultations. The Council is satisfied that consultation has taken place in accordance with the timescales as set out in Section

45(2) of the Planning Act 2008.

Chelmsford City Council can confirm that the Applicant has used a range of publicity mechanisms to publicise the proposals including online and written mediums and public information events and exhibitions. Meetings and engagement have been held with a range of interested stakeholders and interested parties. Advertising / publication of Notices has taken place in local and national newspapers.

Joint meetings have been held with Chelmsford City Council and the other Host Authorities throughout the majority of the pre-application process, up until the date the Development Consent Order (DCO) was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Chelmsford City Council has specifically been concerned regarding works to junction 19 and the formation of a new bridge to reinstate a historically severed public right of way and provide a pedestrian/cycle/horse rider link to the new Beaulieu Park rail station and Chelmsford Garden Community. The Applicant has sought to engage with Chelmsford City Council and other relevant parties regarding the design of the bridge.

An application for a scoping report under the EIA Regulations was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State on 28th October 2020 and a scoping opinion was adopted by the Secretary of State in December 2020 and subsequently republished in March 2021 (with an errata sheet). A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) was produced for the statutory consultation.

I have read the Applicant's Consultation Report dated August 2022 which sets out the Applicant's consultation programme in full. I am satisfied that they have undertaken an extensive and inclusive consultation.

In this respect, Chelmsford City Council considers the Applicant's consultation to be adequate in line with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008

Yours sincerely,



Ruth Mabbutt MRTPI
Senior Planning Officer
(Chelmsford City Council A12 Widening Lead)

For

Mr David Green
Director of Sustainable Communities