



Department
for Transport

Rt Hon Greg Hands
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From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Andrew Jones MP

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Dear Greg,

I am writing to seek your agreement to grant Full Approval for the Norwich Northern Distributor Road scheme.

The scheme, to be part-funded by the Government, consists of 14km of new 2-lane dual carriageway running from the currently under construction A47 Postwick Junction round Norwich to the A140. Norfolk County Council (NCC), the scheme's promoter, is funding a further extension of the scheme from the A140 to the A1067.

The scheme is designed to improve the existing transport network so that the significant amount of planned housing and employment growth in the Norwich area can be achieved. NCC say the proposed scheme is a key piece of infrastructure necessary to facilitate delivery of the 10,000 houses and 12,000 jobs identified in the local Joint Core Strategy.

In addition, peak hour congestion on radial routes and the Norwich Outer Ring Road leads to congestion and rat-running on routes to the north of Norwich. NCC state that its ability to provide further sustainable transport measures in the City, as set out in the wider Norwich Area Transportation Strategy, is inhibited without the reduction in traffic the road would bring about.

It will also improve surface access to Norwich International Airport and connectivity with the Great Yarmouth Enterprise Zone, both of which play a nationally significant role in the offshore oil and gas industry.

Our assessment has concluded the scheme offers very high value for money, with an adjusted BCR of 6.07.

The full cost of the section of the scheme for which Government funding has been sought is £105.89m of which the Department has been asked to provide £77.49m. As total project spend is now greater than £100m it is outside this Department's delegation and your consent to that expenditure is requested. The scheme has full budget cover. My Department has already provided £19m to help fund the Postwick Junction element of the wider scheme which is currently under construction and scheduled to open in November.

Subject to your approval and Norfolk being able to sign the contracts as scheduled, work could start in October 2015 with completion scheduled for December 2017.

Given the many benefits of the scheme I would be grateful for your agreement to proceed to grant the scheme Full Approval.

Yours,

Andrew

ANDREW JONES