

## **ANNEX A**

### **Response received from AD Highways and Transport on 27 June 2013**

Throughout the period you refer to in the report, there was significant pressure on me as a senior officer to deliver high risk projects within a reduced financial envelope, as the Corporate Leadership Team at that time had identified savings from some areas within the Capital Programme, including this project. This is also in the context of the considerable demands both me and my officers were facing from a number of stakeholders in responding to issues associated with other previous high profile projects (*A5130, j14 coachway, station square and Secklow Gate*); this had an impact on resources available to maintain the robust governance that is required to retain oversight of complex projects.

### **Request sent to Ex Director, Ex AD and Ex Project Manager by Head of Internal Audit on 17 April 2013**

I am writing to you at the request of the Audit Committee who have asked for some additional information from yourself and other colleagues who no longer work for the Council.

A report on the overspend on the Wolverton Station project was shared with you and presented to the Audit Committee on 10th April. The Committee felt that the report's findings could be interpreted to suggest that there was pressure on officers to award the contract, start work quicker than would otherwise be prudent and / or not highlight potential overspends.

The Audit Committee requested that we contact you to ask whether there was any pressure (from whatever person, issue or circumstance) which affected the project timescales and / or management. You may wish to take advice on any evidence you provide before responding, particularly if it should relate to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party.

Any evidence you provide will be reported to the Audit Committee including any comments you submit. Audit Committee have a policy of considering all information in public wherever possible. Please could you therefore highlight anything that you would not want publicly reported and why.

I must highlight that it is your choice as to whether you wish to respond to this request.

Thank you in anticipation of any assistance you can provide