



Meeting note

Project name	M3 Junction 9 Improvement Scheme
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	18 December 2018
Meeting with	Highways England and representatives
Venue	Planning Inspectorate offices, Bristol
Meeting objectives	Inception and project overview 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.

Highways England (the Applicant) explained that the M3 Junction 9 improvement project was identified within the Government's Road Investment Strategy: 2015 to 2020 (RIS 1) and is described as "M3 Junction 9 improvement: Upgrade to the junction to allow free movement from the A34 to the M3." The Applicant considered that the Development Consent Order (DCO), if granted, would significantly reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and serve existing and future housing developments and accommodate increasing road traffic movements including traffic generated by Southampton Port, which is expected to expand.

HE confirmed they believe the proposed M3 Junction 9 improvement project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and the application would meet the criteria set out in PA 2008. The Inspectorate stated that a plan showing how the NSIP meets the criteria under section 22 of PA 2008 would be helpful.

HE also provided an overview of the activity to date and the proposed indicative DCO and Project timeline was discussed. The Inspectorate noted that the project timescales, although potentially achievable would be challenging. HE confirmed that it would keep the Inspectorate informed of progress and would revise the project timescales if necessary. HE explained a strategy whereby they may seek to twin track some elements with the Town and Country Planning system to optimise the time available.

HE identified the project constraints and the selection criteria for choosing the preferred option; confirmation was also given that the project is EIA development and will require an Environmental Statement. The Preferred Route Announcement was made in July 2018

HE presented various potential positive and negative effects anticipated as a consequence of the scheme. The Inspectorate advised that consideration should be given to the various monitoring processes and remedial actions that would allow them to lock in the benefits of the scheme.



HE outlined the stakeholders and the engagement undertaken with them to date. There was a discussion about the definition of 'host' authorities in the PA 2008. HE indicated that it would be consulting with local authorities on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in early 2019.

HE advised that it was intending to set up a "Junction 9 Forum"; this body would be in existence when HE submits a Scoping Request to the Inspectorate. The Inspectorate asked HE to be clear with stakeholders that even if they express their views on the forum, they still should respond to consultation during Scoping, as this is a separate process run by the Inspectorate and not the Applicant.

The Inspectorate advised HE to follow the relevant National Infrastructure Advice Notes when preparing the application and consulting on the proposed project.

HE confirmed interaction with other schemes in the area and ongoing engagement with Hampshire County Council to avoid conflicts with any local roads upgrades/closures. Works from HE on other projects should be completed or undergoing prior to commencement of construction of M3 Junction 9 improvement.

The Inspectorate advised that any reliance on completion may need to be locked into the DCO. Pre-commencement requirements will depend on assessment and content of the Environmental Statement.

HE's approach to Compulsory Acquisition (CA) was discussed on the basis that the PA 2008 process allows an Applicant to seek to compulsorily acquire land. HE indicated that currently there may be some land take required from South Downs NPA.

The Applicant indicated it was intending to seek a Scoping Opinion from The Planning Inspectorate in early 2019. The Inspectorate noted the timeframes associated with submission of the required shapefile and advised on further steps.