

APPENDIX 10: COPY EMAIL LOCAL AUTHORITIES EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

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EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY EMAIL

From:

To:

Subject: M4 Smart motorway J3 to 12 Public Consultation: Equalities and Diversity

Dear

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me in relation to the proposed 'Smart motorway' scheme that is planned between Junctions 3 and 12 of the M4 and on the subject of equalities and diversity in relation to the scheme's consultation activity.

The scheme has been identified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and therefore the Highways Agency is required to submit an application to the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to enable the scheme to be implemented. The timetable for the project anticipates the submission of a DCO application to be made to PINS in March 2015. As mentioned, Hyder Consulting has been appointed by the Highways Agency, as part of an 'Alliance' of consultants to assist in taking the scheme proposals through the consenting process.

As one of 11 local authorities through which the proposed development will take place, particular responsibility is placed on each of the affected authority's in relation to public consultation, as a key element of the DCO process. This includes, as the next stage of statutory consultation, the preparation by the Highways Agency of a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) setting-out proposals for consultation with the local community. As part of this process, it is necessary to consult with each of the affected authorities on the draft SOCC, prior to undertaking formal consultation on the scheme. The timetable envisages consultation with authorities on the draft SOCC commencing next month, over the prescribed period of 28 days.

An important part of the Highway Agency's consultation programme is the need to fully consider the needs of equalities groups within each Authority area, whilst at the same time complying with the Authority's equality duties.

In order to deliver this, we have sought to liaise with the relevant officer from each affected authority, with the aim of seeking advice and guidance on our engagement with equality groups throughout the consultation process. There are a number of areas we would therefore welcome your assistance and support with, including, for example:

- . Details of hard to reach groups in each locality affected by the scheme.
- . Existing LA communications channels / platforms / forums that are used to engage with these groups.
- . The ability of the Highways Agency to use these channels as part of its DCO engagement.

Having had the opportunity to consider the above, I would welcome the opportunity of discussing these matters further with you. If you were agreeable, I would be happy to cover this initially by phone at a date and time at your convenience.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

David.

David Jones

Associate Planner – Environmental Services, Planning & Design

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Document 5.2, Appendix 10: Copy email local authorities equalities and diversity
Local authorities which were sent the equalities and diversity email

Name	Council
Samantha Wood	Bracknell Forest Council
Vicky Trott	London Borough of Hillingdon
Elaine Walker	West Berkshire County Council
Celia Golden	London Borough of Hounslow
Andrew Scott	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Martin Holt	South Bucks District Council
Angela Sarchet	Buckinghamshire County Council
Theresa Carter	Slough Borough Council
Clare Muir	Reading Borough Council
Terry Day	Greater London Authority
Sarah Hollamby	Wokingham Borough Council