

A19 Downhill Lane Junction Improvement Scheme

Reference: TR0100024

Issue Specific Hearing (ISH2) held on 16th October 2019: STC Response to Examiner's Questions

This note is intended to provide written responses from South Tyneside Council to questions raised during Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2), local resident concerns raised during the course of the Open Floor Hearing (OFH1 & OFH2) and provides a position statement from South Tyneside in respect to the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 (CAH2)

Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) Examiner's Questions

In respect to Q1.9.11 answered by the applicant relating to the provision of a low noise road surface (LNRS). It is noted that this surface treatment will be applied to both the mainline of the A19 and the appropriate slip roads. It is noted that the relevant engineering drawings and sections will be updated with a note setting out the relevant part of the road network subjected to Low Noise Road Survey. Conventional road surfacing materials are considered appropriate for both the circulatory carriageway of the roundabout, approach roads on the local road network connecting with the A19.

Open Floor Hearings (OFH1 & OFH2)

In terms of the Open Floor Hearings undertaken as part of the Downhill Lane DCO examination, the Council is aware of a number of residential concerns that have been raised in respect to increased traffic using Downhill Lane following the commencement of the Testo's Major Scheme.

The Council held a collective meeting with all parties (Highways England / Costain) and the local residents on the 14th October 2019 to discuss the issues of increased traffic along Downhill Lane. This meeting was considered to be very productive in which the Council has agreed to investigate potential interventions to address the uplift in traffic.

These interventions are to be worked up for delivery and consultation will be undertaken with the local residents at the relevant time. It is expected that Highways England and Costain will continue to be involved in this work stream.

STC Position Statement in respect to the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 (CAH2)

With regards to the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 that was held on the 17th October 2019 and the discussions relating to land parcel 1.7c, the Council considers it appropriate to provide a position statement following this hearing.

South Tyneside confirmed its position with the applicant on the 1st October 2019 in respect to the land parcel 1.7c, in that the Local Authority would not be prepared to enter into a land transfer agreement that has third party access rights. Further to this, the Council further confirmed its position to the applicant on the 10th October and again reaffirmed this position with the applicant on the 14th October 2019.

As a result of this, the Council's considers that it has acted in a reasonable manner with the applicant in terms of providing a position statement to this request.