

**COUNCIL  
28 NOVEMBER 2024**

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF REPORT: NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 4.8.12**

The following amendment to a motion has been submitted.

**A1(M) Junction 6 (Welwyn) to 8 (Hitchin and Stevenage) Upgrade**

In December 2014, the **coalition** Government announced the A1(M) between Junction 6 (Welwyn) to Junction 8 (Hitchin and Stevenage) would be upgraded to increase capacity by 50% as part of the £1.5 billion Road Improvement Strategy. Unfortunately, the scheme was delayed and subsequently cancelled **by the Conservative government** in April 2023.

The A1(M) between Junctions 6 and 8 is already one of the busiest sections of the A1 between London and Leeds, and with the adoption of the North Hertfordshire Local Plan in November 2022, resulting in more than 12,000 new homes being built in close proximity to the motorway over the next decade, the pressure on this key artery is only set to increase.

Even now, before new homes are built, the existing lack of capacity on the A1(M) creates additional burden on surrounding local North / South roads used by the district's residents such as the B197 in Knebworth and B656 in Codicote. As soon as the A1(M) has any capacity reduction on this section, such as the sink holes in March and September 2024 requiring lane closures, it brings chaos to the lives of our local communities. These corridors were never intended to be the extra capacity for the A1(M). The county's Local Transport Plan 2018-2031 specifically cites the delivery of the A1(M) smart motorway scheme as enabling traffic reductions on parallel routes to support active travel modes.

Upgrading this section of the A1(M) would not only reduce congestion and delays making journey times quicker for drivers who use the motorway, but would also help to reduce pressure on local roads in North Hertfordshire such as the A602, **B197 and B656**.

**Therefore, Council resolves that the Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Transport calling on the Government to reinstate plans to upgrade the A1(M) between Junction 6 (Welwyn) to Junction 8 (Hitchin and Stevenage) **that were cancelled by the prior Conservative government.****

**Council further resolves that the Leader of the Council writes to the Member of Parliament for Hitchin, the Member of Parliament for North East Hertfordshire and the Member of Parliament for Stevenage, urging them to call on the Secretary of State for Transport to reinstate plans to upgrade the A1(M) between Junction 6 (Welwyn) to Junction 8 (Hitchin and Stevenage) **and mitigate the impact of needed housing growth for North Hertfordshire residents living near the A602, B197 and B656.****

Proposed by Councillor Paul Ward

Seconded by Councillor Matt Barnes