

Strategic Transport Forum

14th October 2016

Agenda Item 5: A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet

It is recommended that the Strategic Transport Forum:

- a) Support the need for investment to address the issues associated with the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet.
- b) Support the need for the investment made to be to a standard consistent with the longer-term ambition to realise an Expressway standard route between Oxford and Cambridge

1. Context

- 1.1. In December 2014 the publication of the first Road Investment Strategy included provision to develop, and begin delivering, a solution to the challenges that exist on the A428 between Black Cat and Caxton Gibbet.
- 1.2. The Forum will be briefed on the work that Highways England has subsequently undertaken in response to seeking a solution to the capacity, safety, maintenance and collision issues that are identifiable on this section of the A428.

2. Issue for Consideration

- 2.1. The Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet section of the A428 is one of the least reliable sections of the Strategic Road Network in the whole of the country. It forms part of the east-west corridor that in itself forms part of the wider Expressway study being undertaken by Highways England. The longer-term issue of east-west connectivity is also the subject of work being undertaken by the National Infrastructure Commission.
- 2.2. Notwithstanding the on-going work looking at connectivity across the Heartland, the need to address the issues on this section of the A428 is undeniable.
- 2.3. Addressing the issue of east-west connectivity is identified as a key strategic issue in the Strategic Alliance's Planning for Growth: Position Statement. Addressing the issues on this section at the earliest opportunity is therefore seen as a priority for investment. Moreover given the pressure on the corridor it is arguable that any investment made should be consistent with the longer-term ambition to secure an Expressway standard route between Oxford and Cambridge.

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