

Daws Hill Area Travel Link: key issues following site visit

This note sets out key issues from a site visit to Daws Lea, on 21st October 2013, to discuss the Daws Hill Area Travel Link¹.

The options presented in the decision report

The Southern Quadrant Transport Strategy (SQTS) established the need for the Daws Hill Area Travel Link as part of a broader approach to transport issues in the South of High Wycombe. In response to stakeholder feedback, the SQTS stated further work was required to identify the preferred option from two options identified in that strategy.

The Daws Hill Area Travel Link is intended to provide a link for buses, pedestrians and cyclists. Whilst the SQTS considered a number of options in reaching the position described above, walking and cycling only links (with no provision for buses) would not be sufficient to address the challenges faced in the area. The SQTS identified the Daws Hill Area Travel link as part of a package of measures; whilst it would not address the area's issue on its own, it is an important part of the strategy. Therefore, not pursuing such a scheme is not one of the options set out by the SQTS.

As such, the two options considered by the decision report are those presented by the SQTS. Namely a bus, pedestrian and cycle link running either via Daws Lea or alongside the M40.

Information published to support the decision

A range of technical work was undertaken to assess and compare the two options described above. This included an Environmental Scoping study.

All of this work (apart from Appendix H, a confidential valuer's report) is available to the public, alongside the decision report, on Buckinghamshire County Council's website (<http://democracy.bucksc.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=3226>). A link to this webpage was circulated by email to relevant councillors by Legal and Democratic Services on 12th September 2013; this included Councillor Lesley Clarke. The decision report (Section 8.1) describes previous engagement with the local member.

Any preferred option selected through this process would be subject to the usual planning processes. Local residents would be afforded the standard opportunities to comment during consultation undertaken at this stage. Section G of the decision report summarises previous engagement with local stakeholders, including the Daws Hill Neighbourhood Forum.



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Assessments of the Daws Hill Area Travel Link by Peter Brett Associates

Peter Brett Associates have been engaged by the developer of the RAF Daws Hill site to develop a Transport Assessment for their proposals for the site. It was suggested during the site visit that a report they produced asserted a Daws Hill Area Travel Link would not offer good value for money. The most recent draft of their Transport Assessment is available from Wycombe District Council's website (<http://publicaccess.wycombe.gov.uk/idxpa-web/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=MKZS8TSC0AW00>). Section 6.2 refers to SQTS and the Daws Hill Area Travel Link, it acknowledges that a contribution will be made to the scheme and makes no comment on its value for money.

Whilst previous drafts may have commented on this, it is important that we consider the position set out in the most recent assessment. Furthermore, a developer's transport assessment will be optimised to meet the developer's needs (for example, minimising costs) and will not necessarily reflect the full breadth of interests of a local authority.

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ⁱ Attendees: Cllr Janet Blake, Cllr Lesley Clarke, Political Advisor to Steve Baker MP, John Rippon and Ryan Bunce.