

Reactive press statement

29 Nov 2011

Joint Promoters of Northstowe comment on A14 announcement

The Joint Promoters of Northstowe, Gallagher Estates and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) are delighted at today's announcement by George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, which pledges cash for 'improvement to the A14 between Huntingdon and Cambridge'* which will benefit the proposed new town of Northstowe.

The news follows hot-on-the-heels of the recent public consultation on plans for the first phase of 1500 homes at the site of the proposed new town. The greatest number of comments about the plans related to the need for the A14 to be upgraded and reducing congestion. During the consultation the Joint Promoters confirmed their commitment to supporting the Department for Transport's initial study and also long-term infrastructure improvements alongside delivering the wider vision for Northstowe.

The initial study by the Department for Transport commenced recently and the Joint Promoters welcome the commitment to invest £20 million** immediately on the A14, plus look forward to engaging in the A14 Challenge*** which states it will look at long-term improvements to the A14 and key routes around it.

Paul Kitson, Area Manager for the HCA said: "We have had the opportunity to input into this process and submit ideas to the County Council about potential interim improvements for transport in the area surround Northstowe, so we are encouraged by this announcement today and delighted that it comes at a time so critical for the project."

We are committed to working with all partners involved to bring forward the site for housing development, the next stage of which is submitting a Planning Application for the first phase of news homes in February 2012. We remain confident that Northstowe can be delivered."

The delivery of Northstowe with approximately 10,000 homes, along with employment, commercial and recreational facilities will make an important contribution to the economic growth of the Cambridge area.

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For more info contact

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Notes to editors

*The Autumn Statement, table 2.3 autumn infrastructure spend. A table of spend across the East of England is contained in 1.97, fig 1.1.

**** The Autumn Statement, page 53; A.3 – A14 Immediate investment**

A.3 A14 immediate investment – The Government will invest £20 million to reduce congestion on the A14 including measures to improve junctions and increase resilience.

***** The Autumn Statement, page 53, A.4 – 14 Challenge**

A.4 A14 challenge – The Government will examine ways to increase the long-term capacity and performance of the A14 with the launch in early December 2011 of a large-scale engagement programme: 'the A14 Challenge'. By spring 2012, it will have developed and assessed proposals including capacity enhancements on the Fen Ditton to Ellington section of the road. The Government will also look at the scope to relieve congestion by improving other modes including local roads, freight facilities and public transport. It will consider whether improvements can be funded through innovative financing mechanisms including tolling. This work will support the proposed development of new homes in Northstowe, Waterbeach and Alconbury. The Government will also consider tolls to fund other road infrastructure if appropriate

Northstowe is a proposed new town to the north-west of Cambridge which will include up to 10,000 new homes as well as new schools, employment areas, and town centre, and other vital community services. The project is progressing on a phased basis. The first phase is for 1500 homes including affordable homes for those on the housing needs list and homes to suit a variety of needs. It also includes community facilities and a primary school.

The Homes and Communities Agency and Gallagher have been working together as joint promoters of Northstowe since the beginning of 2006.

Gallagher is one of the UK's largest master developers, promoting and delivering residential and mixed use schemes across the country. In addition to Northstowe, Gallagher is currently promoting another new town in Bedford (The Wixams), and six other new communities in South Midlands/East of England growth areas.

www.gallagheruk.com

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is the single, national housing and regeneration delivery agency for England. Our vision is to create opportunity for people to live in homes they can afford in places they want to live, by enabling local authorities and communities to deliver the ambition they have for their own areas.

For more information visit the HCA newsroom at [homesandcommunities.co.uk/newsevent](https://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/newsevent)