



Information Governance

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Council House
Earl Street
Coventry
CV1 5RR

Please contact Information Governance
Direct line 024 7683 3323
infogov@coventry.gov.uk

4 May 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) Request ID: REQ01205

I refer to your email received on the 6 April 2016 requesting information regarding a potential new road link. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

You have requested the following information:

Provision of all information held relating to a potential for a new road linking the A46 Stoneleigh junction with Kirby Corner and subsequently to the A452 or A45. This included a request of any reports, plans, cost-benefit analysis and possible route option information and documentation within which the claimed merits of such a road have been “identified”, and any evidence claimed to substantiate such merits.

In your email you refer to publically available information within the modified Warwick District Local Plan and a recent article on the website of the Leamington Courier referring to such a proposed road link.

In response to your request, I can advise you that the Council does hold some information in relation to such a potential link road, including high level technical feasibility reports and related documents, meeting notes and plans showing possible route options for further consideration.

The Council is withholding the requested information at this time as it falls under the following exceptions to the duty to disclose environmental information:

- Regulation 12 (4)(d) - the request relates to material which is still in the course of completion, unfinished documents and incomplete data.
- Regulation 12 (4)(e) – the request involves the disclosure of internal communications.
- Regulation 12 (5)(e) – the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest.

In applying this exception we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. We have taken into account factors such as the impact of releasing such data on the Council’s ability to maintain a “safe space” in which to carry out the drafting process, which would otherwise be harmful to affective policy making.

The subject referred to is in a very early stage of development, and therefore has not benefitted from a level of scheme development and appraisal which the City Council would reasonably be required, and duly expected to undertake before publication or disclosure. In our view, releasing incomplete information at this stage would be harmful to the public interest, such as the potential for unnecessary public anxiety being created by releasing information about options for a potential A46 Link Road that are not under serious consideration and the possibility for negatively affecting the ability to have a balanced and open debate on any such scheme as part of the formal decision making process.

It is currently anticipated that more information on these proposals will be made available by December 2016. In any event, should these proposals continue to be developed to a more defined level of detail, they will, as with any major transport scheme, be subject to an appropriate level of public consultation and scrutiny in accordance with the relevant approval process.

If you are unhappy with the outcome or handling of your request you should write to us within 40 working days of the date of this letter to:

Information Governance
Council House, Room 64
Second Floor
Earl Street, Coventry.
CV1 5RR
infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you have done this and are still dissatisfied, the Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Should you wish to make any further requests for information, you may find what you are looking for is already published on the [Council's web site](#) and in particular its FOI/EIR [Disclosure log](#), [Council's Publication Scheme](#), [Open Data](#) and [Facts about Coventry](#).

Yours faithfully

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