

A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Improvement
Further Consultation – Ellington to Fen Drayton

To: **Cambridgeshire Horizons Board**
Date: **2 March 2007**
From: **Director for Development**

Purpose **To inform the Board of the further Public Consultation by the Highways Agency on the improvement of the A14 between Ellington and Fen Drayton and to determine the County Council's response.**

Recommendation **The Board is asked to endorse the following response to the Highways Agency:**

- 1. Cambridgeshire Horizons welcomes the progression of the scheme and continues to fully support the Highways Agency's intention to improve the A14 and would urge the Agency to expedite its provision.**
- 2. Supports the Orange Route set out in the consultation brochure, subject to the Highways Agency considering the best alignment west of Brampton to minimise impacts on Brampton.**
- 3. Rejects the Blue Route (including variations) on the grounds of detrimental impact.**
- 4. Rejects the Brown Route on the grounds of detrimental impact and risk and implications for waste facilities.**
- 5. Encourages the provision of measures to support sustainable development.**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Highways Agency is undertaking further consultation on the A14 routing as a result of an out of court settlement between the Highways Agency and the Offords' Action Group. The consultation concludes on 9th March 2007. Given the key requirement of the A14 to support development in the Sub Region, it is appropriate for Cambridgeshire Horizons to respond to the consultation.
- 1.2 The issue solely being consulted on is the determination of the proposed off-line route between Ellington and Fen Drayton. Junction strategy and layouts remain similar to those displayed at the earlier consultation. Further for the purposes of the consultation, it has been assumed that the Huntingdon Viaduct would be removed and that the new off-line route would be built to a three-lane dual carriageway standard. Both these assumptions are in line with previous representations made by Cambridgeshire Horizons.
- 1.3 No further consultation is being undertaken on the remainder of the scheme from Fen Drayton to Fen Ditton, and following this consultation, it is hoped that the Secretary of State will make a Preferred Route Announcement about his intentions for the whole length of the A14 improvement.

2. OPTIONS

- 2.1 A consultation brochure has been prepared by the Highways Agency and this has been widely circulated (copies will be available at the meeting). The brochure sets out options for the scheme. The County Council, in liaison with the relevant District Councils, has undertaken technical assessment of the options. The findings are set out in the attached report to the County Council Cabinet (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 The suggested response from Cambridgeshire Horizons, as set out in the recommendations above, focus on the importance of progressing the scheme and the identification of the Orange Route as the preferred option, subject to modifications west of the A1 to reduce detrimental impacts.