

From: Gregory, Andree
To: [LDFconsult](#)
Cc: [Planning SE](#)
Subject: #4222 Response to Epping Forest Local Plan Consultation
Date: 31 January 2018 10:33:34

Consultation: Epping Forest Local Plan Consultation (Supplementary Response from Highways England)

Highways England Ref: #4222

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your letter dated 18th December 2017 inviting Highways England to comment on the Epping Forest District Local Plan update.

Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the strategic road network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such Highways England works to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

We are aware that you have already received a response from Highways England. However, there is a split of responsibility within Highways England where parts of our strategic road network are managed from different regional offices. The response from Mark Norman covered the SRN outside of the M25 and within the South East office we have responsibility for all M25 junctions and M11 junctions within the M25. In terms of Epping Forest, this means M25 Junction 25 and 26, and M11 Junction 5 and 6.

Our interest and involvement in Local Plan Consultations is specifically focussed on the council's approach to highway and transport matters in relation to regeneration and new development. We are keen to understand how local authorities initially identify and prioritise transport improvements in order to deliver sustainable development. Specifically, how local authorities set and implement policy to manage trip demands and ultimately how these might affect the safe and efficient operation of the SRN for which we are responsible.

A Highway Assessment Report has been submitted in support of the Local Plan. This does look at potential measures to be considered to manage demand of future traffic levels and growth. However, Highways England expect the promoters of developments to put forward initiatives that manage down the traffic impact of proposals to support the promotion of sustainable transport and the development of accessible sites.

When planning applications are submitted for the larger development sites, it should be ensured that the impacts on the SRN are assessed within their Transport Assessments. Any assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the DfT Circular 02/2013 "The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development" outlining how Highways England will engage with

developers including assessment requirements to deliver growth and safeguard the operation of the SRN.

I trust that the above comments are of assistance to you and Highways England will continue to work with you in developing the Local Plan. We recognise the involvement to date of colleagues from the East Regional office but it would be very useful for the South East office to become involved in future discussions around local plan and development issues. The contact in the South East office will be Janice Burgess [REDACTED] and we will be happy to join any future meetings.

Thank you again for involving us in your consultation process

Sent on behalf of Janice Burgess Spatial Planning Manager

**Andree Gregory
Spatial Planning Administrator**

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