



HM Treasury

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The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

12 June 2026

Dear Steve Barclay,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 22 October regarding the Whittlesey Relief Road project. I sincerely apologise for the delay in replying to you.

At the Autumn Budget 2025, government announced reforms published in the Office for Value for Money (OVfM) report, "Reforming the spending control and accountability framework". These reforms strengthen departmental accountability, streamline approvals, enable central functions to focus on cross-cutting strategic issues and follow the broader reforms to major projects delivery described in UK Infrastructure: A 10 Year Strategy as well as the OVfM's Mega Projects recommendations published in June last year. These reforms have also resulted in a reduction in the size of the Government Major Projects Portfolio (GMPP) to allow NISTA to better target its expert advice and independent assurance towards a smaller number of critical priorities.

At present NISTA is not able to provide bespoke support to the Whittlesey Relief Road project. We have however published a significant amount of project delivery best practice guidance and standards which I recommend Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) consult in developing the project's business case and to support it in setting the project up for success. This guidance can be found on our portal: <https://projectdelivery.gov.uk/>.

In addition, recognising the need to enhance project development capabilities within the public sector in the UK, we are currently exploring the possibility of creating a shared pool of specialist resources to support central and local government bodies in the delivering investable infrastructure opportunities. In that regard, it might be worth approaching us again in due course.

I would also suggest that the CPCA also engages with the Department for Transport to understand what project delivery support they may be able to offer and Local Partnerships who have significant experience supporting local government to develop the case for infrastructure investment as well as supporting delivery for example through providing programme management assistance and advice on strategic procurement.

Thank you again for taking the time to write, I hope this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Becky Wood

Chief Executive Officer
National Infrastructure & Service Transformation Authority (NISTA)