

REP 31

22.9.14.

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From: Blake, Patrick
Sent: 22 September 2014 15:27
To: McNair, Stacie
Cc: Sheppard, Philip; Thoburn, Ian; SE NDD BMT
Subject: Gosport Local Plan 2029 (Publication Version)
Importance: High

Dear Stacie McNair

Thank you for inviting the Highways Agency (HA) to comment on Gosport Borough Council's Local Plan 2029.

The HA is an executive agency of the Department for Transport (DfT). We are responsible for operating, maintaining and improving England's strategic road network (SRN) on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport. In the case of Gosport Borough Council this relates to the M27. We would be concerned if any material increase in traffic were to occur on the SRN as a result of planned growth in Gosport Borough without careful consideration of mitigation measures. It is important that the Local Plan provides the planning policy framework to ensure development cannot progress without the appropriate infrastructure in place.

When considering proposals for growth, any impacts on the SRN will need to be identified and mitigated as far as reasonably possible. The HA in general, will support a local authority proposal that considers sustainable measures which manage down demand and reduces the need to travel. Infrastructure improvements on the SRN should only be considered as a last resort.

For background, you may be interested to read the Department for Transport Circular 2/2013 (The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable

Development) which sets out the way the Highways Agency will engage with communities, local authorities, and the development industry to deliver development and, thus, economic growth, whilst safeguarding the primary function and purpose of the strategic road network. Please see the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-road-network-and-the-delivery-of-sustainable-development>

We have reviewed the consultation. As you are aware, we commented on a transport statement (issued by Gosport Borough Council to address the HA concerns with the Local Plan) in June 2014. The transport statement addressed all but one concern, relating to peak period and non-peak network delays potentially caused by traffic related to Local Plan development. We have since reconsidered our position in relation to this point and we are now content that any such additional impacts resulting from the Local Plan development are likely to be minimal and manageable.

On this basis, we are content as to the overall soundness of the Local Plan in relation to our interests (potential M27 impacts).

I hope this is helpful and I look forward to continued involvement with the development of your Local Plan.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Blake, Assistant Asset Manager

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