

**HIGHWAYS ENGLAND CONSULTATION ON A428 BLACK CAT TO CAXTON
GIBBET IMPROVEMENTS**

To: **Economy and Environment**

Meeting Date: **11 July 2019**

From: **Steve Cox, Executive Director, Place and Economy**

Electoral division(s): **Route travels through St Neots East and Gransden, and Papworth and Swavesey
Implications for traffic in St Neots The Eatons, St Neots Eynesbury, St Neots Priory Park and Little Paxton, Gamlingay, Cambourne, Bar Hill, Hardwick, Histon and Impington, Waterbeach, Fulbourn, Woodditton, Burwell and divisions in Cambridge**

Forward Plan ref: **Key decision: No**

Purpose: **To consider the County Council and partner's response to Highways England's consultation**

Recommendation: **Members are asked to:**

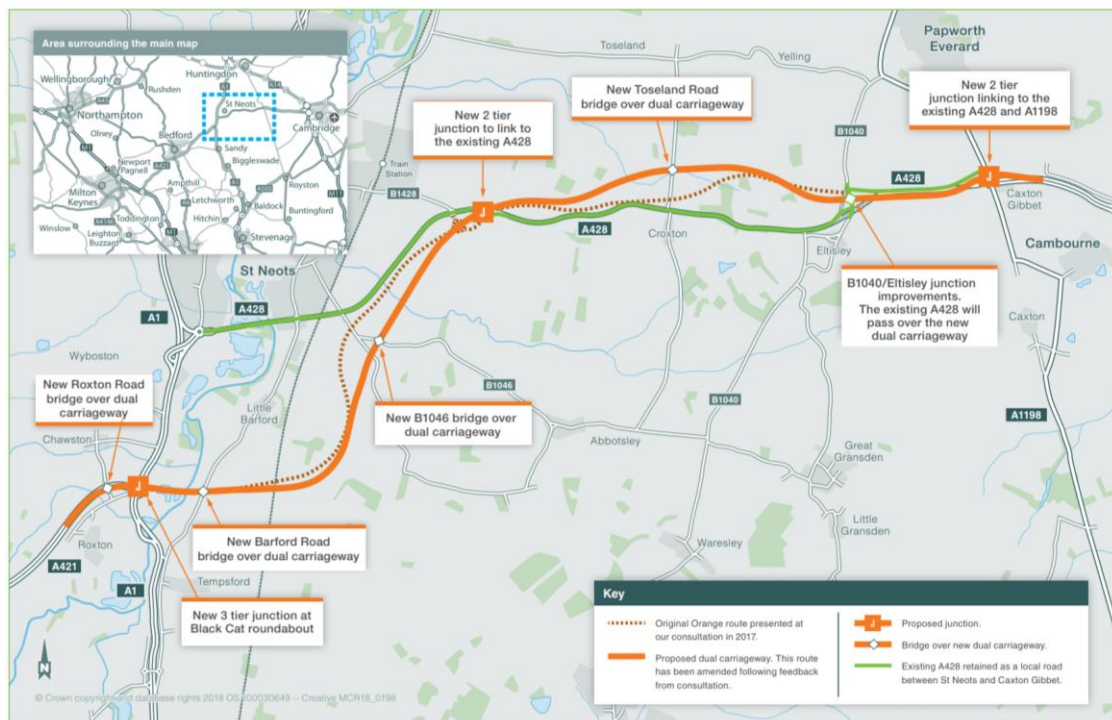
- a) **Confirm the Council's support for the delivery of the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements**
- b) **Note that the Council is working with the Greater Cambridge Partnership, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils, and Cambridge City Council on a joint response to the consultation**
- d) **Comment on the appended draft response to the consultation**
- e) **Delegate to Executive Director Place and Economy in consultation with the Chairman of the Economy and Environment Committee, the authority to agree the final joint response with partners.**
- e) **Support the completion of a Planning Performance Agreement between the Council and Highways England to formalise the Council's engagement on the project in preparation for the Development Consent Order process**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 3rd June 2019, Highways England launched an eight week consultation (see <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a428-black-cat-to-caxton-gibbet-improvements/>) on their proposals to upgrade the A428 between the A1 at the Black Cat roundabout and the A1198 at the Caxton Gibbet roundabout. The consultation closes on 28 July 2019.
- 1.2 The consultation followed their announcement of the preferred route in February 2019, and provides further detail on the route, its junctions and its environmental impacts.

The preferred route: Orange



- 1.3 The County Council has consistently championed improvements on this route and the Council's support for a scheme to address the problems on this stretch of the A428 has most recently been formally confirmed in the first review of the Third Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan which was adopted in 2015, and in the Long Term Transport Strategy that forms part of that plan.
- 1.4 Highways England are planning to make an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the proposals to the Planning Inspectorate in early 2020. This public and stakeholder consultation is a requirement of the DCO process. Highways England will use the results of this consultation to inform the further development of the scheme prior to the submission of the DCO application.

2. OFFICER COMMENTARY AND DRAFT RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION

- 2.1 It is proposed to submit a joint response to the consultation with the Greater Cambridge Partnership, Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

2.2 A working draft of a response to the consultation is appended to this report. As the consultation timescales effectively meant that this report had to be drafted two weeks into the eight week consultation period, officers are requesting delegation to the Executive Director Place and Economy in consultation with the Chairman of the Economy and Environment Committee, the authority to agree the final joint response with partners.

2.3 The draft response provides comments in the following areas:

- Traffic Impacts
- Direct impacts on the transport network managed by Cambridgeshire County Council
- Environmental Impacts
- Construction impacts
- Public Health Impacts
- Cultural Heritage Impacts
- Mitigation and Legacy
- Ongoing work with Highways England through the scheme development and delivery programme

2.4 At this stage of the process, there are many areas where significant additional work is needed to set out the impacts of the proposals in more detail to inform the DCO application, and where there will be significant resource implications for the council and partner councils to address the direct impacts of the scheme on areas that are fall under their statutory responsibility.

2.5 This draft response therefore sets out initial officer commentary on the impacts of the proposals and the areas where further information will be needed to inform the Council and the other Local Authority partner's involvement in and representations to the DCO process.

3. NEXT STEPS

3.1 County Council officers are currently discussing a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) with Highways England. Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils are also be seeking PPA's to cover their areas of engagement. These agreements will provide a framework for the management and funding of additional demands on County Council and partner resources as a result of the A428 project, excepting those associated with the Council's statutory duties in relation to the DCO Application. Initial funding has been proposed ahead of this agreement to cover current work on the project. Separate arrangements are being made to cover the council's engagement on archaeology.

3.2 It is the intention as far as is possible to agree County Council requirements for inclusion in the scheme for inclusion in the DCO application, rather than requiring submission of such requirements to the DCO Inquiry for consideration by the Planning Inspectorate.

4. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.1 A good quality of life for everyone

The implications for this priority are set out in the appended draft response.

4.2 Thriving places for people to live

The implications for this priority are set out in the appended draft response.

4.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

There are no significant implications for this priority.

5. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Resource Implications

The implications for this category are set out in paragraph 3.1, and in the appended draft response in relation to the sections of new road and old trunk road the Council will inherit if the scheme is implemented.

5.2 Procurement / Contractual / Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

5.3 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

5.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

5.5 Engagement and Consultation Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

5.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

5.7 Public Health Implications

The implications for this category are set out in paragraphs 71 to 76 of the appended draft response.

SOURCE DOCUMENTS

Source Documents	Location
A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements consultation booklet, maps and Preliminary Environmental Information Report	Room 301, Shire Hall, Cambridge and https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a428-black-cat-to-caxton-gibbet-improvements/

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Sarah Heywood
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?	Yes Gus de Silva
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	Yes Fiona McMillan
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Elsa Evans
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Yes Sarah Silk
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Andy Preston
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes Stuart Keeble