



27 October 2019

Ms Annette Feeney,
c/o Thanet District Council,
PO Box 9,
Cecil Street,
Margate, Kent, CT9 1XZ

Dear Madam,

Note for Inspectors - The delivery of the Inner Circuit and the use of interim highways measures

Creation of the 'Inner Circuit' is considered critical to the delivery and success of the Local Plan, particularly the proposed major developments at Birchington and Westgate.

At the hearings the Inspector requested that the Council '*prepare a note to identify alternative highways measures that might be employed at the limited number of "pinch-points" along the route identified under Policy SP47*'. Note CD 9.33 fails to satisfy the Inspector's request.

What is offered is an '*expectation*' and a meaningless '*commitment*' by both councils that a strategic solution will come about somehow at some undefined point in the future.

The report acknowledges that the proposed, unspecified '*interim measures*', which have no start or end date and no funding, are still at a conceptual stage with '*potential measures*' mentioned and key landowners yet to be consulted. All reference to interim measures is qualified by terms such as '*could*' or '*may*'.

Reference to '*measures that KCC have successfully employed elsewhere*' are not illustrated by example and are almost certainly not on the scale that would be required in Thanet. Reference to traffic measures at Westwood being a success does not instil confidence.

Even if it were possible to put '*interim measures*' in place the report states that they would not prevent '*additional traffic pressure within certain localities*'. This comes together with a suggestion that any such pressure may '*result in acceptance*' – the people of Thanet are fed up with inadequate and poorly maintained roads, any more '*pressure*' is not acceptable.

Manston Court Road and Shottendane Road are already heavily used and at times dangerous due to the condition of the road surfaces and the speed and volume of traffic. The proposed interim highway measures shown in the table are alarming and will add to not resolve even the existing problems.

The paper is superficial, it does not provide any certainty or guarantee that any '*interim*' or strategic road improvements will be delivered before housing development commences or indeed in the foreseeable future; particularly as any such improvements are dependent on decisions made by third parties outside of the control of either council.

Therefore, I believe the Council's proposed amendment set out in the closing paragraph in the note is inadequate and does not meet the Inspectors requirement.

Yours faithfully



Nick Blankley