

Your Ref:  
Our Ref: Vision2031  
Date: 2013-05-07  
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Mr I Poole  
Planning Policy & Specialist Services Manager  
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Dear Mr Poole

**RE: BURY ST EDMUNDS VISION 2031 – TRANSPORT**

Suffolk County Council will respond formally to your final draft Vision 2031 documents when you are ready to consult. This will include comments on the transport implications of the proposed development as they appear in your draft.

In the meantime this authority and St Edmundsbury Borough Council jointly commissioned consultants AECOM to carry out an assessment of 11 key junctions in and around Bury St Edmunds likely to be under pressure as a result of the development proposals as we understood them to be in September 2012 when the study was commissioned. The Aecom report is attached for information. Please note that this is a technical report produced by consultants and should not be taken as, or limiting, the county council's future response to your final draft documents that have not yet been seen by the county council,

Views expressed by AECOM in the report about the limitations of the modelling used and the desirability of a more comprehensive modelling approach should be noted. Such an approach does not, however, appear to be a practical possibility at this time given the likely cost. It is considered that the modelling approach used is adequate to give a broad indication of the likely scale of impact of the developments and to test potential mitigation measures.

This piece of work assesses the impact of the strategic development sites in Vision 2031, together with background traffic growth, on 11 key junctions in and around Bury St Edmunds. Its purpose is to consider whether it is likely that the transport impact of the proposed developments can be adequately mitigated by identifying indicative solutions to identified problems.

It must be emphasised that the improvements identified are potential mitigation for the development impacts to manage traffic and improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, supporting the County's strategy to improve sustainable access in the town and hence reduce traffic demand.

Detailed transport assessments for each site will need to be undertaken at a later date including the identification of measures to mitigate residual traffic impacts, which may well differ from the indicative schemes. The transport assessments may also need to include a greater number of junctions.

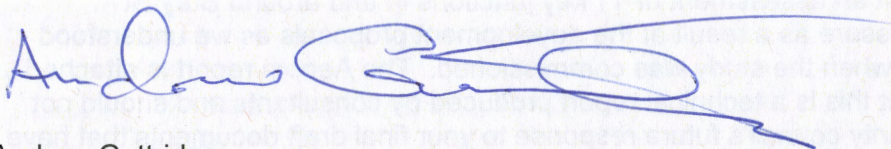
The county council's strategic approach to mitigate the impact of future development in urban areas is set out in the Suffolk Local transport Plan. A multi layered approach is being taken in which measures to reduce traffic demand over time will be combined with improvements to facilities for walking, cycling and public transport, and measures to improve traffic efficiency including town wide traffic management and control and junction improvements. We would also expect that car parking policies over time should encourage the use of more sustainable travel modes particularly for peak time journeys.

It is our view that some of the estimates provided in the attached report are low. The cost of any improvements will be determined by more detailed assessment and design. At this time the county council's estimate is that the cost to deliver the indicative improvements in the report, excluding A14 junction 45, would be in the order of £10million.

Due to current uncertainties over timing, the assessment did not include the relocation of the Hospital and it should be noted that the current location of the hospital impacts directly on the performance of three of the junctions assessed. The impact of the hospital will need to be considered in future detailed assessments if relocation is likely within your plan's delivery timescale.

In conclusion, based upon the current level of information available, it appears that deliverable and affordable solutions exist that can mitigate the impact of the key strategic development sites. However, it is not reasonable to assume that these improvements will result in nil detriment to the highway network within Bury St Edmunds.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Guttridge

Assistant Director (Highways & Transport)  
Economy Skills & Environment