

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PlanningPolicy](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 - Consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications
Date: 20 August 2015 15:42:26

Dear Mr James/Planning Policy Team

Thank you for providing Highways England with the opportunity to comment on the proposed Main Modifications to the Local Plan, and the CIL preliminary draft charging schedule.

Our comments below reflect the current guidance contained with DfT Circular 02/2013 "*The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development*" and the National Planning Policy Framework.

Local Plan Part 1 - Main Modifications - Policy 17

Para 8.85 of the Submission plan sets out that capacity issues on the A303 would need to be resolved for the growth of Gillingham beyond 2026. Recent trip generation and gravity modelling for the emerging South Gillingham urban extension, consisting of 1800 homes and employment, shows that the number of two way peak time trips onto the A303 exceeds the assessment threshold. Given that Policy 6 of the Main Modifications now proposes a development horizon to 2031 and an increase in development to at least 2200 homes at Gillingham, Highways England is of the view that the policy for Gillingham urban extension (Policy 17) should now include explicit reference to the need for the proposal to assess the impact on the safety and capacity of the A303 and to provide for mitigation to offset any potential severe impacts.

The Government has published the Road Investment Strategy (RIS) for the period 2015 to 2020 and this includes the intention to upgrade the A303 to dual carriageway as part of a long term commitment to create a new Expressway to the South West. However, this section of the A303 is already dual carriageway and has grade separated junctions and would not therefore be considered for further improvement within the current RIS period.

A programme of improvements to the whole of the A303 beyond the current RIS period is not yet known and it is possible that sections such as this could be beyond both 2026 and 2032. Therefore any safety or severe capacity impacts on the A303 in the interim arising from strategic development should

be addressed by the developer.

Highways England therefore recommends that Policy 17 should be amended to include the new time scale of 2031 and a new bullet under Infrastructure to read:

- “Subject to the outcome of the Traffic Impact Assessment and road safety reviews, to improve junction/s with the A303 to address safety and/or any potential severe capacity impacts that the development is demonstrated, through assessments submitted with planning applications, to give rise to.”

CIL

We have no specific comments to make in relation to the preliminary draft charging schedule.

If it would be helpful to discuss any of the above, please don't hesitate to contact me or my colleague Andy Roberts on 01392 312523.

Regards

Steve Hellier

Steve Hellier, Asset Manager Somerset and Dorset

[Redacted signature block]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 24 July 2015 17:27
To: PlanningPolicy
Subject: North Dorset Local Plan Part 1 - Consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications

Dear Consultee

North Dorset Local Plan – Part 1

Main Modifications Consultation – 24th July to 18th September 2015

Following the Hearing into the Local Plan the Inspector, Mr David Hogger, has written to the Council advising of issues which were discussed and which he considers would be appropriately dealt with as Main Modifications.

The Council has agreed to publish proposed Main Modifications and to invite any representations.

Consultation documents, supporting documentation and consultation response forms are