
A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton

Report by the Head of Planning Services

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members will recall that since 2000, the Council have been consulted on a number of occasions by the Highways Agency regarding their emerging proposals for a new A14.
- 1.2 On 30th September 2009, the Agency published its draft Side Road Order process which gives the Council and other sections of the wider community the opportunity to comment on the current proposals, to put forward alternatives or to object to the scheme. All comments have to be submitted by to the Highways Agency by 6th January 2010.
- 1.3 Depending on the nature and number of objections, a Public Inquiry may be held before an independently appointed Inspector. Following its completion, the Secretary of State will consider any recommendations made before making the decision on whether or not to proceed with the Scheme.
- 1.4 Therefore, no official programme is yet approved although if the scheme were to be given the go-ahead, it is expected that works would commence during 2011 with the new route complete by the end of 2015. Any works associated with the removal of Huntingdon viaduct, again if approved, would be unlikely to be completed before the end of 2016.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council was formally consulted regarding the future of the A14 during the latter part of 2000 when the Council (6.12.00) first considered the emerging issues from the Cambridge to Huntingdon Multi-Modal Study (CHUMMS) and the four strategies of relevance to this District. In August 2001, the then Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions published their final report. This was considered by Council on 26th September 2001 when the resolution included that action should be taken as a matter of urgency to address the problems of the A14 and implement solutions.
- 2.2 In February 2005, a statement was made to Council regarding an alternative option being considered by the Highways Agency which did not form part of the CHUMMS strategy. This involved the provision of a new A14 2-lane dual carriageway and the retention of the existing A14 and viaduct through Huntingdon. Public Consultation

followed in during May and June and the Council considered this option on 29th June 2005.

- 2.3 In its response, the Council resolved that any choice of route would have profound and significant effects on Huntingdon and the surrounding area and any decision should not just be based on highway network or environmental effects but to also include economic impact. The resolution also included the need to provide for noise and visual intrusion mitigation measures, issues with the alignment of the A1 west of Brampton, the junction between the new A14 and A1198 and to minimise the impact of any viaduct crossing of the River Great Ouse. Members also supported the removal of the A14 viaduct within Huntingdon in line with the original CHUMMS Study and the resultant reorganisation of local traffic movements through and around Huntingdon and also noted that the CHUMMS recommendations were more aligned to meeting local Air Quality issues rather than the alternative option now proposed.
- 2.4 During December 2006 and March 2007, the Highways Agency undertook further public consultation seeking views on the route that the new road should take between Ellington and Fen Drayton. At their meeting on 21st February 2007, Council resolved to support the 'Orange' route, subject to the Agency consideration of the best alignment and environmental solution for Brampton west of the A1.
- 2.5 In October 2007, the Highways Agency made their 'Preferred Route Announcement' following previous consultation and announced the Secretary of State's decision to confirm that improvements to the A14 should follow the 'Orange' route and to include the removal of the Huntingdon Viaduct. A variation to the previous consultation was also announced with the inclusion of a limited access junction between the new A14 and A1198 with the provision of west-facing slip roads.
- 2.6 Since this time, the Highways Agency and their appointed Consultants have been working on the details of the preferred scheme which culminated in the publication of its 'Draft Side Road Orders' on 30th September 2009. It is this legal process that allows the community to comment on the current proposals, to put forward alternatives or to object to the scheme by 6th January 2010.

3. IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Officers are currently in the process of undertaking in-depth analysis of the relevant documentation supplied as part of this process, including the Environmental Statement. It is currently planned that the results of this work will be presented in a detailed report to a Special Council meeting on 22nd December 2009 in order that Council can formally respond to the Highways Agency within the consultation timeframe.
- 3.2 All Members have previously been issued with a copy of the Ellington to Fen Ditton Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Statement.


4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 On the basis of the significant impact that this scheme will have on the District, it is suggested that Members may wish to debate issues that they wish to raise in connection with the current Draft Side Road Order process and highlight any issues on which they seek further clarification in order that Officers may look to address these, where possible, in the report to Special Council on 22nd December 2009.

5. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended:

that Members provide feedback on any issues on which they would seek further clarification for the Special Council meeting to be held on 22nd December 2009.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Council Reports – 6th December 2000, 26th September 2001,
16th February 2005, 13th April 2005, 29th June 2005 &
21st February 2007.

CHUMMS Study Final Report – August 2001.

A14 Preferred Route Announcement – October 2007.

A14 Draft Side Road Orders – 30th September 2009.