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Planning Inspectorate Case Team M54/M6

### **M54 to M6 Link Road Scheme – Deadline 2**

Please find enclosed the following documents from the Applicant for Deadline 2:

- 1.5 Guide to the Application (version P08 to supersede [AS-064/6.2]). Clean and tracked changes versions.
- 3.1 Draft Development Consent Order (version 3 to supersede [AS-075]). Clean and tracked changes versions.
- 3.1 Development Consent Order Validation Report
- 3.2 Explanatory Memorandum (version 3 to supersede [AS-077]). Clean and tracked changes versions.
- 8.14 Applicant Responses to Written Question Responses from Interested Parties

This letter also provides a response to the Examining Authority's question raised in the letter dated 29 October 2020, which asks:

*'Does the Applicant believe that the submission of the addendum to the Environmental Statement and multiple associated documents introduces a need for any additional notification or consultation under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 or in the interests of best practice? If so, what measures has, or will, the Applicant put in place?'*

As you are aware, the design changes were widely publicised and consulted on in August/September 2020. Whilst the additional documents were not available in time to form part of that publicity and consultation exercise, the consultation materials did address the effects of the proposed design changes as identified in the additional documents. We therefore consider that consultees, which included all appropriate consultation bodies, local authorities and landowners, had sufficient information for them to provide a meaningful consultation response. There was also public consultation on the consultation brochure and the draft Environmental Masterplan.

The additional documents as submitted on 9 October 2020 were made available on the Planning Inspectorate website for consideration by those engaged in the Examination process in October 2020. The Examination timetable provides a second opportunity for those engaged in the Examination process to provide additional comments by Deadline 3A (1 December 2020) with dates being reserved to hear any comments on 19 and 20 January 2021. Given this, we do not consider further consultation on the additional documents to be necessary.

In addition, it is generally accepted that the requirement for publicity and consultation on any other information, which might be submitted as part of an environmental statement, is only triggered in the event that the original environmental statement would be deficient without the other information. We do not believe that to be the case in this instance.

Notwithstanding the above, however, and to ensure the robustness of approach, we propose to provide certain further publicity and consultation on the additional documents. In particular, we propose to publish and consult on the additional documents by placing notices in the newspaper, placing a notice on site, making the additional documents available online and serving notice and copies of the additional documents on the relevant consultation bodies and those persons notified to us pursuant to regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations. We are in the process of finalising the arrangements for this but aim to publish notices on 30 November and a second notice in a local newspaper on 7 December 2020, allowing for at least a 30-day response period ending in early January 2021 prior to the reserved hearing dates on 19 and 20 January 2021.

Given the publicity and consultation which has already taken place, we do not anticipate that there will be any significant further comments received. We trust this is acceptable.


Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries on any documents submitted.

Yours Sincerely



Andrew Kelly

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