

My ref: C2CLLF01052019
Your ref: C2CLLF01052019

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Growing and sharing prosperity

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Helen Bradbury (Chair)
Cambourne to Cambridge Better Public Transport Project
Local Liaison Forum

Dear Helen,

Re: Response to LLF letter – 7 March 2017

Firstly, may I offer my apologies for a lengthy delay in responding to your letter to the City Deal Executive Board, dated 7th March 2017, and thank you for bringing the oversight to my attention.

Outlined below is an explanation of assessment and subsequent discounting of an online route north of the American Cemetery, which I hope you will find helpful. In addition, as you are aware and at the request of the Local Liaison Forum (LLF), I asked our engineering consultants for the project, Mott McDonald, to review a northern route alignment. Their technical report will be published in the near future.

The issue of a northern alignment, considered as Option 4, was assessed in the Options Assessment Report 13.10.2016, which can be viewed on the Cambourne to Cambridge Background page of the Cambourne to Cambridge Project website - www.greatercambridge.org.uk/cambournetocambridge. Option 4 when assessed indicated clearly that in strategic and economic terms the route performs poorly.

Option 4 was relatively low cost, but this is a result of it only bypassing a short section of the A428/A1303 corridor and being primarily an on-road option. Specifically, it does not provide an alternative crossing of the M11 and depends on a new junction with the A1303 just to the west of the M11 which would be likely to become congested. As such, its economic performance is particularly poor.

The suggestion of a 'far higher social and community impact' does not accord with the higher noise impact of Option 4.

For these reasons, in the overall assessment in the OAR, Option 4 scores very poorly, as presented in the report and supplementary papers presented at the Executive Board meeting on 13 October 2016. As per the published appraisal it was the second lowest scoring option overall.

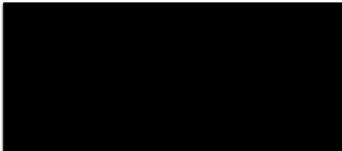
The decisions and minutes of this Board – and all others - are publically available at the South Cambridgeshire District Council website. Full notes of the 13 October meeting cover Board discussion of the significant constraints and challenges informing a decision not to progress Option 4 – see <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/> > The Council > Meetings and Councillor Information > Minutes and Agendas > [GCP Executive Board](#).

Indeed, Mott McDonald's consider that the environmental appraisal of Option 4, as conducted by Atkins, was generous and that scoring should probably be lower. Specifically, the Heritage and Landscape scores do not reflect the significance of the setting of the American Cemetery.

I hope this clearly outlines the position, however should you have further queries, the project team would be happy to discuss further.

Apologies once again for this late response.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Blake
GCP Transport Director