



27 May 2020



Dear [REDACTED]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – CA84
RE: HUNTINGDON THIRD RIVER CROSSING**

I write with reference to your email to the Highways Team at Cambridgeshire County Council which was passed to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and received on 29 April 2020, reference CA84. Please find the response provided below.

Question

How can this enormous waste of public funds be acceptable on a project of unproven and questionable value where little attention has been given either to the case or the alternative options?

Answer

I wish to assure you that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is not committed to a particular solution. At the Transport and Infrastructure Committee on 09 January 2020 a decision was taken to incorporate the Huntingdon Third River Crossing into the A141 Huntingdon Capacity Study and St Ives Area Transport Study to consider the wider growth aspirations in the area. Included within this was the need for a high-level Environmental Desktop Study, with the intention of producing an Options Assessment Report for the wider area. It is essential that we consider all options when undertaking transport studies where central government funding would be required for final delivery, this is to demonstrate all possible solutions have been considered before a final investment decision.

The study work is ongoing, outcomes will be published in the coming months. The outcomes of the report will be presented at the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Transport and Infrastructure Committee, the date of this



presentation is yet to be finalised but the date will be published on the Combined Authority Forward Plan. There will be an opportunity for the public to attend and make representations which is welcomed. A decision will be made at this meeting on the next steps based on all the evidence.

Question

Why have the public had so little opportunity so far to comment or object to these proposals? This is undemocratic and unacceptable. This must be discussed out in the open now, and not when the bulldozers move in.

Answer

There have been opportunities where the public are able to and have made representation on matters related to the Third River Crossing at the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board Meetings and these are welcomed. To date there has been representation at the following Board meetings:

Date	Combined Authority Meeting	Representation
29 th January 2020	Board	Great Ouse Valley Trust
		Councillor Bridget Flanagan
		Paul Smith
		Councillor Dick Taplin
27 th March 2019	Board	Councillor Graham Wilson
		Councillor Mrs Flanagan
		John Thackray

Public questions including responses can be accessed via the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Website. Please click on the link: [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Board/Committee Meetings](#).

As stated above an Environmental Desktop Study is part of the wider study Option Assessment Report. The outcome and reporting of this study will inform in part the decision which solution for the wider area is to progress to the next stage of the Business Case process. Again, this will be presented at the Committee meetings where public representation can be made.

Question

How exactly does such a proposed development support the Government’s stated strategy for nature conservation and the environment proposed in the 25-year Environment Plan, or the proposals contained in the Government’s Environment Bill pledging to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2050?



Answer

We are aware of the Government strategy for nature conversation and this is consistent with the overall vision of the Local Transport Plan which seeks to protect and enhance the environment through sustainable growth.

As stated above, an Environmental Desktop Study has been included as part of the wider area Option Assessment Report.

Question

Finally, where are the Cambridgeshire County Council or the Huntingdonshire District Council policies that should be protecting our precious and diminishing landscape assets?

Cambridgeshire County Council's policies in relation to protecting the environment can be viewed on the following webpages.

1. Green Infrastructure Strategy

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/arts-green-spaces-activities/protecting-and-providing-green-space>

2. Draft Climate and Environment Strategy press release

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council-invites-the-community-to-have-its-say-on-draft-climate-and-environment-strategy>

3. Consultation page (closed), with links to draft strategy documents

<https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/climate-strategy>

I hope this information is helpful but if you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review, you should write to us via our contact us email address – contactus@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk or write a letter to Complaints, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Incubator 2, The Boulevard, Enterprise Campus, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon, PE28 4XA within 40 days of the date of this e-mail.



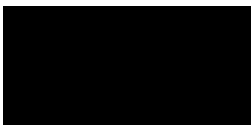
**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

JAMES PALMER
CAMBRIDGESHIRE &
PETERBOROUGH MAYOR

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, or via their website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Generally, the ICO will not undertake a review or make a decision on a request until the internal review process has been completed.

Yours sincerely



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CC – Graham Hughes – Cambridgeshire County Council



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