



FREIGHT TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

JEH/ph/232

6th September 2006

Ms Kate Barker
Barker Review of Land Use Planning
4th floor
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Ms Barker,

On behalf of the Freight Transport Association I am writing to congratulate your team on the good work contained in Barker Review of Land Use Planning's Interim Report. Land use planning is an issue of particular interest to FTA as it has a considerable impact on the free flow of goods throughout the country, ensuring that the UK economy remains productive and competitive.

I read with interest your analysis related to making the planning system more responsive to the needs of sustainable economic development, and the relationship between land use planning and competition and enterprise. These are all issues which are important to the FTA and we strongly believe that continued economic growth requires a sustainable transport infrastructure.

It is for this reason that FTA are producing a new publication entitled *Freight Future: serving a growing economy and a demanding consumer*, which aims to model the likely demands on transport infrastructure capacity over the next ten years. To convert forecast economic and consumer behaviour into changes in freight demand FTA has commissioned the use of the GB Freight Model from MDS Transmodal Ltd. based on the model's findings FTA has drawn conclusions about the adequacy of existing government policies and the final report will make recommendations about how these may be better matched with expected industry demands.



Consumers are increasingly demanding more products purchased from large global retailers offering a wide range of choice and this is accompanied by an increase in the proportion of purchases made online and delivered straight to the customer's door. Logistics will need to be more sophisticated and agile to meet consumer demands and this requires a reliable, sustainable and predictable infrastructure.

Infrastructure planning should be driven by analysis of demands, and FTA believes Government policy is too vague and it is unclear if ports will be able to meet future economic demands or whether road and rail networks will be adequate to transport an ever increasing number of goods. Furthermore, Government policy is insufficiently clear to allow businesses the confidence that adequate infrastructure capacity will be developed in time to cope with demands.

Given that the work of the Barker Review is considering the effects of land use planning regulatory environment on economic development, I would welcome an opportunity to meet with you and your research team to present the interim findings of FTA's work. My PA, Paula Hobbs, will be in contact with your office to arrange a mutually beneficial time for a meeting.

Yours sincerely



PP

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