

Hastings Borough Council comments on East Sussex County Council (ESCC) supplementary traffic note (Rep 2144/2)

We consider that this further note now adequately clarifies matters. It sets out detailed responses to the Inspector's various questions of the County Council as Highway Authority posed by him to ESCC officers at the Hearing session held on the 16th January 2015. These questions from the Inspector related in particular to the impact of additional growth in traffic along The Ridge arising from the Development Management Plan (DMP) allocations when compared with existing traffic flows on The Ridge, natural growth over the Plan period to 2028, and to the additional traffic flows on The Ridge arising from construction of the Bexhill-Hastings Link Road (BHLR). The County Council's statement also clarifies the beneficial impact of any Queensway/Gateway link on The Ridge in the event of planning permission being granted for the application now submitted. We also consider that the tables now incorporated within the Note (Rep 2144/2) following the template requested by the Inspector, enable clear comparisons to be undertaken.

Essentially the Note confirms that, when compared to the natural growth in traffic flows that will occur over the Plan period, coupled with the increase in traffic on The Ridge occasioned by the opening of the BHLR, that the allocations for residential development along The Ridge contained in the Council's DMP amount to only 5-8% of increase in overall traffic flow on The Ridge (table 2). We consider, as is supported by the Highway Authority, that this very modest percentage increase from the DMP can be accommodated on the Network and certainly does not approach meeting the test of "severe" as set down in the Framework that would mean such increase were unacceptable in traffic terms.

We also consider that the Note confirms and now better explains that the increase in traffic flows that will be caused by the opening of the BHLR was clearly recognised by the Inspector in examining that road at its Public Inquiry. In this regard we welcome the fact that in allowing the BHLR to proceed that specific and prerequisite complementary measures were required to be put in place by that Inspector, prior to the opening of the BHLR, to alleviate any difficulties. We understand, welcome and indeed heard from Mr Wheeler at the 16th January Hearing that these measures have secured all necessary funding and will be delivered by the County Council to timescale prior to the opening of the BHLR.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon this Supplementary traffic note.

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