

From: "Owen, Kevin"

Subject: North Hertfordshire Examination East of Luton

Date: 8 February 2018 at 14:10:36 GMT

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Dear Louise, please give my apologies to the Inspector on the delay in responding to his request yesterday, that I clarify whether the Council objects to the east of Luton urban extension because of the absence of an eastern bypass/link road.

I have had discussions with members including the leader Cllr Hazel Simmons, Cllrs Sian Timoney and Cllr Castleman. They agree that the Council's position remains as set out in the latest Statement of Common Ground (October 2017 attached) that there is not an objection to the East of Luton urban extension on the basis that the latest transport modelling and assessment provided by NHDC did not demonstrate severe impact requiring such a scheme.

The SCG (para 4.14) also seeks to further work with NHDC on improving the transport modelling to ensure that the necessary infrastructure and mitigation is assessed adequately given the strategic importance of this part of the Borough for growth and regeneration and this consistent with the portfolio holders earlier representations (attached).

At the hearing session on Delivery (Matter 6) on 16th November – the Highway Authority (Hertfordshire CC) indicated that it would be re-running the model (which is in the spirit of the SCG) to factor in Luton's additional 1,600 dwellings and as far as reasonably possible reflect the emerging Central Bedfordshire Local Plan. This was termed "homework" amongst other undertakings HCC made. However, this

aspect is not recorded in NHDC's action log although other matters are. Luton did not get a reply on why this was the case on inquiring (as attached). This was then debated at the hearing session yesterday.

It will of course, be for the Inspector to determine whether the transport modelling supplied by NHDC and associated reasoning has been robust, on the basis of the matters raised by participants during the hearing discussions.

K regards

Kevin

Luton

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