

From: [dft]
Sent: 07 September 2015 10:46
To: [HMT]
Cc: [HMT]; [dft]; [dft]
Subject: RE: Norwich Northern Distributor Road - Final Approval

Categories: Egress Switch: Unencrypted

Thanks. I am not sure what more I can say about the exceptional circumstances. We put the pros and cons to the Minister and emphasised that this would be a change to the long standing policy (although that had already been changed by the recent Croxley decision). As you have seen he decided to make that change as he felt not to do so would potentially delay the scheme which he did not want to do.

As to the extra funding Norfolk CC decided to make the request public before our Minister had made his decision. Even so, both they and we had to know whether we would provide the additional funding or not before they could send in their formal final business case as that had to clearly set out where the funding was to come from. The approval was conditional on the scheme being subsequently approved which includes your approval. I would be surprised if an additional £10m on the already agreed level of funding would make a fundamental change to any decision your Ministers would make especially as the vfm is still very high. We are of course only seeking HMT approval because the additional cost has moved the total scheme cost above the £100m delegation limit. Had it not increased we would not be seeking HMT approval.

Happy to discuss further.

xxxx xxxx | , Local Infrastructure Division, Department for Transport
2/15 GMH | 020 7944 xxxx |

From: [HMT]
Sent: 07 September 2015 10:29
To: [dft]
Cc: [HMT]; [dft]; [dft]
Subject: RE: Norwich Northern Distributor Road - Final Approval

Thanks that's helpful. When this comes up for HMT approval we'll want to point out to ministers the risk of precedent-setting so we'll need to have an understanding of why this is an exceptional case.

Additionally I'd note that stakeholders and the media already seem to be aware of the proposal to provide additional govt funding. It would have been better if we'd agreed a position on the extra funding before this had happened – this will make it somewhat harder for HMT ministers to make a decision not to increase the funding if that's what they are minded to do.

xxxx xxxx
Policy Adviser | Transport Strategy & Reform
HM Treasury | 1 Horse Guards Road | London SW1A 2HQ | 0207 270 xxxx
xxxx

From: [HMT]
Sent: 07 September 2015 09:52
To: [dft]
Cc: [HMT]; [dft]; [dft]
Subject: RE: Norwich Northern Distributor Road - Final Approval

Thanks for this.

If possible it would be really helpful if we could see the assessment and more detail of the reasoning put to your ministers for the additional funding – this will help us turn around the formal approval more quickly when it comes, especially since the local concerns mean we'll need to look at this carefully.

Do you know – are the groups raising concerns also against the project in principle? Or are the concerns they have mentioned their only problem with the decision?

Thanks,
xxxx

xxxx xxxx
Policy Adviser | Transport Strategy & Reform
HM Treasury | 1 Horse Guards Road | London SW1A 2HQ | 0207 270 xxxx
xxxx

From: [dft]
Sent: 04 September 2015 07:57
To: [HMT]
Cc: [HMT]; [dft]; [dft]
Subject: RE: Norwich Northern Distributor Road - Final Approval

Assessment has been done (vfm very high). Scheme will be considered for approval by the local investment board next Wednesday following which a submission will be sent to the Minister. Assuming he approves the scheme a letter should be with you probably in the week of 14th September. It would be good if a response could be received as soon as possible so that we can make the announcement and Norfolk can sign the contracts and get on with the scheme.

As to the e-mails we sought Ministers views on whether or not to provide additional funding. He agreed to provide an additional £10m on an exceptional basis even though this does set a precedent.

Let me know if you want any additional information.

xxxx xxxx | , Local Infrastructure Division, Department for Transport
2/15 GMH | 020 7944 xxxx |

From: [HMT]
Sent: 03 September 2015 17:39
To: [dft]
Cc: [HMT]; [dft]; [dft]; [dft]; [dft]
Subject: RE: Norwich Northern Distributor Road - Final Approval

Hi xxxx,

What's the latest on this approval – are we still expecting it to come to HMT?

We've had emails from the Campaign for Better Transport and from the leader of the opposition on Norwich Council, both expressing concerns about a decision to give more DfT funding to the project. I think you may have had the same emails. Do we have a view on whether their concerns are justified?

Thanks,

xxxx

xxxx xxxx

Policy Adviser | Transport Strategy & Reform

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