



Via email

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23rd October 2015

Dear Charlie

Re: Norwich Northern Distributor Road – Full Approval Funding

I am writing, as requested, to confirm the current status of the NDR project. You are aware that the NCC Full Council decision made on 2 September 2015 to provide additional funding to the project has received a legal challenge. We have taken advice from counsel and I can confirm we will be taking a further report to our Full Council on 6 November 2015. This will allow the County Council member's to take a fresh decision to approve the additional funding to resolve the shortfall, taking account of the very generous additional contributions from DfT and the New Anglia LEP, which are very much appreciated. It will also re-affirm the decision to award stage 2 of the contract.

I want to be very clear that the reason we are seeking an expeditious solution to the legal challenge, and therefore taking the unusual step of going back to our Full Council, is a consequence of the potential delays we would incur and the serious impact this would have on costs. We need to instruct works as a matter of urgency to allow for mobilisation and to enable the necessary site clearance. The programme is geared to have this completed by mid-February 2016 to avoid any problems/delays associated with the start of the bird nesting season and other environmental constraints. Any delay, even by a few weeks, means we will not meet these deadlines.

We are aiming to order works when Full Council confirm their approval of funding on 6 November. However, we have still not received confirmation of full approval from DfT. You will appreciate that this has significant implications on the costs of the project, the realisation of the benefits that it provides and the ability to deliver within the timescales set out in the National Infrastructure Plan.

It would be helpful to understand what might be causing delays in notification of the full approval or if DfT has any concerns that we can discuss. We are very happy to support DfT in any way possible to support a communications plan that suits a government timetable for publicity – but in the meantime would stress that 6 November is an important milestone date for us – and would respectfully request that we hear on or before that date.

I look forward to hearing from you with what I hope will be positive news. I am, as always, very happy to discuss the project and the programme at any time.

Yours sincerely

Highways & Major Projects Manager