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Mr Matt Stafford  
Project Director – Ox-Cam Expressway  
National Infrastructure Programme  
Highways England  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford  
MK41 7LW

16<sup>th</sup> January 2018

*Matt,*

Dear Mr Stafford

I am writing in my capacity as Chairman of the Oxfordshire Growth Board, which is a joint committee of the six councils of Oxfordshire, meeting together with the Oxfordshire LEP, the universities, the HCA and the Environment Agency. The Board is charged with overseeing and facilitating economic growth in the county and, with the LEP, for managing funds allocated for housing and infrastructure.

The Board meets in public which provides an opportunity for residents and organisations to examine and comment upon the work of the Board. This helps to address the widely expressed concerns about the lack of public accountability of the Local Enterprise Partnerships.

At our last meeting the Board received representations from interested local residents and lobby groups who are concerned about the consultation process that will complement the work that Highways England (HE) will be undertaking to determine the route for the proposed Oxford- Cambridge Expressway.

Your recent correspondence with colleagues at Oxfordshire County Council indicates that the consultation process that is envisaged will focus upon the choice of the route within the corridor that has previously been selected. A similar consultation process is not envisaged for the choice of the preferred corridor route.

You will realise how important that first element of the selection process is for local residents and their elected representatives, and the Growth Board urges you very strongly to engage in a full public consultation on that first element. This will ensure that the residents of the various parts of the county who may be affected by the choice of the corridor can be informed on the thinking and considerations of HE and can have an opportunity to respond to and influence this thinking.

Thank you for agreeing to attend the Growth Board meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> March to give a presentation on the work undertaken by Highways England. This is very welcome. It would be very much appreciated if, in the meantime, we could agree a consultation process that will engage with our communities on all stages of the development of the proposed Expressway.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Price'.

Cllr Bob Price  
Leader of Oxford City Council