

Chelmsford Local Plan Examination Hearing Sessions

Matter 8 – Infrastructure

Tuesday 11 December 2018

Statement by Highways England

At the infrastructure hearing session held on the afternoon of 11 December, the Inspector asked Highways England to provide an update on the Road Investment Strategy (RIS) scheme to A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme. This note provides a background to the scheme and the current position with regards its delivery

- 1 With the publication of RIS1 in 2015, government announced the intention to upgrade the A12 between Junction 19 (north of Chelmsford) and Junction 25 (A120 interchange) to three lanes. The purpose of the scheme is to address congestion and safety issues by provide additional capacity along the route, upgrading existing junctions, removing minor accesses and improving access for non-motorised users
- 2 Four options have been developed which were subject to non-statutory public consultation in 2017. The next stage is a Preferred Route Announcement followed by a Development Consent Order with Start of Works anticipated between 2020 and 2025. It is expected that construction will take up to five years. The current timescale is set out in *Highways England Delivery Plan Update 2018 to 2019* published in July 2018
- 3 Highways England is working closely with Essex County Council, Braintree District Council and Colchester Borough Council to understand the impact of the North Essex Garden Communities Plan on the scheme and in particular the proposed Garden Community at Marks Tey. This proposed development may affect the alignment of the A12 between junctions 24 and 25. The plan is currently subject to an examination in public which was paused this month following Planning Inspectors' request for further information and evidence to support the proposals set out in the Plan.
- 4 Until consideration of the Plan has been concluded, it is not possible to refine the programme for delivery of the A12 widening including any phasing.
- 5 The A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme includes an upgrade to the A12 J19, providing a new crossing across the A12 and upgraded slip roads linking the trunk road with the local road network. The design will take into account within its growth forecasts, the Chelmsford Local Plan growth assumptions for the plan period.

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