

CABINET

5 MARCH 2025

RESPONSE TO URGENT MEMBER'S QUESTION

Councillor David Vasmer

Will Cllrs Lezley Picton and Dan Morris review the option to cancel the North West Relief Road and enter into talks with the Government since it was announced yesterday that the Government will not ask for the return of £33m funding it granted towards a cancelled plan by Norfolk County Council to build a similar road around Norwich comparable in many ways to the North West Relief Road.

It is understood that the Norfolk example cited was working around some environmental constraints that do not apply to the North West Relief Road, so the comparison is not an accurate one.

It must also be stressed that, the North West Relief Road has been assessed at Outline Business Case stage, and latterly as a draft Full Business Case. In both assessments, the Benefit Cost Ratio for the construction of the road, and its associated wider impacts (air quality improvements, reduced congestion, increased uptake of walking and cycling in the town etc) cannot be delivered by any other type of scheme.

It should also be noted that the Large Local Majors funding stream the Council is accessing through DfT for the NWRR is focussed solely on the delivery of key highways infrastructure, and as such is not available for any alternative proposals.