

Agenda item 8 A27 Chichester Bypass Improvement Scheme Consultation

At minute 150 of Council meeting held on 20 September 2016, the Council made the following resolution:

For purposes of transparency and community cohesion that the Secretary of State be requested to provide this Council with the justification for discounting the previously prepared two offline routes to the north of the city.

This request to the Secretary of State was included within the consultation response letter to Highways England. We have asked that this be referred to the Department for Transport and have chased it up but nothing has yet been received from the Secretary of State. A response has, however, been received from Highways England.

Response from Highways England:

Dear Mr. Carvell,

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding our proposed improvements for the A27 Chichester Bypass.

Highways England's starting point for the improvements on the A27 through Chichester is the longstanding proposals for a series of junction upgrades along the existing bypass. This was clearly laid out in the Government's Road Investment Strategy and is reflected in the budget available to Highways England for delivering the project.

We have only communicated other options, such as a new bypass to the north, insofar as to ensure that the reasons for ruling them out in the past are still valid today, and so that we can provide an up-to-date evidence base when we submit our final proposals to the Planning Inspectorate.

The options for improving the A27 through Chichester that we put forward in our consultation earlier this year are all viable, buildable improvements and would bring real benefits to drivers on the A27 and people living and working in and around Chichester.

It is extremely important to us at Highways England to have local input into the project and we were very happy that thousands of people took part in the ten-week consultation which closed on 22 September 2016.

While we will not be re-running this summer's consultation, there will be further opportunities for people to have their say on the plans as we move forward with the improvements. In particular, the preferred route will itself be the subject of a further public consultation and then independent scrutiny by the Planning Inspectorate. The examination of our proposals by the Planning Inspectorate will also include opportunities for comment.

We are on course to publish responses to the consultation which will inform our preferred route announcement. This will take place in the coming months.

If you would like to sign up to our A27 Chichester Newsletter to keep up to date with progress please visit our website www.highways.gov.uk/a27chichester. Hard copies will also be made available at Chichester Library.

Regards

A27 Chichester Project Team

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