

## Lucy Staves

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**From:** Seldon, Martin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 10 June 2016 10:12  
**To:** Planning Policy  
**Subject:** Consultation on Northampton Borough's Local Plan (Part 2) Issues Documents and Statement of Community Involvement

FAO Claire Berry

Highways England welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Northampton Borough Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) which will cover the period 2011-2029 and once adopted will replace the Northampton Borough Local Plan (1997). It is noted that the Local Plan is being updated in order to effectively guide and respond to future development proposals across the borough and reflect more recent Government Policy. Part 2 of the Local Plan provides detailed planning policies and identifies areas for development as well as areas that should be protected from development. Highways England notes that this consultation provides an opportunity for comments to be provided on key issues to be addressed in the Local Plan (Part 2).

It is the role of Highways England to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the strategic road network whilst acting as a delivery partner to national economic growth. In relation to the Northampton Borough LPP2 area, Highways England's principal interest is safeguarding and improving the operation of the A45 and M1 which route through the Plan area, whilst working with stakeholders to support economic growth and sustainable development.

Highways England acknowledges that the plan will be in conformity with the strategic policies and proposals set out in the Local Plan Part 1 West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS). In this regard, the LPP2 must distribute the agreed housing provision identified in the WNJCS which stands at 18,870 new homes within the Borough by 2026 and Highways England notes that the LPP2 is not looking to review this figure, but instead to identify sites and detailed policies to deliver the new homes.

Highways England was closely engaged with the development of the WNJCS, including the strategic road network infrastructure required to support the various Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) located within the Borough. Highways England assumes that these SUEs will provide much of the land required for future development in the plan period but acknowledges that, due to the nature of the document, no specific sites are put forward for development at this stage.

Highways England notes that the consultation document states that 'identifying highway, cycling or footpath improvements to facilitate movements' within the borough is a key issue for infrastructure and it is acknowledged that some infrastructure improvements will likely be required. Highways England, in consultation with local partners has previously identified the Northampton Growth Management Scheme (NGMS) that will deliver improvements to the A45 junctions across Northampton Borough and will help to mitigate development trip impacts. Highways England will wish to engage with the authority to understand any further pressures that may arise on the strategic road network as a result of additional development sites being identified in the Borough.

Where sites are located in close proximity to the strategic road network and/or are large in scale, it will be important to ensure that vehicle trip impacts on the strategic road network are adequately

assessed through appropriate Transport Statement or a Transport Assessment. This will help to identify any further particular infrastructure issues associated with the new development sites.

Highways England has conducted a high level review of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) document which has also been submitted as part of this consultation. The variety of public engagement methods highlighted within the SCI are welcomed by Highways England as a means of ensuring the entire cross-section of the community are involved in the consultation process. Furthermore Highways England welcomes its inclusion as a statutory consultee within the SCI.

Highways England has no further comments to provide at this stage and trusts that the above is useful. Highways England would welcome future engagement with Northampton Borough as the LPP2 progresses.

Kind regards

**Martin Seldon, Asset Manager**

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