

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL IMPACT REPORT

**Application by National Highways for an Order Granting
Development Consent for the M3 Junction 9
Improvements, Winchester**

Planning Inspectorate Reference: TR010055

Eastleigh Borough Council Reference: CS/23/94649

JUNE 2023

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. This report comprises the Local Impact Report of Eastleigh Borough Council. All the proposed works are located outside of the administrative boundary of Eastleigh Borough Council (“the Council”) so this report does not comment on the detailed design of the proposed works but relates to the likely impacts of the proposed development within the Borough of Eastleigh.

1.2. This Local Impact Report does not describe the proposed development, relying on the applicant’s description as set out in their application documents.

2. RELATIONSHIP OF APPLICATION WITH EASTLEIGH BOROUGH

2.1. The proposed works are at Junction 9 of the M3, with the nearest part of the project being approximately 7km to the north of the Borough boundary at Junction 12 of the M3.

3. STATUTORY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

3.1. As no works are proposed within the Borough the adopted Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036 is not relevant to the consideration of the application.

3.2. The application site is covered by the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan 2013, but the Council do not intend to make any comments in relation to it and leave it to Hampshire County Council (HCC) to respond on these matters.

4. LOCAL IMPACTS TO BE CONSIDERED

PRINCIPLE OF DEVELOPMENT

4.1. It is noted that the application is proposed to improve the capacity of the network at Junction 9 of the M3 by providing new free flow links between the M3 and A34, as well as a dedicated new A33 alignment. None of the works are proposed within the Borough and the Council raises no objection in principle to the proposed development.

RESIDENTIAL AMENITIES FROM CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC

- 4.2. Given the proximity of the Borough to the proposed works it is considered that there could be an impact on residential amenities from construction traffic travelling through the Borough if inappropriate or unsuitable roads are used.
- 4.3. Given that the works relate to motorway improvements and the site is accessible via the main highways infrastructure in the wider area it is considered unlikely that construction traffic would need to use minor roads running through the Borough to access the application site. It is noted that a First Iteration Environmental Management Plan has been submitted with the application and this includes the commitment that no part of the scheme can start until a detailed Traffic Management Plan has been approved and that this plan should identify all the roads to be used for deliveries of construction materials to site. The Outline Traffic Management Plan submitted with the application also states that suppliers will be briefed on the Delivery and Haul Route plan.
- 4.4. It is noted that Hampshire County Council, as the local highway authority, would be consulted on the relevant details of the Traffic Management Plan and it is considered that this process should ensure that the impact on the Borough's residents from the routing of construction traffic is appropriately considered.

IMPACTS ON BIODIVERSITY

- 4.5. Junction 9 of the M3 is located approximately 7km north of the Borough, and any ecology impacts would be of an indirect nature during the construction and potentially the operational phase of the proposals, with the main area of concern being the impact on the River Itchen SAC/SSSI as it flows south from Junction 9 of the M3 and through Eastleigh Borough.
- 4.6. The First Iteration Environmental Management Plan submitted with the application sets out a package of pollution prevention measures designed to avoid increased pollution during construction; working methods and timing

restrictions in to avoid impacts to fish within the River Itchen; mitigation measures that would ensure no measurable change to groundwater flows; a construction drainage strategy; a sustainable drainage system for the operational phase; and principles of habitat management. It is noted that overall, with these measures in place, the Environmental Statement and shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment conclude that there would be no adverse impact on the River Itchen SAC/SSSI. The Council agree with this conclusion and do not consider that there will be any significant impacts on biodiversity within the Borough, provided that strong monitoring procedures are put in place during construction and are ongoing in the operational phase.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.7. The Council has also considered the possible impacts within the Borough arising from noise and air quality but do not consider that there would be any significant adverse impacts that warrant additional mitigation measures to be proposed during the construction or operational phases.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1. As set out above the Council considers that the route of construction traffic and the impact on the River Itchen SAC/SSSI are the local impacts of concern. However it is recognised that they could be appropriately controlled via:

- 1) The approval of a detailed Traffic Management Plan prior to works commencing; and
- 2) The implementation of the measures as set out in the Environmental Statement and Habitat Regulations Assessment and to be secured with the approval of a detailed Environmental Management Plan, together with the and undertaking of regular environmental monitoring.