

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning
Service
South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne, CB23 6EA

www.greatercambridgeplanning.org



Mike Blissett
Consents Development Manager
Southern Capital Delivery – Development
Network Rail
1st Floor James Forbes House
27 Great Suffolk Street
Southwark
London
SE1 0NS

BY EMAIL ONLY

27 November 2020

Dear Mike,

**FORMAL RESPONSE TO SECOND ROUND OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION
CAMBRIDGE SOUTH STATION – NETWORK RAIL PROPOSALS**

This letter is written on behalf of Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils (hereafter ‘the Councils’) in response to the second round consultation on the proposed Cambridge South station, undertaken by Network Rail during October to November this year.

As you will know, officers on behalf of both Councils have been engaging with Network Rail and your project team in regular discussions about the proposal, and we would support continued engagement as the scheme develops and towards submission of the Transport and Works Act Order.

The Councils remain supportive in principle of a new station and the preferred location to the south of the Guided Busway Bridge. The new station provides an opportunity to deliver integrated public transport network serving the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and nearby residential areas, delivering benefits for local residents, employers and the wider area.

However, it is important that due consideration is given to the potential environmental impacts resulting from these proposals, given the sensitive location of the site within the Cambridge Green Belt, the country park and nearby wildlife areas.

In this respect, we would like to see you continue to work closely with our officers to assess these issues as the scheme progresses.

The station and associated works have the potential to impact on the openness and purposes of the Cambridge Green Belt, which is important for protecting the character of the city and surrounding areas. This needs to be rigorously assessed so that the findings can be used to develop the design of the station and the landscape proposals, so that the impact can be minimised and mitigated as much as possible. Our officers will work with you on this process.

The country park and other green spaces are important areas of our green infrastructure that have been secured through the southern fringe development, and the Councils expect to see these areas protected – if not enhanced – through these proposals. The proposals for soil placement, the impact on existing landscape features, and the routes through the park need to be carefully considered.

The accessibility of the station for all users – particularly those with reduced mobility and visitors to the hospital - must be integral to the design of the station and the connections with the wider area, including routes across Hobson's Park and with the Guided Busway, and Blue Badge parking. We would encourage you to engage with local disability groups and the Cambridge City Council's Disability Panel. We would also like to see cycling and walking access routes that provide segregated spaces for both cyclist and pedestrians in line with the highest current standards of design, especially in relation to width and junctions

The impact of the station on trip generation within the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and the wider area needs to be carefully considered in discussion with the County Highways Authority. The connectivity with the Guided Busway, the local pedestrian and cycle network, and the amount of car parking will be important so that the benefits of the station in terms of increasing the use of public transport, walking and cycling can be realised.

We hope that these comments are of assistance and we look forward to continuing to engage with you on this important project.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Nicky Massey
Executive Member for Transport
and Community Safety
Cambridge City Council

Councillor Aidan Van De Weyer
Lead Member for Strategic Planning
and Transport
South Cambridgeshire District Council