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www.tameside.gov.ukDoc Ref JT/A57
Ask for Jayne Traverse
Direct Line 0161 342 8355
Date 09 July 2021Bart Bartkowiak
Case Manager
The Planning Inspectorate**By Email**

Dear Bart Bartkowiak,

A57 Link Roads Scheme: Adequacy of consultation under Section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

I am responding on behalf of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council to your correspondence dated 29 June 2021 regarding the application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A57 Link Roads scheme (previously known as the Trans-Pennine Upgrade).

Having had regard to Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008, I am of the opinion that Highways England (the applicant) have carried out adequate consultation at the pre-application stage in accordance with the following requirements of the Planning Act 2008:

- Duty to consult – Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) – Section 42
- Duty to consult the local community – Section 47
- Duty to publicise - Section 48

The applicant has engaged extensively with Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council since 2015 in relation to consultation on this scheme. The applicant undertook pre-non-statutory consultation between October 2015 and March 2017 comprising of early engagement with the Council and stakeholders. The applicant consulted widely regarding a number of different options following which a proposed package of Trans-Pennine Upgrade work was identified and subject to consultation in 2018 via statutory consultation for 6 weeks from 12 February to 25 March 2018 and 4 weeks from 4 June to 1 July 2018. In 2020 Highways England consulted for a 6 week statutory consultation from 5 November 2020 to 17 December 2020 on changes to the A57 Link Roads scheme since the 2018 consultation focused on changes to design and anticipated environmental impacts.

Highways England produced a Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) to which the Council formally responded on 19 October 2020 supporting the approach to consultation. Highways England engaged with the Council to identify the appropriate consultation target area for the distribution of relevant consultation materials.

As a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions it was necessary to make arrangements for the consultation to be adapted accordingly, with Highways England responsive to the requirement to provide printed materials, host public webinars and facilitate a telephone line in lieu of what would ordinarily have been delivered in person.

The consultation ran from 5 November to 17 December 2020. The applicant shared full details of the consultation via the Council's engagement channels, including hosting on the Council's Big Conversation consultation and engagement webpages for duration of consultation period. The following specific engagement was also undertaken:

- Engagement Session with Tameside Executive Cabinet and Longendale Ward Members (26 October 2020)
- Engagement Session open to all Tameside Ward Members (2 November 2020)
- Public webinars (Wednesday 18 November 2020 afternoon and evening, Saturday 21 November 2020)
- Engagement at the Tameside Partnership Engagement Network Conference on 19 November 2020

During the consultation period the applicant engaged closely with the Council via a dedicated officer as a single point of contact.

Having reviewed the Consultation Report of June 2021 from the applicant I am satisfied that they have undertaken an extensive and inclusive consultation programme in relation to the A57 Link Roads scheme. In this respect it is considered by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council that the consultation undertaken from 5 November to 17 December 2020 was adequate and in accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Traverse
Director of Growth