

E-mail dated 10th June 2015 from Leon Poole Leon.Poole@dft.qsi.gov.uk to Lucy_crawford@hotmail.com regarding A1 Upgrade Pre-Scoping Meeting

Details of the Meeting

The meeting in question was regarding a planned Strategic Study examining the current state of the A1 in the East of England and a similar Oxford-Cambridge Expressway Study. The meeting was held on the 25th of March 2015 and a number of the local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships along both routes were in attendance.

This was an initial workshop and no decisions on road alignment or widening were made during the meeting as the study has not yet formally commenced. This meeting was intended to outline our expected timetables and gain initial impressions on the issues that need to be addressed.

The next stage of the study will be to appoint a contractor to complete the study and establish a Stakeholder Reference Group to capture the views of interested parties. These views will be given due regard by the contractor undertaking the study and will be factored into the recommendations included in their final report, which is due to be published in the Autumn of 2016. The outcomes of this and other strategic studies in addition to other work will inform Highways England's initial report to the government on the Strategic Road Network, which in turn will inform decisions on investment planning and will be subject to public consultation.

Unfortunately, due to the size and scope of the study, we are unable to incorporate Parish Councils into the Stakeholder Reference Group in person. Bedford Borough Council attended the initial workshop and will sit on the Group; we are also considering the role of the local association of Parish Councils. We are making a concerted effort to engage with our stakeholders to ensure that environmental and countryside issues and the views of local communities are being taken into account throughout the study process

Whilst this study is designed to understand to how investment in the A1 can help unlock growth potential throughout the corridor, our approach will also ensure that any proposed solutions will benefit local communities along the route.

Your Freedom of Information Request Ref.: F0012367

Your separate Freedom of Information query requested the following information:

I would like to make a Freedom of Information request for the minutes of the pre-scoping meeting between the Highways Agency and local authorities about upgrading the A1 from the M25 to Peterborough to motorway standard. The meeting was due to be held in mid March.

I am particularly interested in the stretch of the A1 from the Black Cat roundabout to Peterborough.

Your request to see the Minutes of the event has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Department can provide the information requested; a copy of the Minutes of the event are attached. Please note that, as per section 40 of the Act (relating to the removal of third party personal information), the names of individuals have been removed from this document in order to ensure that

disclosure does not cause unnecessary or unjustified distress or damage to the person who the information is about.