



Colchester Borough Council

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Via Email:

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Your ref: Project Ref: TR010060

Our ref: 211762

Date: 2 September 2022

Dear Ms Allen

CBC Ref: 211762
Proposal: A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening
Location: A12 Chelmsford to A120 Colchester

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 55 Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening Scheme Adequacy of consultation request

Thank you for sending Colchester Borough a copy of your letter dated 16 August 2022 which we received on 23 August 2022 seeking our opinion as to whether the applicant has complied with with the following duties:

- Duty to consult – Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008) – section 42
- Duty to consult the local community - PA2008 – section 47
- Duty to publicise - PA2008 – section 48

I am writing in response and further to your email of 26.08.22 extending our period for response until the 6 September 2022. We are grateful to you for providing us with this opportunity to comment.

I can confirm that Colchester Borough 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 2008 Act.

We confirm that a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was prepared as part of the proposal defining how the Applicant proposed to consult people that would be affected by the proposal, directly and indirectly. The Applicant has also prepared a Consultation Report (5.1 Consultation Report, August 2022, Volume 5) that now forms part of its Development Consent Order (DCO) submission. Table 1.1 of the Consultation Report summarises the consultation that has taken place. In relation to Colchester, this states that the Applicant commenced non-statutory options consultation from 23 January 2017 to 3 March 2017. Formal statutory consultation took place from 22 June 2021 – 16 August 2021, with a further supplementary consultation taking place between 9th November 2021 from 19 December 2021. Further

targeted consultation, specifically within the Borough, took place between 11 February to 18 March 2022. These detailed matters are described in tables 2.1- 2.6 of the report.

Colchester 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. We can confirm that the Applicant has used a range of modes to publicise the proposals including online, publications and public information events and exhibitions. Meetings and engagement have been held with a range of stakeholders and interested parties. Advertising / publication of Notices has taken place in local and national newspapers. Joint meetings have been held with Colchester Borough Council and the other host authorities throughout the pre-application process, up until the submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate.

Colchester Borough Council has specifically been concerned regarding works to junction 24 and 25 and in particular, the impacts on Inworth Road (highlighted by Messing Cum Inworth and Tiptree Parish Councils), Easthorpe Road (Copford with Easthorpe Parish) and the detailed design of junction 25 (Marks Tey Parish Council). The supplemental consultation and subsequent meetings with the parishes affected to discuss their responses was welcomed.

The Applicant's Consultation Report dated August 2022 sets out the Applicant's consultation programme in full. Colchester Borough is satisfied that the applicants have undertaken an extensive and inclusive consultation and consequently we conclude that the consultation is adequate in compliance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Simon Cairns.

Simon Cairns
Development Manager

Textphone users dial 18001 followed by the full number that you wish to call.