

My ref: A428 scheme
Your ref:

Date: 4th April 2018

Contact: Councillor Ian Bates
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Economy, Transport and Environment

Mr David Abbott
Highways England
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford
MK41 7LW

Box No SH1102
Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

Dear Mr Abbot

Re: A428 scheme and its importance in supporting immediate development opportunities in Cambridgeshire

On behalf of the Cambridgeshire County Council Economy and Environment Committee, I write to express the importance of the timely delivery of the Highways England (HE) proposal to provide a dual carriageway on the A428 between Black Cat roundabout and Caxton Gibbet and to improve the Black Cat roundabout.

This letter follows the Economy and Environment Committee's consideration of the Wintringham Park development proposals, during which a strong emphasis was placed on the importance of the A428 improvements.

The A428 is a key route in an area of the country with considerable planned growth in housing and employment, including the Saint Neots Eastern Expansion (Loves Farm and Wintringham Park), new communities at Cambourne and Bourn, potential expansion of the West Cambridge site, and indeed growth beyond the corridor in Cambridge City and South Cambs that the A428 connects to (such as the Northern Fringe via the A14). Development proposals are advancing now, and assume the future delivery of this committed scheme. It is essential that this strategic highways infrastructure is in place to support their delivery.

Wider population and employment growth proposals should also be noted outside of Cambridgeshire, including the significant expansion of Milton Keynes, substantial growth set out in Central Bedfordshire's five year plan, and major housing growth programmed in Bedford. This growth will place further importance on the A428 as a connection in and out of Cambridge.

The scheme is required to reduce congestion and delays that currently affect the corridor, thus improving journey time reliability and providing that much needed capacity to support development and our growing economy. The scheme will also improve safety, network resilience and reduce environmental impacts.

Prompt delivery of the project is key to unlocking the aforementioned growth, supporting the delivery of Cambridgeshire's respective Local Plans. HE has previously communicated delivery timescales of 2020/2021.

I would be grateful if you could reconfirm these timescales, noting the pressing need for this important infrastructure, as project delays will lead to a worsening of the current challenges.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A.C.B.' followed by a flourish.

Councillor Ian Bates

Chairman Economy & Environment Committee

Cc Heidi Allen MP (South Cambridgeshire)
Jonathan Djanogly MP (Huntingdon)
Daniel Zeichner MP (Cambridge)
Mark Lancaster MP (Milton Keynes North)
Mohammad Yasin MP (Bedford)
Nadine Dorries MP (Mid Bedfordshire)
Martin Tugwell (England's Economic Heartland)