

[REDACTED]

From: Bown, Kevin [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 April 2017 17:10
To: futuremedway
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Highways England response re Development Options consultation Medway Local Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Sirs

Thank you for consulting Highways England on the above document, seeking a response no later than 10 April 2017.

Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the strategic road network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such Highways England works to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

Highways England will be concerned with proposals that have the potential to impact on the safe and efficient operation of the SRN, in this case with particular reference to A2(west) and M2.

As you will be aware, we have been working with the Council since Summer 2016, advising on the scope and production of the required transport evidence base.

We also attended the Transport Workshop on 21 February, and held a tripartite meeting with yourselves and Kent County Highways afterwards.

To-date we have been generally content with the commitment shown and the work produced. We are particularly interested in the use of the Aimsun modelling software to support the Local Plan given that to-date it has not been commonly used in the UK. However, the plan has been in its earliest stages where the level of detail is naturally insufficient to assess and mitigate the transport impacts. Consequently, we are not in a position as such to either object to or support the Local Plan at this point in time.

In contrast, the next steps which will include

- the issuing of the modelling validation report for assessment,
- production of future development distribution scenarios,
- then forecasting the transport impacts of those scenarios and
- production of necessary scenario supporting mitigation schemes that enable the strategic and local networks to continue to function safely, reliably and efficiently,

will be key to the success and soundness of the Local Plan.

Highways England stands ready to assist as we are able in the assessment of this work.

Once you have digested all the representations received, we would be happy to meet with you to discuss their implications for the work ahead.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Kevin Bown, Spatial (Town) Planning Manager BSc(Hons) MPhil CMS MRTPI

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Highways England: operating, maintaining and improving the strategic road network in England.

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bull, andrew

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 May 2017 17:27
To: futuremedway; smith, catherine
Cc: Planning SE
Subject: Highways England response re Medway Local Plan - Habitat Regulations Assessment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Sirs

Thank you for consulting Highways England regarding the above document seeking a response no later than 30 May.

Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the strategic road network (SRN).

The SRN is a critical national asset and as such Highways England works to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity. We will therefore be concerned with proposals that have the potential to impact the safe and efficient operation of the SRN, in this case particularly the A2/M2 corridor.

Having examined the document, and considered any other material considerations, our comments are as follows:

1. It would be useful to understand the ZOI which has been used to define those plans and programmes taken into consideration within the HRA Screening
2. We note that in Section 2.10, a list of documents referred to is provided, however the Roads Investment Strategy does not form part of this. There are references to the SRN later on within the HRA Screening which is why we would expect to see something in this section.
3. There seems to be some confusion with terminology – sometimes the document is referred to as a HRA Screening and at other times an initial HRA or HRA.
4. Acknowledgement to LTC is given, although only under the Air Quality section. It is noted that “further work is required as part of the supporting evidence for the project development of the LTC to assess impacts on the designated European sites”. It is therefore not clear whether this forms an in combination effect or not? There may also be the potential for LTC to impact upon the European Sites outside of the air quality context, and the potential for this should be considered.
5. It would be helpful to clarify why specific SRN road schemes are mentioned (it seems that this is purely in from an increase in traffic perspective as opposed to physical schemes) whereas local schemes are not specifically mentioned. Is this because reference is made to these in the Local Plan and therefore will be inherent in the HRA Screening outcomes.

I hope that our comments assist.

Should you have any queries, please contact me.

Regards

Kevin Bown, Spatial (Town) Planning Manager BSc(Hons) MPhil CMS MRTPI

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From: futuremedway [<mailto:futuremedway@medway.gov.uk>]

Sent: 13 April 2017 16:47

Subject: Medway Local Plan - Habitat Regulations Assessment

Dear all

I would like to inform you that the Habitats Regulation Assessment screening report considering the potential for adverse impacts on the integrity of the European sites that could be affected by Medway's proposed growth as set out in the Local Plan Development Options report has now been completed. I apologise for the delay in the production of this document.

The report will be published on the council's website on Tuesday 18 April and we are inviting comments to be submitted by **5pm on 30 May 2017**. If you wish to submit your representations on the Development Options consultation report and interim Sustainability Appraisal in conjunction with your comments on the HRA, we can accept these as one response to the extended deadline for the HRA consultation on 30 May.

We are also happy to receive representations separately, or accept any updates or additions to your existing representations, should you wish to do so, in consideration of your views on the HRA report.

The council welcomes your comments and advice on the HRA assessment, that can be taken into account in subsequent iterations of the HRA as the Medway Local Plan progresses.

Please note that this is an updated email as my earlier message had the wrong attachment – apologies for any confusion that this may have caused.

Regards

Catherine

Catherine Smith
Planning Manager – Policy
Regeneration, Culture, Environment & Transformation
Medway Council
Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR
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