

**From:** Blake, Patrick  
**Sent:** 28 July 2017 15:29

**Subject:** Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities - Joint Minerals and Waste Plan: Regulation 18 Issues and Options Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for inviting Highways England to comment on the Regulation 18 Issues and Options Consultation for the Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities – Joint Minerals and Waste Plan.

Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the strategic road network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such Highways England works to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

We look forward to being involved in the sites assessment process to understand if there are any impacts to the safe and efficient operation of the SRN from sites.

We would be concerned if any material increase in traffic were to occur on the SRN as a result of planned growth without careful consideration of mitigation measures. It is important that the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan provides the planning policy framework to ensure development cannot progress without the appropriate infrastructure in place. When considering proposals for growth, any impacts on the SRN will need to be identified and mitigated as far as reasonably possible. We in general, will support proposals that consider sustainable measures which manage down demand and reduces the need to travel. Infrastructure improvements on the SRN should only be considered as a last resort.

The transportation of waste and minerals has the potential to generate a significant number of heavy goods vehicle (HGV) trips, a large proportion of which are likely use the SRN. Although individual sites might not have a significant impact, cumulatively, developments could still have the potential to impact the SRN, particularly to road safety. In general we would be concerned with an increase in slow moving HGVs accessing the SRN and the resulting potential impact to the safe and efficient SRN.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours faithfully

**Patrick Blake, Area 3 Spatial Planning Manager**  
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