

**Felicia Blake**

---

**From:** Cooper, Eric  
**Sent:** 03 March 2020 07:47  
**To:** PlanningPolicy  
**Subject:** RE: Ipswich Local Plan Draft Final Public Consultation  
**Attachments:** Highways England Ipswich Local Plan Response.pdf

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Sirs

Unfortunately, the wrong attachment was sent with Highways England's response to the Local Plan consultation.

The correct version is now attached. I apologise for any inconvenience this causes.

Regards

Eric

**Eric Cooper, Spatial Planning Manager**  
Highways England | Woodlands | Manton Lane | Bedford | MK41 7LW

Web: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk)

---

**From:** Cooper, Eric  
**Sent:** 02 March 2020 23:45  
**To:** 'PlanningPolicy@ipswich.gov.uk' <PlanningPolicy@ipswich.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** ipswich Local Plan Draft Final Public Consultation

Dear Sirs

Please find attached Highways England's response to the above consultation

Regards

**Eric Cooper, Spatial Planning Manager**  
Highways England | Woodlands | Manton Lane | Bedford | MK41 7LW

Web: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk)

*This email may contain information which is confidential and is intended only for use of the recipient/s named above. If you are not an intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any copying, distribution, disclosure, reliance upon or other use of the contents of this email is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender and destroy it.*

**Highways England Company Limited | General enquiries: 0300 123 5000 | National Traffic Operations Centre, 3 Ridgeway, Quinton Business Park, Birmingham B32 1AF | <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england> | [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk)**

**Registered in England and Wales no 9346363 | Registered Office: Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4LZ**

**Consider the environment. Please don't print this e-mail unless you really need to.**



Planning Policy  
Planning and Development  
Ipswich Borough Council  
Grafton House  
15-17 Russell Road  
Ipswich Suffolk  
IP1 2DE

Eric Cooper  
Operations - East  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

2 March 2020

Dear Sirs

### **Consultation on Ipswich Local Plan Review Final Draft**

Thank you for inviting Highways England to comment on the Final Draft Review of the Ipswich Borough Council Local Plan.

Highways England is responsible for the operation, maintenance and improvement of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in England on behalf of the Secretary of the State. In the area within and surrounding Ipswich, this relates to the A14 and A12 trunk roads. Consequently, our comments on the draft Local Plan are limited to those aspects which relate to these roads.

In general, Highways England considers that Ipswich Borough Council's consideration of land use policy, the transport evidence to support it and the consequential understanding on the impact of the strategic road network is generally sound and consistent with government policy.

Through the process of the development of this local plan and those covered by adjacent planning authorities which fall within the Ipswich Strategic Planning Area (ISPA), Highways England has worked closely with Suffolk County Council on the development of the evidence base to support the plan. Specifically, this relates to the modelling work which is reported in some detail in the WSP Technical Note - RIS Scheme SRN Impacts dated July 2019.

Whilst the majority of the proposed development growth within Ipswich lies remotely from the SRN, the modelling work shows that accumulatively growth in the Ipswich Strategic Planning Area is predicted to collectively add to significant strain on the transport network in and around Ipswich. Additional highway capacity will not on its own address these issues and it is noted that the local authorities across the ISPA agree that robust steps must be taken to prioritise healthy and sustainable travel. Highways England supports this position.

The draft Local Plan identifies a package of transport mitigation measures to reduce vehicle movements and Suffolk County Council as the Highway Authority has developed

a strategy which contains a package of mitigation measures to deliver modal shift and mitigate impacts on the wider Ipswich highways network.

These include:

- Transport infrastructure to encourage and support sustainable modes of transport
- A Bus Quality Partnership
- A Smarter Choices programme
- Review of car parking and pricing strategies
- Review of park and ride strategy
- Junction improvements

Highways England supports this strategy.

### **Policy ISPA2 Strategic Infrastructure Priorities**

#### **Major Infrastructure**

Within the major infrastructure proposal list a number of A14 improvements required to support the proposed growth have been identified. This is consistent with the findings of the modelling and study work undertaken. The Plan notes that longer term funding would comprise a mixture of growth funds, developer funding together with monies identified from a future Roads Investment Strategy (RIS). RIS2 which covers the period 2020-2025 has not yet been published so it is not possible to confirm that this would be the case, or whether any funding would be available from a future RIS.

Consequently, Highways England consider without the robust measures identified by Suffolk County Council and referred to above, it is not certain that the delivery of the latter stages of the plan can be achieved. Consequently, it is vital that a robust manage and monitor approach is maintained through out the life of the plan.

#### **Ipswich Northern Route (Bypass)**

Whilst not part of this Plan, it proposes a longer term aspiration for an Ipswich Northern Bypass which would lie within the East Suffolk Council and Mid Suffolk District Council area. The scheme would improve connectivity between the A14 and A12, reduce pressure on the A14 and improve network resilience, especially to the sections of A14 in the vicinity of the Orwell Bridge and Junction 55 (Copdock). Highways England has no objection in principle however it is noted however that Suffolk County Council on 25 February 2020 at a cabinet meeting resolved not to take this scheme forward.

#### **Ipswich Port**

The Plan aspires for a longer proposal for an east bank link road and a new A14(T) junction could work which would provide increased accessibility and reduce congestion to this area of Ipswich. As stated Highways England are not in favour of the proposals as there is concern with resultant local 'junction hopping' along the A14 which would reduce highway capacity, and more significantly it is considered that there is insufficient geometric capacity to accommodate an additional junctions on this section of the A14.

### **Policy CS20: Key Transport Proposals**

The evidence base provides some indicative proposals for upgrading of a number of junctions along the A14 and potentially cost-effective measures for resolving identified link and junction capacity problems arising from growth. The menu of potential measures includes proposals to re-establishing the Bury Road Park and Ride and the provision of a new site in Nacton Road.

Highways England considers that subject to further work these are potentially feasible options and if the aspirations for modal shift amongst the new and existing communities set out in the Plan are achieved, then it is likely that they will reduce impacts on the network below what was originally modelled.

However, it is acknowledged that those measures will not address the underlining capacity issues of the A14 corridor and further measures may be required such as variable mandatory speed limits on the A14 offer a means of managing increasing demand on the links more safely, and substantial improvements at Junction 55 (Copdock)

Funding of such measures is clearly an issue and as noted above, at this stage there is no certainty of the availability of future Highways England capital funding programme funding given that RIS2 has yet to be published.

Highways England looks forward to ongoing engagement with the local plan authority and Suffolk County Council on developing the measures identified in the plan which will support enhanced capacity to the public and private transport network.

Yours faithfully

Eric Cooper  
Spatial Planning Manager

