

## Maldon District Council

### Appendix C - Comments on responses to ExQ3

Ref.	EXQ3	National Highways ExQ3 Comment	MDC Comment
<b>Transportation and Traffic</b>			
Q3.13.1	<p>The Department of Transport has recently announced forthcoming guidance on 'Accounting for COVID19 in transport modelling', with an expected release date of May 2023. At the time of drafting this question, the new guidance had yet to be published, however it is likely that it will be available before the close of the Examination. Therefore, please can the Applicant identify what the implications are for the application.</p>	<p>The Department for Transport (DfT)'s latest guidance on incorporating Covid-19 impacts into model forecasts was released in May 2023 and is included in its Transport Analysis Guidance Unit M4.</p> <p>In parallel with the application for Development Consent, the Applicant holds regular meetings with the Department for Transport as part of the governance process around the scheme's funding approval. Following discussion around this new guidance in its May 2023 meeting with the Department, the Applicant has proposed an approach as to how to address it. This involves analysis of the traffic changes since Covid-19, and how that compares to assumptions within the traffic model. Although it would not result in any changes to the traffic model at this late stage of scheme development, the aim is to provide insights into the effects of Covid-19 on traffic flows and highlight any disparities with modelled assumptions. This methodology strikes a balance between the constraints imposed by the scheme's advanced stage and the necessity to account for the impacts of Covid-19.</p> <p>This is in line with the new guidance which acknowledges that making changes to traffic models can be impractical within a project's timeline but encourages project teams to provide clear explanations and justifications for the limitations imposed by the advanced project stage. A clear documentation and justification of the chosen approach will ensure transparency and accountability in the decision-making process.</p> <p>The Applicant will aim to provide a copy of this analysis at Deadline 7.</p>	<p>MDC awaits the copy of this analysis.</p>