

Revised Recommendations to Report NPA 20/17 tabled at the meeting

Recommendation: The Authority is recommended to:

- 1. Note that proposals for mitigation measures to address the likely significant adverse impacts on the natural beauty and recreational opportunities provided by the National Park, its Purposes and special qualities, and proposals for compensatory woodland planting for the loss of ancient woodland which is irreplaceable and therefore cannot be mitigated, have not formed part of the Highways England consultation at this stage.**
- 2. Note that the Highways England consultation mentions alternative routes, which avoid the National Park and Ancient Woodland completely, but excludes these from the consultation on the grounds of cost and value for money.**
- 3. Note that, in the absence of clear mitigation and compensatory measures as part of the routes proposed, and the exclusion of alternative routes as mentioned above, the Authority's opinion is that an Inspector could not be satisfied that the Major Development test (Paragraph 5.151 of the National Policy Statement on National Networks, which mirrors Paragraph 116 of the National Planning Policy Framework) could be assessed.**
- 4. Agree that the Authority consider that all three route options, as currently presented by Highways England, would represent major development, would have significant adverse impacts on the natural beauty and recreational opportunities provided by the National Park, its Purposes and special qualities, and therefore object to all three options.**
- 5. Delegate to the Director of Countryside Policy and Management in consultation with the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee and the Authority Chair, to finalise and submit the response and any supporting documents to the Highways England consultation.**
- 6. Agree that Members and appropriate officers continue to be engaged with the specific consultation and technical groups that Highways England have set up, to ensure National Park purposes are fully represented, including appropriate mitigation and compensatory measures.**