



Meeting note

Project name	A57 Link Roads
File reference	TR010034
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	1 December 2020
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project update

The Applicant summarised a series of design changes which had been applied to the scheme in response to feedback received to its statutory consultation exercise in 2018 and arising from additional monitoring and assessments carried out. Key changes included:

- Improvements to the M67 Junction 4 comprising an additional lane and full signalisation;
- removal of the Roe Cross Road Link, junction and roundabout from the scheme and relocation and update to the design of the Mottram underpass;
- replacement of the roundabout at Mottram Moor with a signal-controlled junction;
- improvement of the River Etherow Crossing to better manage impacts on the exiting flood plain;
- an update to the Woolley Bridge junction and location of the link road;
- new and improved facilities for walkers, cyclists and horse riders; and
- a revised location of the Carrhouse Lane underpass to improve functionality for agricultural workers.

The Applicant confirmed that it was undertaking a further statutory consultation exercise dealing with the updated scheme between 5 November 2020 and 17 December 2020. Because of ongoing public health restrictions, the Applicant's consultation was being carried out on a 'digital first' basis with a range of options provided for the public to engage with the Applicant's team including a telephone service and live webinars. The Applicant summarised that its experience to date suggested that the digital/virtual nature of its ongoing consultation exercise had not diminished the appetite or ability of people to engage in the process.



The Applicant confirmed that a programme of regular engagement with key stakeholders including local authorities and other statutory bodies (eg Natural England and the Environment Agency) was ongoing.

Draft Development Consent Order

The Applicant summarised its current approach to drafting the definition of 'commencement' within its draft Development Consent Order (dDCO), which would allow for preparatory work (eg surveys/monitoring, establishment of temporary enclosures etc) to be undertaken prior to the discharge of certain Requirements. The Applicant also summarised its approach to drafting the definition of 'maintain'.

Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping

The Applicant confirmed that the Red Line Boundary for the scheme had reduced since the 2018 Scoping Opinion was adopted. On this basis the Applicant was satisfied that the revised scheme would not give rise to any new or substantially different, likely significant effects. The Applicant was therefore confident that a request for an updated Scoping Opinion would therefore not be required.

The Applicant confirmed that, aligned with the latest standards, the assessment that it would have provided in the Environmental Statement (ES) chapter 'People and Communities' would be presented in an ES chapter called 'Population and Human Health'.

Future programme

The Applicant confirmed that it currently expected to submit its application to the Inspectorate in April 2021. The next meeting between the Applicant and the Inspectorate would be scheduled for February 2021.