



Hythe & Dibden
PARISH COUNCIL

Clr S Cullen – Chair to the Council

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12th February 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

Clarification Request - Solent Gateway 2 Scoping Opinion and A326 Assessment

I am writing on behalf of Hythe and Dibden Parish Council in relation to the Scoping Opinion issued on 19 December 2025 for the proposed Solent Gateway 2 Development Consent Order application.

The Parish Council has recently held a briefing meeting with the applicant, during which discussion arose regarding the relationship between Solent Gateway 2 and the Hampshire County Council A326 Improvement Scheme.

In particular, the Council seeks clarification on the Inspectorate's expectation regarding traffic assessment assumptions.

Our understanding from the Scoping Opinion is that the Environmental Statement should assess the impacts of Solent Gateway 2 in a scenario where the A326 Improvement Scheme is not relied upon as mitigation, so that the effects of the project can be properly understood in its own right.

However, in response to our question, the applicant has indicated that the Environmental Statement will include an assessment of cumulative impacts including the A326 scheme, but has not confirmed whether a standalone assessment (i.e. in the absence of the A326 scheme) will be undertaken.

For clarity, could the Inspectorate please confirm whether the Scoping Opinion requires:

1. An assessment of Solent Gateway 2 traffic and environmental impacts in the absence of the A326 Improvement Scheme; and
2. Identification of any mitigation required if that highway scheme does not proceed or is delayed.

The Parish Council's intention is simply to ensure that we have correctly understood the scope requirements and that the Environmental Statement will address dependency and mitigation transparently.

We would be grateful for any clarification you are able to provide.

Yours faithfully,

Sean Spencer

Clerk to the Council