

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hinckley SRFI](#)
Subject: Re: Objection to the Proposed Rail Freight Interchange Development in Hinckley
Date: 30 December 2024 20:27:47

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed development of a rail freight interchange in Hinckley, Leicestershire. While I understand the importance of improving the logistics infrastructure to meet modern transportation needs, I believe that this proposal presents significant environmental, social, and economic risks that should not be overlooked.

Environmental Concerns

Hinckley is home to beautiful natural spaces, and the proposed development threatens to degrade the local environment. The area around the proposed site is rich in wildlife and supports important ecosystems. Developing a rail freight interchange would cause significant habitat destruction and disrupt local flora and fauna. Irreplaceable green spaces and agricultural land would be lost, reducing biodiversity and the ecological value of the region. I urge the council to consider the long-term environmental consequences and explore alternative sites that are less ecologically sensitive.

Impact on Local Communities

The proposed development would severely affect the quality of life for residents of Hinckley and surrounding areas. The construction and ongoing operation of a rail freight interchange would lead to increased noise pollution, especially from train movements, loading, and unloading activities. This noise, combined with increased vehicle

traffic to and from the site, would make the area less livable and could harm public health. The influx of lorries and other heavy vehicles would also exacerbate traffic congestion, putting further strain on local roads and making it more difficult for residents to navigate the town.

Furthermore, the project would disrupt the peace and accessibility of local parks, recreational spaces, and residential areas. Hinckley's appeal as a family-friendly, tranquil place to live would be diminished if this industrial development goes ahead.

Concerns Over Traffic and Infrastructure

The local infrastructure is not designed to accommodate the heavy flow of freight traffic that a rail interchange would bring. The increase in road traffic could create significant congestion, particularly in areas already prone to high traffic volumes. The additional strain on local roads, including possible road widening and upgrading, would cause disruption to daily life for residents and raise concerns about road safety. Additionally, the economic burden of investing in infrastructure improvements would fall on local taxpayers, and this money could be better spent elsewhere.

Potential Economic Risks

While the development is being promoted as a catalyst for economic growth and job creation, there is little certainty about the long-term viability of the project. Changes in global supply chains, shifts to digital logistics, and growing emphasis on sustainability could render such large-scale freight interchanges obsolete in the future. The risk of long-term underutilization could leave the town with a vast, underused industrial site, leading to financial strain and an unsightly, unproductive landscape. The jobs created may not

be enough to outweigh the negative consequences for local residents, particularly if they come at the cost of the town's charm and green spaces.

Alternative Solutions

There are also opportunities to improve existing transportation infrastructure in ways that do not require such a drastic overhaul of the local landscape.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I believe that the proposed rail freight interchange in Hinckley represents an unnecessary and damaging development that would harm the local environment, reduce the quality of life for residents, and create long-term economic risks. I urge you to carefully reconsider this proposal and explore alternatives that are more suitable for the future of Hinckley and its surrounding communities.

Thank you for considering my views.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Ainge