

**Essex County Council**  
Market Road  
County Hall  
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Date: 26 April 2021

### **A12 Widening Project and Engagement with Highways England**

Your Leader will have received a letter from Cllr Bentley on drawing our thoughts together about the current design options for the A12 widening project.

To help with your replies I would similarly like to know your thoughts from a Planning, Environment or Technical perspective based on your participation in the many workshops and the presentations and other documentation you may have received from the A12 team.

I would stress, as our Cabinet Member has, that the engagement to date, although extensive, is not formal consultation on the detail of the scheme. This comes later in June and ahead of this there is a last round of workshops starting in early May.

As a reminder perhaps of the many aspects that have received attention of late the following may be helpful to guide your reply.

- J19 Boreham: the integration of many schemes not least the HIF projects, the Local Pan developments and how we view the interface with the remainder of the A12 to the south
- Hatfield Peverel: the closure of junctions 20a and 20b and replacement of a new junction serving all local connections including Witham, Hatfield Peverel and Maldon
- Witham North: the revised junction with connections to Little Braxted Lane
- Rivenhall End: how de-trunked proposals fit in with local road connections
- Kelvedon/Feering: the removal of junctions to the north and south of the villages and these and Tiptree served with a new junction off the Inworth road. Also, the potential for a future junction to serve the RIS 3 scheme for the A120
- Marks Tey: a de-trunked current road, plus as with Boreham, a complex interchange with many local and current trunk roads including the A120

Aside from these highway specific considerations there are also more generic aspects to consider, some related to connectivity some to Planning and Environmental matters:

- Local Growth proposals
- PROW connections
- Sustainable transport
- Air Quality
- Environmental mitigation

As Cllr Bentley has mentioned that it would be good to contact Highways England ahead of the final set of workshops and the statutory consultation due in June this year because it allows Highways England to have early warning of our concerns and maybe if brought to the attention to senior officials may result in some changes to current proposals.

Although the widening has been long awaited and the scheme will deliver a new and safer road layout with more capacity there is a growing worry that there may be insufficient thought given to future proofing for local road improvements required to accommodate growth or interim mitigation needed.

I would be very grateful for your thoughts and things we need to emphasise ahead of the statutory consultations. Highways England are keen to learn of all our concerns and ideas rather than simply await these through formal consultation. It is in our own interests to voice these now and not save all of them to the DCO submission when things get trickier to resolve.

Best regards



**Andrew Cook | Director of Highways & Transportation**

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**Highways**

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c.c. Chris Stevenson, Head of Network Development