

## Joint Councils Design Statement

During Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) the Examining Authority (ExA) requested that the Joint Councils provide a position statement on the adequacy of the of the scheme design. Listed below is the work that has been carried out on reviewing the design as submitted into the DCO upon submission of the Application in December 2023.

- Design has been reviewed by senior experienced Design and Active Travel engineers in AtkinsRealis, consisting of the following staff:
  - Chief Engineer, Professional Head of Highways
  - Principal Engineer and Scheme Project Manager
  - Associate Director, Highways and Active Travel
- The design was also provided to GCC specialist Officers (where available):
  - Asset Data Team reviewed and commented on the Classification of Roads and Traffic Regulation Plans
  - Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans were issued to GCC's Public Rights of Way Team for review and comment
- Drawings reviewed by the team were:
  - 2.4 Works Plans – Part 1 and Part 2
  - 2.5 Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans – Part 1 and Part 2
  - 2.9 General Arrangement Plans – Part 1 and Part 2
  - 2.10 Engineering Drawings and Sections 1, 2 and 3
  - 2.14 Speed Limits and Traffic Regulation Plans – Part 1 and Part 2
- 57 comments were collated into comments log that was submitted to the Applicant for in January 2024
- The comments provided were quite detailed comments resulting from the high level of detail, and in some cases the lack of detail, shown on the drawings provided. The review did not check that the design provided was wholly compliant with DMRB design standards, it assumed that design of the scheme was compliant. Joint Councils were unaware of any Departures from Standards (DfS) in existence at the time of the review
- As confirmed by the Applicant at ISH3 10 DfS that apply to GCC's local roads have been submitted on the design. These DfS were presented and discussed at GCC's Departures Board at a meeting in January 2023 and again at a meeting in July 2023. The Applicant has confirmed that all of the DfS have been accepted and can be taken forward to Detailed Design. The Joint Councils project team have not been party to any of the meetings and discussions held on the DfS. However, GCC's independent Departures for Standard Board is attended by senior qualified officers who are not directly involved in

the scheme from the Applicants point of view and can therefore be construed as representative of the Joint Councils

- Responses to the comments were received by the Joint Councils in early March 2024 and it was clear that there was a need for the 2 parties to meet and discuss the comments
- During the subsequent months a series of specialist subject meetings were held between the relevant experts from the Joint Councils and the Applicant to discuss each comment, with the aim to understanding the comments and determining whether the comments could be closed out or taken on board during further iterations of the design
- All 57 of the design comments were categorised as follows:
  - 26 comments Closed, an explanation was provided by the designer
  - 24 comments Closed subject to Detailed Design, the comment will be taken forward and considered at Detailed Design stage
  - 7 comments Open, the comment could not be agreed to be closed and remains open for further discussion
- Meetings are now being organised between the ECI Contractor and the Joint Councils to go through the “Closed subject to Detailed Design comments” to discuss how to incorporate Joint Councils comments into the detailed design.
- Joint Councils will be a consultee in the detailed design process post consent and in the lead up to the construction phase. Requirement 11 (Detailed Design) in the dDCO acceptably secures the need for the county planning authority to be consulted during the detailed design phase and any changes to the design resulting from it. Requirements 12, 13, and 15 are drafted sufficiently to allow consultation with the county planning to take place. It is understood that the Joint Councils are proposing a change to wording of Requirement 14
- As confirmed by the Applicant at ISH3 10 Departures from Standard that apply to GCC’s local roads have been submitted on the design. These DfS were presented and discussed at GCC’s Departures Board at a meeting in January 2023 and again at a meeting in July 2023. The SRO for the scheme has confirmed that all of the DfS have been accepted and can be taken forward to Detailed Design. The Joint Councils project team have not been party to any of the meetings and discussions related to the DfS. However, GCC’s Departures for Standard Board is attended by officers who are not directly involved in the scheme from the Applicants point of view and can therefore be construed as representative of the Joint Councils