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21 December 2020

Via Email: [planningpolicy@melton.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@melton.gov.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Consultation on the Stathern Neighbourhood Plan – Submission Version**

Highways England welcomes the opportunity to comment on the submission version of the Stathern Neighbourhood Plan, which covers the period of 2020 to 2036. The document provides a vision for the future of the area and sets out a number of key objectives and planning policies which will be used to help determine planning applications.

Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a 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). It is our role to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the SRN whilst acting as a delivery partner to national economic growth. In relation to the Stathern Neighbourhood Plan, Highways England's principal interest is in safeguarding the A52, A46 and A1 Trunk Roads which route approximately 7km to the north, 11km to the west and 13km to the east of the Plan area respectively.

Highways England previously reviewed the pre-submission version of the Stathern Neighbourhood Plan and provided comments in a response letter dated 10 September 2020. This confirmed that the growth proposed across the Neighbourhood Plan area for the plan period was not expected to have any impacts on the operation of the SRN.

Having reviewed the submission version of the plan, we note that no changes are made to the proposed levels of growth. In line with the Melton Local Plan, the Stathern Neighbourhood Plan identifies that 71 dwellings are required over the plan period, among which 20 dwellings have already been built or gained planning permission since 2011. It is noted that two housing sites for 65 dwellings and 10 dwellings have been identified for allocation in the Melton Local Plan, together with an additional reserve site of 45

residential units. As the allocations within the Local Plan exceed the minimum requirement for Stathern, the Neighbourhood Plan makes no specific residential allocation, although windfall sites for small residential development will be supported under Policy H2.

No land has been allocated for employment, however, Policy BE1 sets out a presumption against the loss of commercial premises or land that provides employment opportunities. Policy BE2 supports small-scale new business and employment sites that do not negatively impact the parish.

In light of the above, we confirm that our previous position remains unchanged, i.e. considering the limited level of growth proposed across the Neighbourhood Plan area, we do not expect that there will be any significant impacts on the operation of the SRN in the area.

We have no further comments to provide and trust the above is useful in the progression of the Stathern Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours sincerely,

*S Freek*

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