

A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme

**Statement of in Principle Support for the Scheme from
South Somerset District Council and Somerset County
Council**

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of In Principle Support for the scheme has been produced in advance of a Statement of Common Ground ("SoCG") in respect of the proposed A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme ("the Application") made by Highways England Company Limited ("Highways England") to the Secretary of State for Transport ("Secretary of State") for a Development Consent Order under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.1.2 This statement has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority that both South Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council support the principle of the scheme and have an agreement with Highways England to work towards producing a SoCG and in any event by the deadline that will be set by the Examining Authority.

1.2 Parties to this Statement of In Principle Support for the Scheme

- 1.2.1 This statement has been prepared by (1) Highways England as the Applicant and (2) South Somerset District Council and (3) Somerset County Council.
- 1.2.2 Highways England became the Government-owned Strategic Highways Company on 1 April 2015. It is the highway authority in England for the strategic road network and has the necessary powers and duties to operate, manage, maintain and enhance the network. Regulatory powers remain with the Secretary of State. The legislation establishing Highways England made provision for all legal rights and obligations of the Highways Agency, including in respect of the Application, to be conferred upon or assumed by Highways England.
- 1.2.3 South Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council are the host authorities with responsibility for planning and highways.
- 1.2.4 This statement has been produced in advance of the SoCG to demonstrate that all parties are working together but recognise that there is a need for South Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council to consider the material contained within the Development Consent Order application before they can commit to a SoCG to identify matters agreed, not agreed and matters under discussion.

2 STATEMENT OF IN PRINCIPLE SUPPORT

- 2.1 The Councils strongly support the need for the single carriageway section of the A303 between Sparkford and Ilchester to be upgraded to dual carriageway as part of an end-end whole route improvement of the A303/A358 between the M3 and the M5 at Taunton. If designed appropriately, the upgrading will improve connectivity and access to the South West Region, improve the resilience of the strategic road network and help to promote economic growth in the region.
- 2.2 This statement has been produced in advance of the SoCG to demonstrate that all parties are working together towards achieving a SoCG. Both South Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council are unable to enter into a SoCG until they have had sufficient time to consider the material contained within the DCO application.
- 2.3 All parties agree to work towards agreeing a SoCG which will need to be provided by the deadline that will be set by the Examining Authority.
- 2.4 All parties agree that until South Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council are able to consider the material contained within the DCO application, they are not in a position to identify specific “Matters Agreed”, “Matters Not Agreed” and “Matters Under Discussion” at this stage.

**3 AGREEMENT OF STATEMENT OF IN PRINCIPLE SUPPORT FOR THE
A303 SPARKFORD TO ILCHESTER DUALLING SCHEME**

Signed on behalf of Highways England

Name	
Role	
Date	
Signature	

Signed on behalf of South Somerset District Council

Name	
Role	
Date	
Signature	

Signed on behalf of Somerset County Council

Name	
Role	
Date	
Signature	