



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 25 September 2019

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 7

From: Councillor Pearson

To: The Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Murphy)

“The A34/M3 junction 9 is an important hub in the Nation’s Transport Network. What steps are the Council making to ensure that improvements (Ref Highways England’s Plans) are made to this junction to not only reduce congestion, but also discourage traffic coming through the Winchester Urban area and therefore reduce air quality in our City?”

It is to be noted that traffic avoiding this junction is to be funnelled through the developing King’s Barton after Andover Road is blocked. What plans are visualised to stop this happening?”

Reply

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

The project needs to be supported by comprehensive evidence base which will enable the Council and others to make informed responses regarding the overall environmental impacts of the project taking into consideration both the Council’s and UK Government’s Climate Emergency declarations. The information available currently is not complete and we have identified areas which need to be addressed such as the level of detail regarding vehicle emissions, which affect air quality and climate change, including not just the area of the proposed highway works themselves but Easton Road and the wider city too.

The remodeled junction is intended to reduce the need and propensity of traffic to travel through the centre of Winchester and any reduction in the number of vehicles within the central area should help improve air quality inside the air quality management area of the city.

Reducing city centre traffic volumes is an important element of course of the City of Winchester Movement Strategy as it will allow for improvements to the one-way system to be progressed and associated enhancement of public realm and cycling/ walking improvements all of which again should contribute towards better air quality.

The highway works are designed to reduce delays at the A34/M3 junction and hence reduce the amount of vehicles seeking to reroute through the City along Andover Road. The Movement Strategy, along with measures to be implemented as part of the Kings Barton Development, will seek to reinforce this.”