

Highways England
Via email

Our ref: A428 Supplementary Consultation
Your ref: A428 Supplementary Consultation
Date: 15.07.2020

Contact: Chenge Taruvinga
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Dear Sirs,

RE: Supplementary Consultation on the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Project, 2020

South Cambridgeshire District Council is broadly supportive of the project and welcomes the opportunity to respond to the changes that have been made to the proposals. The Council would like to raise the following points:

- Whilst the Council does not oppose the two borrow pits proposed to the north east and north west of Caxton Gibbet, the inevitable increase in noise levels during construction, along with the disturbance of farmland and changes to the local landscape will need to be supported by a comprehensive mitigation strategy. The mitigation strategy should include details that safeguard against noise pollution, contaminated backfill as well as a replacement planting scheme.
- The supplementary information does not contain any detailed information regarding ecology or biodiversity. The Council would urge a commitment towards the provision of a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain throughout the development.
- The Council asks Highways England to explore the opportunities for carbon offsetting for the wider A428 development from an early stage to minimise emissions and prioritise air quality. This should be given further consideration as part of the climate section of the environment statement that will accompany the DCO application, which will need to be set against the UK's legally binding target of net zero carbon by 2050.

The Council would like to re-iterate its view in respect of the impact of the development on the wider transport network. As previously noted in our response to the 2019 consultation, the following matters are of concern:

- The provision of a single lane on the A428 at the Girton Interchange may be insufficient to accommodate current and future numbers of vehicles that will be using the road, including traffic generated by the A428 improvement scheme subject of the current consultation.
- The Council asks Highways England to explore the benefits and feasibility of including an all-ways junction at Girton Interchange – a study referenced in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport Plan. An all-ways junction would provide through traffic with the option of avoiding the existing single carriage way onto the A1303 between the Hardwick roundabout and J13 of the M11. The A1303 route is already congested and any additional traffic on the A428 heading east into Cambridge will further exacerbate the existing congestion levels.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Aidan Vandeweyer

Lead Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport at
South Cambridgeshire District Council