

MIAG would like to make the following points in respect of the proposed agenda for the Preliminary Meeting:

Item 3 – Initial assessment of principal issues. Under Item 18 of Annex C appended to the Rule 6 letter, MIAG considers that ongoing responsibilities in respect of the maintenance and operation of local roads affected by the proposal should be clarified by the Applicant. MIAG considers that this includes any arrangements in place or proposed between the Applicant and the Local Highways Authority on any future apportionment of responsibility and costings/funding (both within and outside of the DCO process). Clarity is needed on where responsibility for the road network in the vicinity of all new works will lie.

Item 4 – Draft examination timetable. From the draft examination timetable it looks as though the issues relating to the scheme will be considered on a thematic basis across the whole length of the scheme. Can the Panel please clarify whether it will approach the consideration of the principal issues on a thematic basis (e.g. air quality across the whole scheme and covering all locations) or a geographical basis (e.g. by reference to issues experienced at relevant new junctions or communities). MIAG considers that it is important that all issues relevant to and deriving from the proposed new junction 24 are considered in the context of the communities based in this area.

Item 5 – Procedural Decisions. MIAG respectfully requests that a Statement of Common Ground is progressed with it by NH to narrow down the issues it has in respect of the development and to highlight ongoing areas of disagreement.