

Norfolk County Council has been in discussions with the Applicant in relation to the management of the handover process of roads that are to be de-trunked under the DCO and new local roads that are to be created under the DCO; as well as the management of the construction and handover of the 'stub' for the Norwich Western Link.

Whilst NCC hopes that the parties can agree a legal agreement as to the management of these processes, some key outstanding issues remain; as NCC seeks to ensure that the additional financial burden that is created by the de-trunking and new road creation process carried out by National Highways is appropriately minimised.

In light of an Agreement not yet being able to be reached and the forthcoming end of the Examination, NCC is seeking to ensure that its position is protected above and beyond the high level consents and 'satisfaction' that it is required to give under articles 14 and 17 of the draft DCO, through ensuring that there are proper processes and demarcation of responsibilities between the parties.

As such, the county council is minded to submit draft Protective Provisions for its benefit which NCC would request are included in any DCO that is made for the Scheme. These draft Protective Provisions would seek to deal with all issues relating to the construction and handover of local highways and the Norwich Western Link (NWL) stub dealt with by the DCO, to ensure that NCC's position as local highways authority is appropriately considered and protected.

These Protective Provisions we have in mind would primarily be adapted from Protective Provisions for the local highways authority agreed to by National Highways on the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester DCO; whilst also having regard to precedent local highway authority Protective Provisions that are in the made DCOs for the Tilbury2, West Midlands SRFI, Northampton Gateway SRFI and the East Midlands Gateway SRFI projects.

NCC will continue to discuss its concerns with National Highways, including in relation to the drafting of its Protective Provisions, with the hope of agreeing all issues between us. However, failing this Agreement, NCC must ensure its interests as local highways authority are adequately protected and, to this end, the county council is minded to bring forward draft Protective Provisions.

The county council also intends to respond in relation to matters raised at the Issue Specific Hearing (3) on 6 January 2022. Taking into account the amount of material the county council is having to consider we have been unable to meet Deadline 8 but will submit responses to matters raised on the following topics as soon as we are able:

- Western Longville Traffic Measures
- Assessment of the junction proposals at Wood Lane
- Walking and cycling matters.