

## **BILATERAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL (SBC) AND  
HIGHWAYS ENGLAND (HE)**

**STEVENAGE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN, SUBMISSION VERSION,  
JANUARY 2017**

Highways England are working with Stevenage Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council to ensure that the highway network serving Stevenage is satisfactory to cope with the growth proposed in the Stevenage Borough Local Plan which accords with the Government's expectations as set out in the NPPF.

### **Meetings**

SBC and HE have held a number of Duty to Co-operate meetings over the last five years. Details of these meetings are set out in our 'Duty to Co-operate Statement' July 2016. Since this time, a technical meeting to review transport modelling took place on 25 October 2016 between HE, SBC and Hertfordshire County Council (HCC). In addition, a transport planning meeting took place on 9 November 2016 between HE, SBC, HCC and North Hertfordshire District Council.

### **Hertfordshire Transport Model Review**

Highways England are currently undertaking a peer review of Hertfordshire Council Council's transport models, these being the Stevenage Paramics Model, the WHaSH model and COMET model. The peer review of the Paramics Model has been concluded and it has found that the model's geographic scope is sufficient to inform the assessment of the local road network. For the strategic network it does not take in enough of the network for Highways England to draw conclusions. The peer review of the WHaSH and COMET models is ongoing with the results scheduled for the end of January 2017. It is intended that the outcomes of the reviews will provide the HE with confidence that the transport models used in relation to the Stevenage Local Plan are robust in their assessment of the Strategic Road Network (SRN).

### **A 1 (M) SMART Motorway**

A Smart Motorway scheme for the A 1 (M) between Junctions 6 and 8 was announced as part of the Road Investment Strategy 2015 to 2020. The scheme will enable three lane running of what is currently dual carriageway, and in doing so will increase capacity on the SRN around Stevenage post 2021.

The initial design work for the A 1 (M) SMART motorway junctions 6 to junction 8 is currently underway and is due to be completed in March 2017. The detailed design work will then follow. Construction is estimated to take 12 to 30 months, commencing in 2019 to 2021.



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Eric Cooper

Asset Development Team Leader

Signed on behalf of

**Highways England**



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Cllr John Gardner

Deputy Leader of the Council

Signed on behalf of

**Stevenage Borough Council**