



COUNCIL MEETING – 25 September 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 6

From: Councillor Cunningham

To: The Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Murphy)

“Given Winchester’s vital position between Southampton/London and the Midlands, will the administration be wholeheartedly supporting plans to reduce queuing at the M3 J9 and hence reduce the harm to Winchester residents from dangerous Nitrogen Oxide and Carbon Emissions due to queues on adjoining roads?”

Reply

“I assume you are making reference to the works being planned by Highways England relating to Junction 9 of the M3 and A34.

This matter was the subject of a Cabinet paper on 28th August which sets out our position regarding this scheme.

Clearly we all want to see harmful emissions from vehicular traffic reduced for the benefit of the health and wellbeing of Winchester’s residents and to tackle climate change in line with our recent Climate Change Emergency declaration.

Highways England needs to provide a comprehensive evidence base for their proposed scheme which will enable the Council and others to make informed responses regarding the overall environmental impacts of the project, including in relation to vehicle emissions, as they move towards the formal submission of a development consent order.

At present I am concerned that some pertinent information is not available and the scheme has focused very much on traffic management outcomes with greater effort needed to identify tangible positive benefits for both the environment and wider population which will align with Council’s and UK government’s climate emergency declarations.

We therefore look forward to working with Highways England and other local agencies over the coming months with the aim of continuing to highlight issues requiring further attention prior to the application for a development consent order being made which will then provide further opportunity for the Council to respond to the proposed scheme.”