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Subject: Fareham Local Plan Update

Dear Planning Policy Team

Thank you for inviting Highways England to comment on Fareham's Local Plan Update. From a recent meeting between Hampshire County Council, Fareham Borough Council and Highways England, comments from Highways England to the recent Local Plan Consultation was requested.

Highways England's role is to operate, maintain and modernise the strategic road network (SRN) in line with the Roads Investment Strategy, reflecting public interest and to provide effective stewardship of the network's long term operation and integrity. In the case of Fareham 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 Fareham 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 identifying the preferred strategy for the Spatial Options, consideration will need to be given to assessing the cumulative impact of new sites that might be taken forward together with already planned growth in Fareham on the SRN. We welcome further dialogue on potential growth in particular any site in around M27 Junction 11, this would include land close to J11 being promoted for commercial use. When considering proposals for growth, any impacts on the SRN will need to be identified and mitigated as far as reasonably possible. We will support proposals that consider 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. Proposed new growth will need to be considered in the context of the cumulative impact from already proposed development on the M27. We look forward to discussions to ensure the impacts to the SRN from proposals are considered and an identification of an appropriate package of mitigation measures. It is recognised that the proposed Local Plan will play an important role in delivering planned growth in Fareham.

We look forward to working with all parties which include Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council to identify and produce a robust transport strategy which would inform the size and scale of development deliverable within the Slough area. This will form a key piece of evidence to demonstrate the Local Plan is sound, therefore it is important that any identified mitigation has a reasonable prospect of delivery within the timescales of when the growth is planned.

For background, You may be interested to read “The Strategic Road Network Planning for the Future” which is a guide to working with Highways England on planning matters. Please see [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461023/N150227 -
_Highways England Planning Document FINAL-lo.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461023/N150227_-_Highways_England_Planning_Document_FINAL-lo.pdf).

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

Yours sincerely

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