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Southampton to London Pipeline Project
1180 Eskdale Road,
Winnersh,
Wokingham,
RG41 5TU

BY EMAIL

10th April 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Surrey Heath Borough Council's response to the Southampton to London (SLP) project's replacement pipeline corridor consultation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the route options included in the Southampton to London Pipeline (SLP) project's replacement pipeline corridor consultation. This letter is the Council's formal response.

Corridor J

The Council notes that Corridor J is the preferred route for the northern section of the final pipeline route. The Council objects to sub option two of Corridor J, which passes through Frimley, for the following reasons.

The route is likely to lead to significant disruption in the vicinity of Frimley Park Hospital, Frimley District Centre and surrounding highways infrastructure, including the Frimley Park Hospital and Toshiba roundabouts. These areas are already prone to significant congestion, particularly during rush hour and hospital visiting hours. Therefore, installing the replacement pipeline in this location could have significant implications. Indeed, the Council notes that in 2010, visiting times at Frimley Park Hospital were permanently altered due to afternoon traffic congestion. The Council would resist any proposal which would exacerbate the current situation or inhibit the capacity of emergency vehicles to access the hospital.

The Council would also express concerns that, between the Frimley Park Hospital roundabout and the intersection of Chobham Road and Tomlinscote Way, the proposed route travels along Chobham Road (B311) for almost 1km. Either side of this section of the road is populated with residential properties and therefore routing the pipeline along or underneath the B311 is considered the only viable option without routing the pipeline through multiple residential gardens or under properties. Indeed, in chapter 11 of the consultation brochure, it is stated that 'we will not install any pipeline under existing homes'. This could cause significant disruption to

residents by impacting the local road network in this area, especially for small residential roads that can only be accessed by the B311.

Moreover, the Council would also express concern that, unless the replacement pipeline is routed directly under the A325 near the Grove, the pipeline would pass through an area of High Archaeological Potential. The Council also raises concerns regarding the small sub corridor that passes west of Frimley Green's Local Centre, which would route the pipeline through residential areas in Frimley Green. Without routing the pipeline along small local roads, the pipeline would have to be routed through an extensive number of residential gardens, which would not be welcomed by the Council.

The Council notes that the potential for short term disruption is raised in the consultation brochure, and that such disruption could be reduced through careful design and engineering techniques. However, due to the points raised above the short term installation of the pipeline in this area could still generate significant disruption for the Frimley area, especially given that installation in any given location will typically take around one to two months.

The Council does not object to the corridor that follows a similar route to the location of the existing pipeline, and considers that if the pipeline is to be routed through the Borough, that this would be the most appropriate location.

The Council welcomes the recognition that adverse impacts on sensitive ecological sites will be minimised through careful route design and appropriate installation techniques. Moreover, the Council recognises that Corridor J is likely to have the shortest installation time. However, the Council notes that any works that take place will have to have regard to Special Areas of Conservation and the Thames Basin Heath SPA if within or adjacent to such designations to ensure that harm to these habitats is avoided during construction.

Other corridors included in the consultation

The Council has no specific concerns for other corridor options included in the replacement pipeline corridor consultation.

General comments

The Council welcomes the six guiding principles used to refine corridor options, but would welcome more detail on how these principles were used in determining potential corridors. For example, it would be beneficial to provide information on how each principle was measured and what weightings were applied to each principle to determine if it 'performed' well against the guiding principles.

We look forward to hearing from you and welcome opportunities to continue to engage as the project progresses.

Yours faithfully,

Jane Ireland
Planning Policy Manager
Surrey Heath Borough Council