

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT TO:** New Communities Portfolio Holder 12 May 2009  
**AUTHOR/S:** Executive Director / Corporate Manager (Planning and Sustainable Communities)

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### **A14 ELLINGTON TO FEN DITTON IMPROVEMENT SCHEME PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER FOR A14 LOOP ROAD AT GIRTON INTERCHANGE**

#### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to agree the response to Costain Skanska Joint Venture's proposed draft traffic regulation order for the A14 loop road at the Girton interchange.

#### **Background**

2. As part of the A14 Ellington and Fen Ditton improvements the Girton interchange will be remodelled to reduce the conflicts resulting from crossing traffic movements that exist at present. As part of this remodelling the westbound loop road will be superseded by a new link road.
3. The Council is being consulted on a proposal to retain the loop road subject to a traffic regulation order restricting access to emergency and maintenance vehicles only.
4. The consultation letter was received in Planning Policy on 1 April and the deadline for making comments was 6 April 2009. Due to the very short timescale for making comments, interim holding officer comments have been sent to Costain Skanska Joint Venture and this report has been brought before the portfolio holder to seek endorsement of these comments.

#### **Issues for South Cambridgeshire**

5. Officers from within the Council have been consulted on the proposals and no concerns have been raised. As the loop road already exists there will be no greater impact on the surroundings than currently exists. The major difference is that traffic movements will be significantly reduced. However, had the loop road been removed there may have been the opportunity for additional landscaping in this area, therefore it is considered appropriate to seek landscape mitigation.

#### **Proposed Response to Costain Skanska Joint Venture**

6. As a result, it is suggested the Council make the following comments to Costain Skanska Joint Venture in response to the proposed draft Traffic Order on the A14 loop road at Girton interchange:
  - a. The Council has no objection in principle to the proposal to retain the A14 west bound loop Road at the Girton Interchange subject to a traffic regulation order restricting access to emergency and maintenance vehicles only.

- b. However, it is suggested that landscape mitigation is extended to the whole of the retained area, which is currently:
- A mixture of established scrub and low woodland planting to the central area - there should be management of existing woodland, including new planting / glades / establishment of turf margins to and widening of the existing road verges and planting.
  - New planting to the western mitigation area.
  - Established scrub and farmed land at the eastern mitigation area. The 'existing pond' to the east seems to have been filled with vegetation and including areas of scrub (probably shrub willow) - there should be management to re-establish the eastern pond or, if retaining willow, establish a new pond in mitigation area currently farmed.
- c. Planting to ensure strong links between mitigation areas should be a minimum of 20 metres deep.

### Implications

7.	Financial	None
	Legal	None
	Staffing	None
	Risk Management	None
	Equal Opportunities	None

### Consultations

8. Internal consultation with officers, including Environmental Health, New Communities, Development Control, Conservation.

### Effect on Strategic Aims

9.	<b>Commitment to being a listening council, providing first class services accessible to all.</b>
	N/A
	<b>Commitment to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all.</b>
	The requested additional landscaping should contribute to improving the quality environment for our community to live in within South Cambridgeshire.
	<b>Commitment to making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live.</b>
	The requested additional landscaping should contribute to improving the quality environment for our community to live in within South Cambridgeshire.
	<b>Commitment to assisting provision for local jobs for all.</b>
	N/A
	<b>Commitment to providing a voice for rural life.</b>
	N/A

## **Recommendations**

10. It is recommended that the New Communities Portfolio Holder agree the response to Costain Skanska Joint Venture as set out in paragraph 6.

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