Written Statement in response to the following:

M9. Transport and other infrastructure

Q9.1. Is the Council’s proposed modification to policy IN1 part C(v) to delete reference to a northern link road necessary to make the Plan sound and, if so, would it be effective in so doing? Do the references in paragraph 10.5.9 to a northern link road need to be modified? Is the designation of a northern relief road on the key diagram (map 1) and the Skerningham masterplan framework (figure 6.1) justified?

We have been advised by the Council that a northern link road is not necessary to make the Plan sound and in that respect we believe that all references to it should be deleted from the Plan. Despite this we have grave concerns with regards to the soundness of the Plan in relation to transport.

We note that para 102 of the NPPF states that ‘Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that: a) the potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed’.

We refer to our response to M4 question 4.5 (c ) with regards to determining transport access routes to the Skerningham development through the planning application process and we consider this not to be in line with the NPPF.

Despite lobbying the Council on many occasions we are still not certain as to what routes will be proposed for the Skerningham development, although we are now certain that Bampton Lane and Whinbush Way will be crucial given the evidence supplied by Skerningham Estates in relation to M1. The impact on these roads is highlighted in our response to M4 question 4.5 (c ).

Whilst the Plan says that development will not impact on the strategic road network, it does not appear to mention anything in relation to the impact on the local road network. We would again refer to our response in response to M4 question 4.5 (c

I would also refer to our response to question 4.5 (d) where the Statement of Common Ground and Highways England still make reference to a northern link road. We are concerned that despite references to the northern link road being deleted, there may still a reliance on this road for the Plan to be sound.