

M54 M6 Link Road

Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

This is the Initial Assessment of the Principal Issues prepared under s88(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). This initial assessment has had regard to consideration by the Examining Authority (ExA) of the application documents and of Relevant Representations received in respect of the application. It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of all relevant matters. The ExA will have regard to all important and relevant matters during the Examination and when it writes its Recommendation Report to the Secretary of State for Transport after the Examination has concluded.

The order of the issues listed does not imply any order of prioritisation or importance.

The policy and consenting requirements and documents associated with the PA2008 are an integral part of the Examination and are therefore not set out as separate Principal Issues. It should be noted that a number of the Principal Issues set out below have an interrelationship and overlap and these will be reflected in the Examination.

It should also be noted that:

- whilst the effects of the proposal on the achievement of sustainable development including the mitigation of, and adaption to, climate change are not listed as specific Principle Issues; and
- whilst the effects of the proposal in relation to human rights and equalities duties are not listed as specific Principle Issues;

the ExA will conduct all aspects of the Examination with these objectives in mind.

ISSUE 1 - The effect on the Green Belt

- The need for the Proposed Development including, whether the proposal represents inappropriate development in the Green Belt, the effect on openness, and whether the harm by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm, would be clearly outweighed by other considerations. If so, whether this would amount to the very special circumstances required to justify the Proposed Development

ISSUE 2 - Air Quality and Emissions (AQ) including issues relating to;

- Adequacy of baseline assessment
- Construction effects of the development
- Operational effects of the development
- Any cumulative impacts

ISSUE 3 - Biodiversity, Ecology and Natural Environment including issues related to:

- Adequacy of baseline assessment

- Loss of, or change to the ecological value of terrestrial and aquatic habitats and their species, including impacts on the ecological value
- Implications for statutorily and locally protected sites including Sites of Biological Importance
- Effects on specific fauna and flora species and their habitats (including European protected species)
- Effects on hedgerows and trees, including ancient woodlands, important hedgerows and veteran trees
- Use of appropriate metric to determine overall effect
- Biodiversity Net Gain vs No Net Loss developing policy position
- Other Biodiversity effects-
- Mitigation/compensatory measures
- Timing of works and potential seasonal effects
- Need for Habitat Regulations Assessment/Appropriate Assessment

ISSUE 4 - Compulsory Acquisition (CA) and or Temporary Possession (TP) including issues relating to:

- The case for CA/TP generally
- The need for the land proposed to be compulsorily acquired and/or temporarily possessed where specific objections remain
- Effects on those affected by compulsory acquisition and/or temporary possession, including statutory undertakers/infrastructure and infrastructure providers
- Adequacy and security of funding for compensation
- Current position in relation to Crown Land
- Current position in relation to National Trust Land, particularly that held as alienable
- Access for construction and maintenance
- Human rights, Public Sector Equality Duty, consideration of alternatives
- Tests set out in sections 122/123/127/132/135/138 of the Planning Act 2008
- Book of Reference

ISSUE 5 - Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) including issues relating to:

- The structure of the dDCO
- Definitions
- The appropriateness of proposed provisions
- Relationships with other consents
- Whether the dDCO is satisfactory in all other respects

ISSUE 6 - Cultural Heritage (CH) including issues related to:

- Effects on designated heritage assets and their settings including The Grade I Hilton Hall and its associated conservatory, The Grade II* Moseley Old Hall, Moseley Hall, the Church of St Mary and St Luke Shareshill and other Listed Buildings within 1 km of the proposed scheme
- Effects on non-designated heritage assets including HLA Hilton Park

- Potential for mitigation improvement works to include the repair of Portobello Tower
- The proposed strategy for dealing with archaeological remains, including archaeologically significant peat deposits
- Cumulative and in-combination effects on and with other major projects and proposals

ISSUE 7 - Landscape and Visual (LV) including issues related to:

- Effect on landscape and townscape character
- Short and long-term visual impacts
- Effects on the Green Belt
- Effects of lighting
- Construction Effects
- Design of the landscape mitigation, including bunds and fencing
- Cumulative and in-combination effects on and with other major projects and proposals
- Effect on landscape and townscape character
- Short and long-term visual impacts

ISSUE 8 - Noise and Vibration (N&V) including issues related to:

- Baseline assessment
- Construction effects including mitigation
- Operational effects including mitigation

ISSUE 9 - Traffic and Transport (T&T) including issues related to:

- The case for and benefits of the scheme
- Strategic vision and objectives for national networks
- Adequacy of baseline assessment
- Alternative routes/solutions
- The case for and benefits of the scheme
- Effects on the existing road network during construction including the scope of the Construction Transport Management Plan and after
- Scheme context – M54/M6 connectivity A460, A449 and A5 corridors
- Strategic vision and objectives for national networks
- Construction effects on the use of the Public Right of Way (PRoW) network
- Displaced traffic during construction, including highway safety
- Operational effects including on the surrounding road network and the provision for Non-Motorised Users/effects on PRoW
- Junction designs
- Links with local network
- Future use of A460: section between M54 and M6, potential for restrictions; and north of M6 given removal of M6 Toll link potential for effects on wider network
- Mitigation/traffic calming for surrounding roads
- Any cumulative effects

ISSUE 10 - Water Environment (WE) including issues related to:

- Surface and groundwater effects
- Drainage
- Flood Risk
- Future Management and maintenance of drainage

Issue 11 - Socio-Economic Effects (SE) including issues related to:

- Community consultation
- Economic/regeneration effects
- Effect on BMV agricultural land
- Effects on living conditions of surrounding residents – during construction and after
- Effects on local businesses
- Effects on potential delivery of land for Economic, employment and housing uses
- Potential effect on Mineral Safeguarded Land